

Stronger 121

Chapter 121: Killing Two Ghost Kings in Half a Breath, A Treasure Found Inside the Ghost King_2

The four members of the Han Family beside Han Feiyan were once again confused upon hearing this.

Han Feiyan, who had a square face and thick eyebrows, was completely astonished. Did Zhao Yufei just refer to herself as "wife" in front of this old man? Is this Zhao Yufei before them the same famous daughter of the Zhao Family from Great Marsh Prefecture City? It was said that proposals from the Liy Family, the Huang Family, and the Guo Family were all politely declined by her! When did she become the wife of this white-haired old man before them? This... these two standing together look just like a grandfather and his granddaughter! Is this a friendship across generations?

Of course, what shocked the four members of the Han Family the most was that the two Ghost Toad Kings, who had swept through all opposition, were killed by Zhao Yufei in half a breath. Yet, Zhao Yufei, despite possessing such strange and powerful Abnormal Techniques, claimed she couldn't confuse Lin Xuankong and was no match for him.

In her amazement, a trace of awe appeared in Han Feiyan's gaze. The expressions on her square face changed several times before she decisively spoke, "You two possess such formidable Abnormal Techniques, killing Tier Three Ghost Toad Kings as easily as slaughtering chickens; I am truly in awe! I have been quite disrespectful to you both just now, so I humbly ask Master Lin and Lady Zhao to be magnanimous and not hold it against us!"

Lin Xuankong turned to look, smiling as he said, "Why wouldn't I hold it against you!"

Han Feiyan's complexion turned bitter upon hearing this. Lin Xuankong continued, "Didn't we agree that the 2,000 pounds of Ghost Toad flesh belongs to me? Are you planning to renege on the deal?"

Han Feiyan felt a wave of relief, though her square face turned serious. She and the three Martial Artists behind her all bowed towards Lin Xuankong. "Master Lin and Lady Zhao saved our lives. This grace is as great as the heavens. Let alone the 2,000 pounds of Ghost Toad flesh, even if we handed over everything we possess, it would be only right!"

Lin Xuankong nodded and smiled. Zhao Yufei also smiled brightly, her eyes filled with happiness. From her perspective, it was naturally a good thing that Lin Xuankong could obtain more resources.

Han Feiyan looked towards the south. "When the four of us fled the Zhen Character Gathering Place in a hurry, we couldn't carry the large boxes weighing over 2,000 pounds. After all, no matter how valuable the Ghost Toad flesh was, we needed to survive to enjoy it! We hid the Ghost Toad flesh in an extremely secret cave about 20 miles from the gathering place. I will take you both there soon!"

At this moment, one of the Martial Cultivators from the Han Family behind Han Feiyan suddenly exclaimed in a surprised voice, "That... What is that?"

Everyone present turned to look and saw that the Martial Cultivator's eyes were fixed on the corpse of the Ghost Toad King, which was emanating a foul odor. Han Feiyan took a close look at the Ghost Toad King's corpse, her face showing the same look of surprise. "Congratulations, Master Lin! Congratulations, Lady Zhao, for slaying a female Ghost Toad King that is pregnant with Ghost Toad Eggs!"

Lin Xuankong's gaze fell on the Ghost Toad's corpse. He saw that in its abdomen, black jade-like eggs, each about the size of a plum, were stuck together, reflecting a dark, glossy sheen under the moonlight. There were likely more than a hundred of them! Recalling the Monster Atlas he had once read, his face suddenly lit up with joy.

Zhao Yufei held his hand, gently tickling his palm with her fingers, and exclaimed with delight, "No wonder there were two Ghost Toad Kings together! Normally, Ghost Toad Kings each occupy their own Clan. It turns out this was a male and a female, and the female Ghost Toad King was already pregnant with a hundred Ghost Toad Eggs! Ghost Toad Eggs contain a large amount of Demon Essence, far more nourishing than Ghost Toad flesh. It is said that each egg is equivalent to a large quantity of Ghost Toad flesh and can greatly enhance a Martial Cultivator's resistance to various Demon Poisons and Gu Poisons. Now that these Ghost Toad Eggs are in your hands, husband, if you take some every day, after prolonged use, you may become immune to all poisons!"

Han Feiyan nodded enviously from the side and said, "Among the Demons in the Great Marsh, the Evil Sheep and the Ghost Toad all carry Demon Poison. Once we reach Boundaryless Mountain or other State Mansions, there are many more with terrifying Demon Poisons. The Corpse Scorpion Demon, the Guardian Palace Demon, the Demon Bee King, the Dark Soul Worm, and the Stone Snake are all terrifying Demons that make Martial Cultivators' blood run cold, possessing all manner of vile poisons. For instance, Corpse Scorpion Venom can drastically reduce a Martial Cultivator's Cultivation. The Guardian Palace Demon's poison can cause a Martial Cultivator, once they perform the Rites of Zhou Gong, to become a Fallen Demon. The Dark Soul Worm's poison can cause a Martial Cultivator's Heart Thought to be continually damaged, gradually dissipating their Divine Soul! Furthermore, when Martial Cultivators consume Ghost Toad flesh over a long period, it significantly enhances their body's resistance, naturally increasing their chances of survival when encountering these Demons. Of course,

the efficacy of these Ghost Toad Eggs is even greater. A single egg is worth a large quantity of Ghost Toad flesh, making them extremely precious Treasures! Congratulations, Master Lin! Best wishes to you, Master Lin!"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly, his gaze filled with joy as he looked at the Ghost Toad Eggs.

At this moment, Han Feiyan pointed to a short Martial Cultivator beside her. "All kinds of Demon Poisons emerge one after another in this world, and many Martial Cultivators secretly coat their weapons with them! My cousin Han Xiu once happened to see Liy Ruofeng, who was committing atrocities in the Zhen Character Gathering Place, secretly carrying extremely terrifying Stone Snake Venom!"

Stone Snake Venom? Originally joyful, Lin Xuankong frowned slightly. He was more familiar with the Demons of Great Marsh Prefecture and had never heard of this Stone Snake.

Zhao Yufei also frowned and said, "Stone Snakes appear most frequently in Nanyuan Prefecture. That Liy Ruofeng actually obtained and carries such a potent poison... truly vile, always resorting to such underhanded methods! This Stone Snake Venom is extremely potent. Upon contact, it rapidly depletes a Martial Cultivator's Qi and Blood, and can turn their flesh and blood to stone within 10 breaths, leading to absolute death! Unless a special antidote concocted from dozens of rare medicines is taken in advance, contact with this Demon Poison means certain death!"

Lin Xuankong couldn't help frowning upon hearing this. I'm now preparing to go to the Zhen Character Gathering Place to pursue the Gu Yue Sect and deal with Liy Ruofeng, and this Liy Ruofeng is secretly carrying Stone Snake Venom! Liy Ruofeng reached the Late Stage of the third layer many years ago, and now he's at the Late Stage of the fourth layer. Having consumed numerous Divine Protection and Nourishing Spirit Elixirs for many years, who knows to what extent his Heart Thought has improved? Can he resist my Pupil Technique? If he can, then that Stone Snake Venom of his...

After a moment's thought, his brow suddenly relaxed. Whatever poison it is, it needs contact to take effect! If the Eight Gates Celestial Eye fails to trap him in an illusion, I can just blast him with Aurora Shining Heaven and Divine Thunder Illusion from a distance for dozens of breaths. Even a piece of Profound Iron would melt! If that still doesn't work, one strike from my Iron Rod, and Liy Ruofeng will be flattened Liy Ruofeng!

Thinking this, he no longer worried about the poison. He handed the Ghost Toad Pouch to Zhao Yufei, "You handle the Ghost Toad Pouch for me, while I take care of the Ghost Toad Eggs and flesh!"

After saying that, he stepped towards the Ghost Toad King's corpse.

Han Feiyan, beside him, then spoke, "The Ghost Toad King's skin is coated in extremely horrific venom; contact means instant decay. Being near the Ghost Toad King's corpse is also unbearably foul. Master Lin, you saved our lives. Let me handle the messy job of dealing with the Ghost Toad King's corpse!"

Lin Xuankong approached the Ghost Toad King's corpse and said, "I've done plenty of hard and dirty work. How could this little bit of mess trouble me? It's no problem!"

「In no time」

"UGH, UGH, this is too disgusting!"

"Is this a Ghost Toad? It looks like a shit toad!"

Chapter 122: The True Ferocity of Being Vigorous in Old Age

Lin Xuankong, feeling dizzy from the stench, hurriedly held his breath. He kept holding it for the duration of Half a Cup of Tea Time, until he finished dealing with the two Ghost Frog King corpses.

It wasn't that he was slow; the Ghost Toad bodies contained venom and stubborn Demon Qi that required extreme caution.

The Ghost Frog King's skin was especially dangerous. The green venom on it was particularly fierce; with just a touch, Lin Xuankong's Qi Blood started depleting rapidly. Each breath cost him three or four points. At this horrifying rate, an ordinary Martial Cultivator would be dead in just a few breaths!

Lin Xuankong frowned at his poisoned hand. Intrigued to test the venom's potency, he retracted the Qi Blood blocking the Demon Poison. Instantly, his entire hand melted like a burning candle, and the poison spread quickly to his arm. Even his tough and highly defensive body couldn't stop it!

This venom can only be resisted with substantial Qi Blood and Exorcism Armor!

He immediately used his weapon to sever the poisoned right arm. If he hadn't, the venom would have continued to spread and dissolve his entire body in a matter of breaths.

This experience made Lin Xuankong reflect deeply. No wonder Feng Baoyi, Guo Lan, and the others fell silent so quickly after being swallowed by the Ghost Toad.

Nearby, Han Feiyan quickly reminded him, "Master Lin, be extremely careful. When we were forced to work by the Guo Family, nearly everyone got corroded, and some Martial Artists even lost their lives within moments for not cutting off their limbs in time!"

Lin Xuankong looked around and noticed that all four of them had several fingers missing. Clearly, they had promptly cut them off upon contact with the venom while working before.

He took out a small drop of Marsh Python Gall, mixed it into water from a kettle, and after his injury healed, handed the remaining water to the Han Family members, who were overjoyed and thanked him profusely.

From then on, Lin Xuankong became incredibly cautious while dealing with the Ghost Frog King's corpse, even specially donning the Exorcism Hand.

After processing the Ghost Frog King corpses, they obtained about three hundred pounds of leg meat. Since it was Tier Three Demon Flesh, its value was equivalent to a thousand pounds of meat from other Ghost Toads.

Meanwhile, Zhao Yufei had already processed the Ghost Frog Pouches and washed the three sets of Exorcism Armor retrieved from them. However, it was clear that this pampered young lady of the Zhao Family was unaccustomed to such labor; her fair arms and Moon White Daoist Robe were stained with blood.

The three sets of Exorcism Armor were Shangguan Si's Black Scale Armor, Feng Baoyi's Silver Blade Armor, and Guo Lan's Green Flute Armor. Although these three were not as famous as the Black Tiger Gang's renowned sixteen-hundred-pound Nine-Scaly Armor, they still weighed twelve to thirteen hundred pounds each, making them powerful treasures worth a fortune.

If these individuals weren't from top forces in the Great Marsh Prefecture and hadn't held high positions for many years, obtaining such precious Battle Armor would have been nearly impossible.

However, Lin Xuankong, already accustomed to the Ruyi Battle Armor, held these armors in little regard. He casually tried on each set before, unsatisfied, tossing them into a newly acquired Ghost Frog Pouch. He then filled it with most of the Ghost Frog Flesh and Ghost Frog Eggs to prevent them from spoiling outside.

Throughout this, Han Feiyan and the other three watched Lin Xuankong intently as he tried out the Ghost Frog Pouch and the Treasure Armor.

The Han Family was one of the top families in Ba City, located within the Great Marsh Prefecture. Although its members were significant figures among hundreds of thousands of people, Ba City itself was less affluent and more chaotic than the Great Marsh Prefecture City. Consequently, even prominent families there found acquiring such valuable items as a Ghost Frog Pouch or Exorcism Armor nearly impossible. In fact, only the Han Family Patriarch possessed such a set.

Seeing this elder casually handling two Ghost Frog Pouches and trying on one set of Treasure Armor after another, their eyes filled with envy, particularly because the expression on his face suggested dissatisfaction.

Han Feiyan withdrew her gaze with difficulty. No wonder this elder could marry Zhao Yufei, she thought. Judging by his disinterest even in full sets of such armor, he must possess something even better. This Master Lin from the Yin Talisman Sect is certainly no ordinary Silver Jade Steward but a formidable elder with a profound background! But the Great Xia Dynasty seems to have no renowned Lin family... Where could this hidden expert have come from?

As these thoughts wandered through her mind, Han Feiyan glanced at Lin Xuankong, her eyes filled with even greater reverence.

"Have you all eaten? Would you like to eat something together?"

Lin Xuankong, meanwhile, took out a piece of Ghost Frog Flesh, preparing to taste it.

Han Feiyan, her mind still dwelling on the elder's formidability, waved her hands repeatedly. "We all have dry rations. Besides, Ghost Frog King Flesh is extremely precious. Master Lin, you should enjoy it yourself!"

The other three also shook their heads. Though they secretly craved a taste of the precious Ghost Frog Flesh, they didn't dare take advantage of the formidable man before them.

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong didn't insist. Instead, his Divine Thunder Root pulsed, and bolts of electricity appeared in his hand.

SIZZLE!

In no time, the tender Ghost Frog Flesh sizzled, releasing an aromatic scent. Tapping into his Divine Thunder Root, Lin Xuankong reduced the Thunder Power, roasting the meat with gentle electricity until it was seventy percent cooked. He then tore off two pieces, gave one to Zhao Yufei, and began to chew on his own.

The delicious taste took him by surprise.

Zhao Yufei took a bite, her coolly beautiful eyes widening. "This flavor is exquisite! I've tasted the signature dishes in many famous restaurants of the Great Marsh Prefecture, but I've never had frog meat this delicious! The Ghost Frog King's outer skin is incredibly foul-smelling, yet its leg meat is tender and palatable—not only is it not smelly, it's wonderfully fragrant!"

Hearing this, the four from the Han Family, gnawing on dry rations, found their bread exceedingly difficult to swallow.

After eating a large piece of the frog meat, Lin Xuankong felt his Qi Blood rapidly regenerate. The Qi Blood Amount in his Life Plate increased swiftly, even slightly faster than with Tier Three Marsh Python Flesh, making him nod in approval.

A moment later, a line of large characters suddenly appeared in his Life Plate:

[Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier First Grade 0.1/300]

Then, the Vigorous in Old Age trait in his Life Plate flickered:

[Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier First Grade 0.1/5]

Subsequently, as the frog meat continued to digest, his Poison Resistance kept changing:

[Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier First Grade 0.5/5]... [Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier First Grade 0.4/5]...
Finally, it soared directly to [Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier First Grade 1/5].

Lin Xuankong's eyes lit up. Without hesitation, he took out two more pieces of Ghost Frog Flesh. Holding one in each hand, he cooked them to seventy percent with a dual burst of Divine Thunder and began to eat.

He had originally planned to share some with Zhao Yufei. However, she was afraid of wasting Qi Blood and refused to eat any more, merely watching Lin Xuankong devour the meat.

Lin Xuankong's Poison Resistance in his Life Plate increased rapidly.

Joy glinted in his eyes. Unlike the Divine Protection Elixir, which can only be taken once a day, this Ghost Frog Flesh increases Poison Resistance and benefits from Vigorous in Old Age. Naturally, I have to keep eating until I'm completely stuffed!

At that moment, his Poison Resistance in his Life Plate was increasing rapidly:

[Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier Second Grade 1.2/10]

[Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier Second Grade 1.8/10]

[Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier Second Grade 2/10]

...After finishing the two pieces, Lin Xuankong took out a full twenty pounds of Ghost Frog Flesh and began to roast it all at once with Divine Thunder.

Zhao Yufei frowned deeply as she watched from the side. Sigh, this husband of mine is good in every way, except... except for his enormous appetite. Eating like this is such a waste of Qi Blood!

The four people from the Han Family were even more stunned.

Han Feiyan's mouth gaped, her usually square face seeming to stretch long with astonishment.

As a Martial Cultivator at the peak of the third layer of Perfection, she had seen many powerful warriors, but she had never expected to witness such extravagance! Eating Ghost Frog Flesh like that, how much Qi Blood would be wasted? Everyone else only eats a little each day precisely to avoid wasting such a massive amount of Qi Blood! He truly is a terrifying hidden expert, doing things so differently! He treats something others cherish immensely as a mere snack!

Lin Xuankong, however, paid no mind to their thoughts. He devoured all twenty pounds of Ghost Frog Flesh until his stomach was round and he could not possibly eat another bite. Only then did he stop.

[Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier Third Grade 1/15]

Once most of the Ghost Frog Flesh was digested, Lin Xuankong's Poison Resistance had astonishingly grown to Mortal Tier Third Grade!

All this in just over half an hour... from having no Poison Resistance to reaching this level!

Lin Xuankong mused to himself, I wonder if Mortal Tier Third Grade Poison Resistance can withstand the Stone Snake Venom? But even if it can't, my stomach can't handle much more. I'll probably need to relieve myself of seven or eight pounds worth soon!

Then, a new thought struck him: the Ghost Frog Eggs. His eyes lit up.

According to the Monster Atlas and what Yu Fei said, Ghost Frog Eggs are many times more effective than Ghost Frog Flesh. Now that I'm full of Ghost Frog Flesh, I can eat a few plum-sized Ghost Frog Eggs to fill in the cracks!

Acting on this thought, he immediately took out a few Ghost Frog Eggs from the Ghost Frog Pouch. A slight touch of Divine Thunder, and a fragrant aroma filled the air. He popped a Ghost Frog Egg into his mouth.

A moment later, the Qi Blood in his Life Plate increased again, and his Poison Resistance rose quickly.

Lin Xuankong's eyes filled with joy. A single Ghost Frog Egg is indeed equivalent to dozens of pounds of Ghost Frog King Flesh! Whether for increasing Qi Blood or Demon Poison Resistance, it far surpasses Ghost Frog Flesh. Truly a mystical item!

Delighted, he continuously swallowed several Ghost Frog Eggs.

The Han Family members watching had bizarre expressions.

Han Feiyan swallowed hard. "I... I think I'll go for a walk nearby to aid my digestion!"

Saying this, she turned and left. I can't take it anymore! This is too much! Those are all extremely precious Demon blood, flesh, and eggs—all immensely replenishing Qi Blood! Yet in the hands of this terrifying old man, the Ghost Frog Eggs don't seem like worldly treasures at all, more like ordinary chicken eggs!

Lin Xuankong's eyes, however, grew even brighter as he continuously took out Ghost Frog Eggs and consumed them.

These things are quite small; I can eat a lot of them tonight. I'm eager to see how much my Qi Blood and Poison Resistance can increase!

Chapter 123: I Have Reached This Grade, Master Lin Growing Stronger with Age

As night fell, the moon hung high in the sky.

In the cave, Lin Xuankong sat on a stone bed carved out by Zhao Yufei using her weapon, burping repeatedly.

Zhao Yufei looked at him with some concern. "Although the organs of a Martial Cultivator are refined and their digestive abilities far exceed those of ordinary people, what you ate wasn't ordinary food. All of it was Tier Three Demon Flesh! Next time, please don't eat like this. What if it harms your body?"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly, circulating his Qi Blood into his organs to speed up digestion.

Zhao Yufei said, "I'll get some water. I got blood all over me when cleaning the Ghost Toad Pouch, so I need to wash my Daoist Robe!"

More than an hour later, the bloating feeling in his stomach finally began to subside.

[Perfect Qi Blood: 10091/500000]

[Poison Resistance: Mortal Tier Eighth Grade 218.6/400]

Staring at the large characters in his Life Plate, Lin Xuankong felt a strong sense of satisfaction rising in his heart, his face filled with pleasant surprise. My Poison Resistance has already reached Mortal Tier Eighth Grade...

After consuming a full twenty pounds of Ghost Toad Flesh and fifty Ghost Toad Eggs, the speed at which his Poison Resistance increased was like ascending to the heavens with an immortal family's Magical Treasure!

The speed at which his Qi Blood increased was like stepping on the mythological Somersault Cloud, reaching over ten thousand points of Perfect Qi Blood for the first time!

With such a reserve of Qi Blood, how could this be called a Blood Ox? This is a true Super Five-Flavored Blood Ox! If an ordinary Martial Cultivator had the Ghost Toad Flesh and eggs, they wouldn't be able to store so much Qi Blood, let alone improve their Poison Resistance as swiftly as I can! After resting today,

if I eat the remaining fifty Ghost Toad Eggs tomorrow morning, I should be able to replenish several thousand more points of Perfect Qi Blood. My Poison Resistance might even have a chance to reach Ninth Grade! If I truly reach Ninth Grade Poison Resistance, the Demon Poisons from First to Ninth Tier demons will no longer affect me! The Demon Poison of a Ninth-Tier demon could probably easily kill someone like Prefect Liy or Elder Hua of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect... My Vigorous in Old Age Life Plate is indeed miraculous! The potency of being Vigorous in Old Age isn't just about accelerating cultivation speed; this ability to reduce consumption and enhance the effects of elixirs and Spiritual Objects is incredibly potent as well!

SPLASH, SPLASH...

The sound of water suddenly came. Lin Xuankong turned his head and saw some water splashing out from the curved inner corner of the cave.

(As Lin Xuankong planned to rest for the night and set off the next day, the four members of the Han Family had voluntarily given up the cave. They had gone into the jungle, selected a few large trees, and constructed some simple treehouses... Thus, only Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei remained in the depths of the cave.)

Hearing the water, Lin Xuankong then remembered that while he was quietly cultivating and digesting his food, Zhao Yufei had said she got bloodstains all over herself from cleaning the Ghost Toad Pouch and intended to wash her clothes thoroughly. So, she carved out a stone basin, fetched some water, and is washing her clothes?

Upon hearing the sound of water, Lin Xuankong, who hadn't washed since entering the Demon-Suppressing Valley, suddenly felt itchy all over.

At that moment, the sound of water stopped.

A moment later, Zhao Yufei, wearing only thin undergarments, came out from around the corner holding her Daoist Robe.

Under the dim light in the cave, Lin Xuankong's eyes flickered slightly. The cold and charming Daoist Nun had taken off her wide Daoist Robe, revealing her stunning figure beneath her thin undergarments. Under the dim light, she possessed an added, distinct beauty!

Having just had a substantial meal, Lin Xuankong suddenly felt his Qi Blood surging. He looked at Zhao Yufei. "I'll go wash too!"

"Mm, I fetched an extra basin of water!"

Soon after, Lin Xuankong finished washing absent-mindedly and walked out from around the corner.

He saw a soft piece of Python Skin spread on the stone bed, where Zhao Yufei lay with her back to him, seemingly asleep!

Lin Xuankong walked over and had just sat by the bed when Zhao Yufei's body seemed to tense up suddenly.

"Not asleep?" Lin Xuankong asked.

Zhao Yufei murmured a low "mm," turned to look at him, and whispered, "Husband, we still have to go to the gathering place tomorrow. Rest early!"

When Lin Xuankong heard the word "husband," his heart couldn't help but flutter.

At that moment, he didn't hesitate at all. With a wave of his hand, a gust of palm wind shot out, and the oil lamp beside them shattered into pieces, extinguishing on the spot!

A moment later, a voice came from the darkness.

"You ate so much just now, be careful!"

"I am Vigorous in Old Age; this is nothing!"

"Really? I don't believe it!"

That night, the cave was far from peaceful, a restlessness that lasted until morning.

「Early the next morning,」

A slightly weary Zhao Yufei personally helped Lin Xuankong put on his Daoist Robe. Then, her cold and charming eyes, filled with a mix of surprise, joy, and shyness, watched Lin Xuankong walk out of the cave entrance.

Lin Xuankong, refreshed and invigorated, walked out of the cave to get some fresh air. He saw the four members of the Han Family looking in their direction from a distance and walked over. "How did the four of you rest last night?"

Han Feiyan's square face showed a peculiar expression; for a moment, he didn't know how to respond.

The short Martial Cultivator next to him, Han Xiu, then cupped his hands and said, "Master Lin, we rested well! But..."

Lin Xuankong said, "But what?"

The short Martial Cultivator, Han Xiu, looked at him with deep respect. "Master Lin, you are Growing Stronger with Age. Your strength in all aspects far exceeds that of ordinary people by countless times. I am truly in awe!"

Lin Xuankong nodded. "Your name is Han Xiu, right?"

Being called by name by the fearsome old man, the short Martial Cultivator was rather flattered and surprised. "Indeed, I am called Han Xiu!"

Lin Xuankong nodded again and said, "Yesterday, you mentioned that before leaving, you didn't see any Martial Cultivators from other gathering places rushing over?"

The short Han Xiu cupped his hands. "We didn't see any! If others were rushing over, they would definitely be forced to work together!"

They hadn't gone over yesterday, but today might be different. After all, the tracks of those two are still heading towards the Zhen Character Gathering Place! However, today I haven't yet had the opportunity to consume the Ghost Toad Eggs, flesh, and Nourishing Spirit Pill. Before setting off, it's the perfect time to cultivate, consume them all, and enhance my overall strength!

Thinking of this, he said, "We will set off in an hour. Take me to the place where you stored the Ghost Toad Flesh!"

After speaking, he turned and walked towards the cave.

At this moment, Zhao Yufei, her limbs still feeling weak, had just reached the cave entrance. Seeing Lin Xuankong walk in with an expectant look, her pretty face registered surprise. "We're going back into the cave?"

「Nearly an hour later,」

After consuming a Nourishing Spirit Pill, fifty Ghost Toad Eggs, and over twenty pounds of Ghost Toad Flesh, Lin Xuankong was secretly circulating the Yin Talisman Heart Method for his cultivation.

Suddenly, he felt a tremor in his flesh and blood. An aura completely different from Qi Blood rose from deep within his body, spreading to every corner. This aura was full of boundless vitality, causing every bit of his flesh and blood to tremble and undergo Metamorphosis!

[Yin Talisman Technique: Attained Minor Success 60/232]

[Eight Gates Celestial Eye: Fifth Layer 34/200]

[Perfect Qi Blood: 14091/500000]

[Poison Resistance: Ninth Grade of the Mortal Tier 66/800]

[Heart Thought: Fifth Grade of the Mortal Tier 1/40]

Feeling the various changes in his body, Lin Xuankong was filled with joy.

The Divine Thunder Root of my Yin Talisman Technique is getting stronger and stronger! Under the tempering of the Divine Thunder, my head and bones are undergoing rapid Metamorphosis. Within a few more days, I should be able to advance to the mid-grade of the fourth layer! What's more gratifying is that after consuming the Nourishing Spirit Pill for many days, my Heart Thought's intensity has increased once again, astonishingly reaching the Fifth Grade of the Mortal Tier. It's been almost twenty days in total since I started consuming the Nourishing Spirit Pill! If it were other Martial Cultivators, who knows how many years and how many Nourishing and Protecting Spirit Elixirs they would need to raise their Heart Thought to such an intensity! With a Heart Thought intensity of the Fifth Grade of the Mortal Tier, very few Martial Cultivators will be able to resist the Entering Illusion of the Eight Gates Celestial Eye... In addition, after consuming a large amount of Ghost Toad Eggs and flesh, my Qi and Blood Reserves have increased by a large amount once again, reaching over fourteen thousand points! With this reserve, I could activate the Demon Pearl and Thunder Technique for who knows how long... Unfortunately, none of the opponents I've encountered so far can withstand my attacks for very long! The most gratifying thing is that my Poison Resistance has directly increased to the Ninth Grade of the Mortal Tier! With this level of Poison Resistance, looking across the entire Great Xia Dynasty, no demon's strange or evil Demon Poison should be able to affect me! Reductions in cultivation after being poisoned? Damage to my Heart Thought after being poisoned? Those should all be impossible now! However, it's best to try it out first!

Lin Xuankong thought for a moment and walked out of the cave.

Zhao Yufei, who was also cultivating nearby, suddenly revealed a joyful expression. "Husband, I feel that today while cultivating the Eight Gates Celestial Eye, I've gained a lot of insights. My progress is many, many times faster than usual!"

Seeing her so happy, Lin Xuankong pondered for a moment. "Perhaps it's related to my... busy night yesterday?"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yufei bit her lip and glared at him. "How could that be possible!"

Lin Xuankong smiled. "Then why was your cultivation so much faster just this morning?"

After speaking, he continued to walk out of the cave.

Zhao Yufei sat on the stone bed, frowning slightly, shyness and astonishment flickering in her eyes.

Yes, why was my cultivation so much faster this morning? Could it really be related to what my husband... did last night...?

Leaving the cave, he walked towards the Ghost Toad King's corpse that had been thrown far away.

At this moment, Han Feiyan and the other three were waiting for him. Seeing him walking towards the Ghost Toad King's corpse, they couldn't help but look over.

In the blink of an eye, all four revealed faces of astonishment.

Zhao Yufei, who had followed Lin Xuankong out of the cave, saw this and her expression changed instantly. She rushed towards him, exclaiming, "Husband, what are you doing?! That's the Ghost Toad King's venom! Yesterday, when you were handling its corpse, just a little bit that you accidentally touched corroded your arm... Stop immediately!"

As she exclaimed, her heart pounded wildly. At this moment, Lin Xuankong had actually reached out, scooped up a large amount of the Ghost Toad King's venom, and was smearing it onto his own arm.

By the time she rushed to Lin Xuankong's side, his entire arm was already covered in venom.

It's over! This arm is ruined, and half his body will be too! We must use the Marsh Python Gall... Wasting half a drop of Marsh Python Gall juice to heal him is nothing, but the crucial point is, how could my husband dare to smear such an incredibly terrifying venom on himself?!

Chapter 124: Master Lin, Impervious to All Poisons, Mysterious Female Cultivator, and Ghost Frog Demon Pearl

The four people who followed Han Feiyan also wore peculiar expressions.

However, when Lin Xuankong turned around, the five of them looked even more astonished.

At this moment, Lin Xuankong showed no signs of pain from any poison.

"You... why are you still smiling? This arm..." Zhao Yufei's words were cut off midway, her cold, elegant eyes filled with astonishment.

Lin Xuankong looked down at his unharmed arm, his heart filled with joy. Yesterday, just a little poison on my palm corroded my entire arm within a few breaths due to the Ghost Frog King's venom. Now, my entire arm is covered in it, and after withdrawing the Qi Blood from the area, there's no corrosion at all. Not even a single hair has fallen off!

"The Ghost Frog King's venom has indeed lost its toxicity after a night! Hmm, it's cool and refreshing, but unfortunately, it stinks a bit!" Lin Xuankong announced.

Zhao Yufei was speechless.

Han Feiyan was dumbfounded. If I hadn't read so many of my family's ancient texts, I might have been deceived by him! Who would believe that the Ghost Frog King's venom would lose its toxicity? Even after years, an armful of that creature's venom could easily kill dozens of powerful Martial Cultivators!

The short Han Xiu looked at Lin Xuankong's arm, then at the venom on it, his expression full of disbelief...

"Has it really lost its toxicity?" another Martial Cultivator asked, reaching out a finger to touch some of the remaining venom on the Ghost Frog King's corpse.

"AH~~~~! My middle finger!"

"Quick, cut off the middle finger! No, the corrosion is spreading—cut off the arm!"

...

Everyone was now absolutely certain that the Ghost Frog King's venom had definitely not lost its toxicity. In fact, because it had become more viscous, its toxicity was even fiercer. The rapidly decaying arm of the Han Family Martial Cultivator, which had fallen to the ground and dissolved into a pool of blood, was the best evidence!

This Master, who was susceptible to the venom's corrosion only yesterday, is already immune to Demon Poison today? Were the Ghost Frog Eggs and flesh that potent, or is this Master's talent truly exceptional?

Watching Lin Xuankong collect the Ghost Frog King's venom without any intention of explaining, Han Feiyan and the others dared not ask recklessly.

Thus, the image of this silver-haired old man became even more mysterious in the eyes of Han Feiyan and the others. Even Zhao Yufei, who walked with a somewhat peculiar posture, kept glancing at Lin Xuankong with astonishment.

Is my husband now immune to all poisons because he consumed those Ghost Frog Eggs? But aren't these eggs, which increase resistance to Demon Poison, supposed to be taken in large amounts over a long period to be effective? Could one hundred of them really make someone immune to all poisons?

When she recalled how her Cultivation Speed had greatly increased after spending the previous night with him, the astonishment on her face deepened.

Just how many powerful bloodlines and talents does my husband possess! A Nine-Seal Talent, becoming immune to Demon Poison after consuming a hundred Ghost Frog Eggs, and my Cultivation Speed significantly increased after spending just one night with him...

As these thoughts churned in her mind, Zhao Yufei felt a warmth, even more pronounced than yesterday, rise in her heart. She gently leaned closer to Lin Xuankong.

After resuming their journey, while the humans were puzzled, the two Dragon Blood Fierce Dogs were quite happy. This was because Lin Xuankong had stored all tens of thousands of jin of Marsh Python Flesh into the newly acquired Ghost Frog Pouch. Although there were now four more people on the sled, it was much lighter compared to the tens of thousands of jin it had carried yesterday!

On the sled, Lin Xuankong looked ahead with anticipation. The Ghost Frog Flesh hidden by Han Feiyan, plus my own few hundred jin, will be enough for me to make another attempt at boosting my Qi and Blood Reserves and Poison Resistance. I just don't know what grade my Poison Resistance will reach after surpassing Ninth Grade.

Furthermore, the cave where the Ghost Frog Flesh is hidden is only over twenty miles away from the Zhen Character Gathering Place! Once I get to the gathering place, regardless of whether those two Ancient Yue Race Martial Cultivators have any Marsh Python Demon Pearls... I am determined to obtain Liy Ruofeng's Nourishing Heart Method, the Black Soul Wondrous Jade, and other things from the Black Tiger Gang. My strength will surely increase by a significant margin then!

"The Kun Character Gathering Place has a mysterious Female Martial Cultivator, accompanied by Celestial Sect disciple Ding Rui? She has already slaughtered the Tier Two and Tier Three Demons near five other gathering places and is now summoning Martial Cultivators from various gathering places to head to the Kun Character Gathering Place?"

In the wooden building of the Zhen Character Gathering Place, Guo Chui looked at a Steward from the Spirit Snake Gang who had arrived from the Kun Character Gathering Place.

The Spirit Snake Gang Steward, with a long red snake coiled around his waist, cupped his hands and said, "Indeed. It was an order from Celestial Sect disciple Ding Rui. It's said that any Martial Cultivators who gather and can withstand three moves from that mysterious Female Martial Cultivator will receive ten thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Beast Flesh. Those who can withstand her attacks for ten breaths will receive fifty thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Beast Flesh!"

"If anyone can injure her, not only will they not be punished, but they will also become a disciple of the Holy Dragon Sect, which is under the Celestial Sect. Furthermore, they can receive either an Evil Sheep Demon Pearl or a Marsh Python Demon Pearl that she obtained in the Demon-Suppressing Valley. The Evil Sheep Demon Pearl was acquired from killing countless Evil Sheep, and the Marsh Python Demon Pearl was presented by San Gu of the Gu Yue Sect!"

Hearing this, Guo Chui's eyes instantly flashed with a hint of greed.

The Evil Sheep Demon Pearl was extremely powerful, but the Marsh Python Demon Pearl was even more valuable. The two Demon Pearls owned by his Guo Family were worth thirty to forty percent less than the Marsh Python Demon Pearl. If he could obtain this Marsh Python Demon Pearl, the Guo Family's heritage would increase significantly. This would allow them to secure their position as the foremost family in the Great Marsh Prefecture, and perhaps even give them an opportunity to expand their influence to Kyoto!

Enduring ten breaths under that Female Martial Cultivator's attacks... would it be so difficult?

Thinking of this, he smiled as he looked at Feng Zhulong and Liy Ruofeng.

Chapter 125: Master Lin, Unaffected by Myriad Poisons, Mysterious Female Cultivator, and Ghost Frog Demon Pearl_2

"For Ding Rui to issue an order, this mysterious Female Martial Cultivator must possess an extremely high status and formidable strength! But in this Demon-Suppressing Valley, no matter how strong a Martial Cultivator, they will be suppressed to the third level. It seems the three of us all have a chance at this Marsh Python Demon Pearl and Evil Sheep Demon Pearl!"

Feng Zhulong pondered for a moment before speaking, "If Brother Guo intends to visit the Kun Branch gathering place, I would naturally be willing to accompany you. I am quite curious to see who this Female Martial Cultivator is, capable of slaughtering Tier Two and Tier Three Demons from five gathering places within days! However, no matter how strong she is, does she think she can challenge all the talented Martial Cultivators from the various sects in the Demon-Suppressing Valley? Such bold claims!"

"What about Vice Hall Master Li?" Guo Chui smiled.

Liy Ruofeng frowned for a moment, a glint of greed also flashing in his eyes. But the thought that she could command Ding Rui turned the greed in his eyes to caution.

If all the Martial Cultivators from the gathering places are summoned, as someone who doesn't even rank in the top ten of the Hero List, I would be at a slight disadvantage! At the very least, in this Demon-Suppressing Valley, facing Feng Zhulong and Guo Chui would be tricky. One possesses a family Treasure,

while the other has reared a Soul-Devouring Spirit Cat for decades; both are comparable to my Black Soul Wondrous Jade! Compete at the Kun Branch gathering place with countless prodigies? Under the eyes of countless geniuses, contend with that high-status, extremely mysterious Female Cultivator? It's better to stay here and safely kill Ghost Toads!

At this thought, he shook his head and said, "Since you two gentlemen are eager to act, I, Liy Ruofeng, shall not compete with you!"

Upon hearing this, Guo Chui stood up and said, "In that case, I shall take the disciples of the Gu Yue Sect who came from the Xun Branch gathering place and head to the Kun Branch gathering place! If Lin Xuankong, who is pursuing these two disciples, arrives, Hall Master Liy, you may kill him as you see fit. Or, let him come find us at the Kun Branch... Hmph! Silver Jade Steward Lin Xuankong? Killing a Tier Three Marsh Python is hardly impressive. To think it scared San Gu into fleeing to the Kun Branch gathering place and gifting the Demon Pearl to someone else!"

In a corner of the wooden building, the two disciples from the Gu Yue Sect exchanged glances. To win over these powerful experts, they hadn't revealed the full story...

Liy Ruofeng smiled and said, "I hope you both manage to obtain a Demon Pearl! I will remain here, waiting for the return of the more than twenty subordinates who went to capture the four members of the Han Family!"

In the blink of an eye, it was evening. In a valley to the west of the Zhen Branch gathering place, Liy Ruofeng, accompanied by two Black Tiger Gang Stewards, watched the sixty Martial Cultivators killing Ghost Toads, a cold glint in his eyes.

Since Guo Chui and Feng Zhulong had left with a few subordinates in the morning, he had led dozens of Martial Cultivators from the gathering place to attack a Ghost Toad Community. However, after Feng Zhulong and Guo Chui departed, these Martial Cultivators grew insubordinate, repeatedly disobeying orders. But when they personally witnessed a Martial Cultivator turn to stone under the Stone Snake Venom, they immediately cowered. Truly a bunch of curs...

After several Martial Cultivators had died or been injured and all the Ghost Toads in this small community were killed, Liy Ruofeng directed the remaining Martial Cultivators, supervising them as they handled the corpses of Tier One and Tier Two Ghost Toads.

There were no Tier Three Ghost Toads in this community, so my prepared Nine-Scaly Armor and Black Soul Wondrous Jade had no chance to demonstrate their true power. Nor was there an opportunity to get Tier Three Ghost Toad Flesh. However, consistently consuming this Tier Two Ghost Toad Flesh can gradually increase my Poison Resistance. After a while, my Poison Resistance should rise to the Second Grade, meaning I won't fear the Tier Two Ghost Toad's venom anymore!

At this moment, six Martial Cultivators approached Liy Ruofeng. The one in the lead cupped his hands and reported, "Hall Master Liy, a Tier Two Ghost Toad nurturing Ghost Toad Eggs has been discovered over there!"

Liy Ruofeng's eyes lit up with joy upon hearing this. Ghost Toad Eggs? Such a valuable prize had appeared?

He quickly headed in the direction the Martial Cultivator pointed to. It wasn't that he implicitly trusted others; rather, he was fully confident that these Martial Cultivators, thoroughly intimidated by the Stone Demon's Venom, would never dare to deceive him!

Just as he ventured deeper into the valley and stood beside the Ghost Toad's corpse, a Black Tiger Gang Steward near the valley entrance suddenly roared, "You dare try to leave with Vice Hall Master Li present? You're courting death!"

Immediately, the sounds of combat—BANG! BANG! BANG!—began to echo.

Liy Ruofeng's expression darkened. Looking into the distance, he saw the Martial Cultivator who had informed him about the Ghost Toad Eggs now attacking the Black Tiger Steward along with five others. In an instant, the Black Tiger Steward was struck simultaneously by the weapons of four early Tier Three Martial Cultivators. He was sent flying back over ten zhang and collapsed by the valley entrance. The six who had wounded the Black Tiger Steward then rushed out of the valley, splitting into two groups and fleeing in different directions.

Liy Ruofeng's lips curled into a cold smile. His Jade Gourd emitted a faint light, and instantly, a shadow streaked towards one of the fleeing groups.

After the time it takes to drink a cup of tea, both groups of Martial Cultivators were intercepted and killed by Liy Ruofeng's shadow, which was exceedingly strange, powerful, and swift!

Following behind the shadow while constantly channeling his Black Soul Wondrous Jade, Liy Ruofeng suddenly noticed a round bead roll out from the bosom of the lead, black-faced Martial Cultivator. This bead was crystal clear, radiating Demon Qi in all directions. It was filled with intricate, ghostly white patterns identical to those on a Ghost Toad's skin!

These ghostly patterns, this form... A Demon Pearl? It's a Ghost Toad Demon Pearl?

No wonder these six had dared to risk everything! They were even willing to be killed in their desperate attempt to scatter, flee the valley, and escape his control!

A Ghost Toad Demon Pearl! This is a Ghost Toad Demon Pearl, a powerful Treasure specifically for enhancing combat strength!

With a single leap, Liy Ruofeng landed beside it, his breathing becoming exceedingly rapid, his eyes brimming with ecstasy. He snatched up the ghostly white Demon Pearl, his hands trembling incessantly from extreme excitement and joy, as if they didn't belong to a powerful late Fourth Stage Martial Cultivator!

It was truly worth staying at the Zhen Branch gathering place... After decades of arduous cultivation, my time has finally come!

I've obtained a Demon Pearl far more precious than the Exorcism Armor! And it's the Ghost Toad Demon Pearl, renowned for its ferocious combat power, entirely on par with the Marsh Python Demon Pearl, each excelling in different areas!

Once I refine the stubborn Demon Qi inside this Demon Pearl, I, a Vice Hall Master, will finally possess my own Demon Pearl. With this Demon Pearl in hand, I could even battle the Master of the Great Marsh Hall, Liy Ruoqing! I might even enable the old gang leader to establish another hall in a major city, allowing me to become a Main Hall Master, a truly top-tier figure!

He carefully caressed the Ghost Toad Demon Pearl. Immediately, a large amount of Qi Blood poured in, continually eroding the Demon Qi within. Liy Ruofeng's eyes gleamed with anticipation. With ample Ghost Toad Flesh to sustain the Qi Blood consumption, he could completely refine this Ghost Toad Demon Pearl in just over ten days. This was truly an unexpected joy, an unexpected joy indeed!

Chapter 126: Where the Eyes Fall, Liver and Gall Break, Blood Eating Secret Technique

In the jungle, Lin Xuankong and his five companions rode a wooden sled, arriving in the afternoon at a cave more than six miles outside the Zhen Character Gathering Place.

The cave entrance was covered with highly poisonous Black Ridge Grass. Although many plants, trees, and fruits in Demon-Suppressing Valley were toxic, the Black Ridge Grass at this cave entrance was particularly venomous, causing most demons and wild beasts to steer clear. Moreover, the entrance was concealed. If not for Lin Xuankong's Eight Gates Celestial Eye, one might not even notice it while passing nearby.

Han Feiyan was indeed fortunate to have found such a cave!

Han Feiyan handed the intact Ghost Frog Flesh, which had been hidden in the cave, to Lin Xuankong. Clasp his hands in respect, he asked, "Master Lin, Lady Zhao, are you really planning to go to the Zhen Character Gathering Place next?"

Lin Xuankong nodded. "Naturally, we must go!"

The two from the Gu Yue Sect have likely already arrived there. Besides, dealing with Treasure Vice Hall Master Liy Ruofeng and the sixth son of the Feng Family is inevitable. As for Liy Ruofeng's Stone Snake Venom, I now possess Ninth Grade Poison Resistance of the Mortal Tier; how could I possibly fear his Stone Snake Venom!

Han Feiyan's square face turned solemn.

"You two possess extraordinary techniques that common people can't rival!"

"However, Liy Ruofeng and Feng Zhulong rank very high on the Hero List, and Guo Chui ranks fourth with the Kui Ox Drum!"

"Moreover, the Hero List rankings can't fully reveal their strengths. After all, these three reached the mid-grade of the fourth tier long ago and were influential figures in Great Marsh Prefecture for years; their strength surpassed their peers. Each carries powerful treasures and, even when suppressed to the third tier, they can kill a Tier Three Ghost Frog King. They are not to be underestimated!"

"The Yin Talisman Sect and the Black Tiger Gang have always been rivals, and the Black Tiger Gang colludes with the Feng and Guo families. Once you two arrive there, you'll likely face their combined attack immediately!"

"Don't worry! My husband has his own ways to deal with them!" Zhao Yufei said, her pretty face filled with pride.

"You four need not join us if you're concerned!" Lin Xuankong said, placing several hundred pounds of Ghost Frog Flesh beside Han Feiyan. "With this Ghost Frog Flesh and your abilities, finding a hidden spot should ensure your survival!"

Han Feiyan frowned as he took the Ghost Frog Flesh, his expression complicated as he watched the sled pulled by two fierce dogs gradually disappear into the distance.

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After the sled had traveled some distance, Zhao Yufei, who still looked cold and proud, glanced at Lin Xuankong, her expression softening.

"Black Tiger Hall's Grand Chief Steward Shangguan Si and the others haven't returned for a day and a night. I suspect those at the Zhen Character Gathering Place are on alert. How should we sneak in and ambush Liy Ruofeng and his men later?"

"According to Han Feiyan, they all carry wondrous treasures... I think, husband, you should deal with Liy Ruofeng, the one with the highest realm among them. Let me fend off Guo Chui for now! Hmm, what's your plan, dear?"

What plan? If I weren't trying to avoid exposing my identity as the Conical Hat Guest, one bind with the Twin Vine Demon Pearl and one smash with the Iron Rod, and all problems would be solved! Even without using the Demon Pearl and Iron Rod, one flash of Aurora Borealis, followed by the Divine Thunder Illusion and Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder, and the job would be done! With my current strength and Ninth Grade Poison Resistance, why would I worry about these individuals whose strength is suppressed in Demon Valley!

After a brief thought, Lin Xuankong said, "Yu Fei, you once said that for the Eight Gates Celestial Eye's powerful pupil technique to initiate Entering Illusion, one's Heart Thought strength must be higher than or at the same grade as the opponent's. Based on your guess, what grade do you think Liy Ruofeng, Feng Zhulong, and Guo Chui's Heart Thought are at?"

Zhao Yufei frowned and said, "Heart Thought grade isn't like Martial Dao grade, which becomes clear as soon as someone makes a move. As for an opponent's Heart Thought grade... I can only determine if their grade is higher or lower than mine when I actually use my pupil technique on them.

"However, our family's records state that the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect possesses Profound Heart Stones. A Martial Cultivator's grade can be measured instantly upon contact with such a stone.

"Liy Ruofeng and the others are seasoned masters, around thirty-five years old. They've likely been consuming Divine Protection Elixirs and Nourishing Spirit Pills for over a decade. By a rough estimate, their Heart Thought strength should be around Grade Three or Four, and probably not exceed Grade Five!"

As she said this, a look of surprise appeared in her eyes.

"Strangely enough... after that one night with you, today, I not only gained many new insights during my cultivation, but I also felt a significant elevation in my Heart Thought when I took a Nourishing Spirit Pill.

"My Heart Thought, which had been stagnant for so long, suddenly broke through! I originally thought I'd need to take Nourishing Spirit Pills for another year or so to reach Heart Thought Grade Three. It's so amazing!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong gave Zhao Yufei a meaningful look, appraising her from head to toe, then reached out and pulled her into his embrace.

A look of alarm and shyness appeared on Zhao Yufei's pretty face, and she quickly waved her hands in refusal. Still a little apprehensive, she quickly changed the subject.

"As for Liy Ruofeng and the others' Heart Thought grade, we'll find out once we reach Cold Fragrance Valley and I test them with my Eight Gates Celestial Eye!

"Additionally, speaking of elixirs that enhance Heart Thought, Great Marsh Prefecture isn't Kyoto. Martial Cultivators here mostly consume Divine Protection Elixirs; fewer take Nourishing Spirit Pills.

"As for the more potent Grade-Entering Nourishing Spirit Pill, Mid-grade Nourishing Spirit Pill, Top-grade Nourishing Spirit Pill, and so on, only Alchemists from the Royal Family and the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect have the chance to refine them. The even rarer Treasure Nourishing Spirit Pills are only produced in the rather mysterious Rakshasa Kingdom and the Central State Celestial Dynasty, which lies east of the Boundaryless Mountain!

"Even our Yin Talisman Sect Leader, the Black Tiger Gang Leader, and Prefect Liy can only obtain very small quantities of such precious elixirs! In my opinion, even the Heart Thought strength of figures like our Yin Talisman Sect Leader and Prefect Liy is at most around Grade Six!"

Chapter 127: Where the Eyes Fall, Liver and Gall Break, Blood Eating Secret Technique_2

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but remark, "Yufei, your knowledge is truly extensive. Things like the Profound Heart Stone, Treasure Nourishing Spirit Pill, and the Central State Celestial Dynasty—I've never even heard of them!"

A hint of pride flashed in Zhao Yufei's eyes. She then looked at him with a fiery gaze and said, "When my husband cultivates to the seventh or eighth layer and traverses the world, his knowledge will certainly surpass even mine. You must remember to take me with you then. I have read many records about Boundaryless Mountain and the Central State Dynasty in the family library. I really want to witness the vastness of Boundaryless Mountain and the Central State Dynasty!"

Lin Xuankong smiled and said, "That day will surely come!"

After speaking, a heroic glint lit up his eyes.

I, Lin Xuankong, since I have come to this world, must thoroughly experience this vast world. The Yin Talisman Sect Leader once dominated an era with the Nine-Seal Talent, being on par with the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect of that time. I, Lin Xuankong, with the Twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots and the various Talents from the Vigorous in Old Age Life Plate, will one day reach the pinnacle of this world and see the scenery at the top!

A moment later, the wooden sledge drew closer to the gathering place.

Zhao Yufei looked southward, thinking to herself: I wonder if my Third-grade Heart Thought can put Liy Ruofeng and others into an illusion?

「...」

Zhen Character Gathering Place, at the mouth of Cold Fragrance Valley.

The corpses of Martial Cultivators impaled on the twelve Profound Iron Pillars emitted a nauseating stench.

Within the valley, more than fifty surviving Martial Cultivators, gathered in various corners, turned their heads towards the valley's entrance with looks of fear. They feared not only the Profound Iron Pillars with the impaled corpses... the seven eerily lifelike stone statues not far from the pillars also filled them with a chilling dread.

Those seven stone figures were initially seven living Martial Cultivators, all with third-layer Cultivation and considerable strength. But under the fatal Snake Venom of Black Tiger Vice Hall Master Liy Ruofeng, they were fully petrified and became those eerie statues!

Six of them tried to flee separately while gathering their spoils, but none escaped Liy Ruofeng's poisonous hand.

The most despairing thing for these Martial Cultivators was that within this valley, their Qi Blood was gradually declining.

Previously, Guo Chui and Feng Zhulong, fearing that sufficient Qi Blood would lead to chaos, only gave them some Ghost Frog Flesh before each Demon hunt. At other times, let alone Ghost Frog Flesh, they were given no food at all! Now, Liy Ruofeng still wouldn't provide food. If they weren't Martial Cultivators with strong Life Force, they would have starved to death long ago!

But with their Qi Blood continuously depleting, their foundations would inevitably be harmed. This made it harder to resist Liy Ruofeng and easier to be killed in combat against Demons. Facing such dire straits, most of them had become numb with despair!

These people were mostly entering Demon-Suppressing Valley for the first time, and it was their first time witnessing the valley's true cruelty. The fearsome Demons were not the only terrifying danger. The greatest peril actually came from their own kind!

Of course, not everyone despaired and gave up all hope.

In a concealed part of the valley brimming with vegetation, a man with several knife scars on his face glanced at the wooden house where Liy Ruofeng resided.

He then turned to the few people beside him and spoke in a low voice, "We brothers have fought for over ten years, standing proud in Yanggu City. Even the City Lord of Yanggu called us brothers. When have we ever suffered such humiliation!

These days, Liy Ruofeng doesn't even treat us as humans. Many Martial Cultivators have died from the venom while sorting out the spoils. If this continues, we will all be dead before we leave this valley!"

The four people beside him had fierce expressions, but after looking at the corpses and stone figures at the valley's entrance, they all shook their heads repeatedly.

One of them whispered, "Sect Leader, Liy Ruofeng's Cultivation far surpasses ours, and he has the Miracle Jade, Battle Armor, and Snake Venom. Even if we strike in secret, it would only be certain death. What can we do?"

A fierce determination flashed in Lv Sandao's eyes. "Now that Guo Chui and Feng Zhulong have left, we can find a way to secretly contact other Martial Cultivators in the valley. If we can get twenty or thirty people to escape in different directions, no matter how strong Liy Ruofeng is, he can only catch some of them. This would leave us with a sliver of hope!"

The four people listened, their faces revealing bitter smiles.

Contact others? If they weren't careful and the information leaked, they'd be the next to become stone statues!

Besides, everyone in the valley was suffering from depleted Qi Blood and had been frightened to the point of numbness. Could they really rely on those people?

Seeing their silence, Lv Sandao's knife scars twitched on his face. "Cowards? Afraid?"

All four looked ashamed, lowering their heads without speaking.

Lv Sandao, frustrated, grabbed a nearby fetid, thick tree branch, stuffed it into his mouth, and chewed it vigorously. Moments later, Lv Sandao had completely consumed the thick branch.

The four people beside him looked on with envy.

Sect Leader Lv Sandao and the others all cultivated various Secret Techniques of the Blood Eating Sect. Using a special Heart Method, they could refine their viscera to be as powerful as those of Demons, greatly enhancing their ability to convert Qi Blood!

However, Lv Sandao's Blood Eating Secret Technique Realm was quite advanced. He could rapidly digest the mildly toxic plants of Demon-Suppressing Valley to replenish his Qi Blood! The four of them had yet to reach even the third layer of Blood Eating, so they dared not casually consume these toxic plants from Demon Valley!

A few cups of tea later, Lv Sandao had already chewed through over twenty branches as if they were sugar cane, and his Qi Blood began to gradually fill.

He looked at his companions with eyes full of bitter disappointment, then pressed his hands sequentially on each of the four Martial Cultivators beside him, transmitting the Qi Blood he had gradually converted into their bodies.

Chapter 128: Where the Eyes Fall, Liver and Gall Break, Blood Eating Secret Technique_3

The four Martial Cultivators beamed with joy. "Thank you, Brother Dao!" "Thank you, Sect Leader!"

Lv Sandao withdrew his palm, spitting. "Thank my ass! You lot are such cowards. Had I known, I wouldn't have brought you into the valley!"

The four men's faces stiffened. A moment passed, then two of them gradually displayed a fierce look.

"Sect Leader, I'm risking it! I'll contact the other Martial Cultivators with you!"

"Me too!"

Just then, a sudden barking of dogs came from near the valley entrance.

The five of them immediately stood up, peering through the foliage towards the valley entrance.

At the entrance stood a white-haired Daoist with an ethereal aura and, beside him, a stunningly beautiful Daoist Nun, chilly in demeanor. Flanking them were two Dragon Blood Fierce Dogs, growling quietly.

"They look like they're from the Yin Talisman Sect!" one Martial Cultivator whispered.

Lv Sandao observed closely, a spark of anticipation in his eyes. "It's Zhao Yufei of the Yin Talisman Sect, late stage of the Third Layer! That old man... I don't know him! Brothers, our chance is here! The Yin Talisman Sect and Black Tiger Gang have always been at odds. If these two come, there's a high chance they'll clash with Liy Ruofeng. Zhao Yufei might not be a match for Liy Ruofeng, but with the Silver Hook Armor, she can definitely hold off the Stone Snake Demon Venom and the Shadow for a while! If they start fighting, before Zhao Yufei gets killed, we'll find a chance to scatter and escape, then converge at the cave I mentioned!"

The four Martial Cultivators showed a spark of eagerness on their faces at these words.

At this moment, dozens of Martial Cultivators in the valley had already reached the center of the Cold Fragrance Valley, looking towards the entrance.

Among them were Stewards and even Grand Chief Stewards from various sects, most of whom were at the Third Layer in Martial Arts Cultivation.

But under the tyranny of Liy Ruofeng and his men, these Third-Layer experts all had fear in their eyes, their expressions numb and lifeless.

When they saw Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei, many recognized this young lady of the Zhao Family from the Yin Talisman Sect. However, no one spoke or discussed it; each still wore a numb expression.

Obviously, no one here considered Zhao Yufei, late stage of the Third Layer, and the old man to be their saviors!

"Zhao Yufei, Lin Xuankong. Instead of waiting for death at the Xun Character Gathering Place, you traveled a thousand miles to my Zhen Character Gathering Place?"

From a two-storied wooden building in the valley, Liy Ruofeng, imposing and wearing a Golden Patterned Tiger Robe, walked out leisurely with a Steward of the Black Tiger Gang.

At one side of the valley entrance, the Black Tiger Gang Steward responsible for guarding, along with a few Martial Cultivators from minor sects friendly with the Black Tiger Gang, slowly surrounded Zhao Yufei.

Zhao Yufei looked at Liy Ruofeng, her chin slightly raised. "Where are Guo Chui and Feng Zhulong?"

As Liy Ruofeng approached them, he snickered at her words. "Isn't my presence, a Vice Hall Master of the Black Tiger Gang, enough?"

With that, he ignored Zhao Yufei, shifting his gaze to Lin Xuankong.

"Lin Xuankong, I heard you killed a Tier Three Marsh Python at the Xun Character Gathering Place. Quite unexpected. You've hidden your strength well, old man!"

Lin Xuankong, upon hearing this, looked somewhat surprised. A Tier Three Marsh Python? It was clearly seven! Did the people from Gu Yue Sect come but not tell the truth?

He frowned. "Where are the people from Gu Yue Sect?"

A cold gleam appeared in Liy Ruofeng's eyes. "The people from Gu Yue Sect are in that wooden building. If you want to see them, come over!"

Lin Xuankong frowned, looking towards the wooden building.

Liy Ruofeng appeared relaxed, but the Black Soul Wondrous Jade in his hand behind his back suddenly flashed with a faint light. Although he didn't consider Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei his opponents, how could he not understand the principle of striking first!

Suddenly, behind Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei, at the location of the seven stone statues, a shadow quietly twisted. It crept silently towards Zhao Yufei and Lin Xuankong. The hand area of this twisting shadow was dark purple, obviously carrying a special poison.

In the distance, the eyes of the Martial Cultivators, who had seemed indifferent, moved slightly.

They knew Liy Ruofeng's shadow, carrying the Stone Snake Venom, would soon turn the two into stone figures...

Lv Sandao and his men, who still harbored a sliver of hope, frowned deeply upon seeing this, their hearts filled with immense anxiety.

The next moment, Lv Sandao's eyes flashed fiercely. He planned to shout and warn Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei.

However, before he could shout, his expression suddenly froze, and he stood stunned!

Because at that moment, he clearly saw Liy Ruofeng—imposing and wearing the Golden Patterned Tiger Robe, the same Liy Ruofeng who had oppressed dozens of powerful Martial Artists into numbness—suddenly begin to tremble all over. Not only was Liy Ruofeng trembling, but his face was also twisting continuously. He then let out a series of extremely horrifying, high-pitched screams, like those of a madwoman, suddenly plopping onto the ground and continuously backing away.

This scene was extremely bizarre.

It was as if Liy Ruofeng was no longer the late-stage Fourth Layer powerhouse of the Great Marsh, but a defenseless, weak woman encountering a fierce robber. It was as if Liy Ruofeng was no longer the terrifying expert possessing the Black Soul Wondrous Jade, but a little mouse that had just stolen oil, encountering a cat that specialized in hunting mice!

Under the utterly shocked gazes of Lv Sandao, the Black Tiger Gang Steward, and dozens of Martial Cultivators, Liy Ruofeng continuously screamed and retreated.

Chapter 129: Where the Eyes Fall, Liver and Gall Break, Blood Eating Secret Technique_4

His pants gradually became wet. A stench of feces emanated from beneath his golden robe. His eyes were wide open as he cowered on the ground, retreating continuously.

After three breaths, he suddenly stiffened all over, twitched once, and fell to the ground, his condition unknown!

"This? This? This? What's going on?"

Lv Sandao's face kept changing, the scar on his face twisting constantly.

The four Martial Cultivators beside him were equally dumbfounded.

Then, the four of them looked towards Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei with immense confusion. They couldn't understand—this Daoist Nun, this old man—could they be that terrifying?

But if Liy Ruofeng wasn't afraid of those two, what was he afraid of?

The expressions of those Martial Cultivators in the valley, whose faces had been numb, also became incredibly expressive upon seeing this scene.

In some eyes, hope suddenly sparked.

Some swallowed repeatedly, their throats making gurgling sounds.

Some looked towards Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei, their eyes revealing fear.

Someone suddenly shouted loudly, "It's the Eight Gates Celestial Eye! It's the Zhao Family's Eight Gates Celestial Eye Pupil Technique!"

"What? The Eight Gates Celestial Eye is so fierce?"

"Look, Zhao Yufei's eyes are flashing with a blood-red light! This must be the Eight Gates Celestial Eye Pupil Technique!"

At this moment, their vision suddenly brightened.

Then they saw Lin Xuankong, his white hair fluttering, suddenly surrounded by countless Divine Thunders. These thunders spread at an unfathomable speed to his feet and then instantly to the Black Tiger Gang's Steward and the five Martial Cultivators following him.

CRACKLE! SIZZLE!

In an instant, that Black Tiger Gang Steward and the five Mid-grade Martial Cultivators were turned to char, falling aside and shattering into countless pieces.

At this point, Liy Ruofeng of the Black Tiger Gang, whose might once shook the Great Marsh, lay on the ground, his condition unknown. The Black Tiger Gang Steward who had accompanied the five Martial Cultivators, along with those Martial Cultivators themselves, had been turned to char. Only the other

Black Tiger Gang Steward, who had been standing beside Liy Ruofeng, remained, wringing his hands in utter terror!

Until now, Lin Xuankong, who had done all this, had not even lifted a finger!

He had originally prepared to use Aurora Shining Heaven if her pupil technique proved ineffective... Unexpectedly, Yu Fei's guess was quite accurate; Liy Ruofeng's Heart Thought indeed did not exceed the Fifth Grade! This saved a lot of effort!

Lin Xuankong glanced toward the wooden building. He took out a Silver Saber from the Ghost Frog Pouch, transformed it into Battle Armor to protect his entire body, and then walked toward the wooden building.

Zhao Yufei retracted her Blood Seal Heavy Pupils and followed Lin Xuankong.

She frowned, contemplating the scene that had just occurred.

My Blood Seal Heavy Pupils have indeed become much sharper after my Heart Thought was raised to the Third Grade! However, Liy Ruofeng has been famous for many years. Could it be that he hasn't taken too many Divine Protection Elixirs and Nourishing Spirit Pills, and his Heart Thought is only of the Third Grade? That's rather strange!

「A few cups of tea's time later,」

Lin Xuankong learned everything about the Zhen Character Gathering Place, the Gu Yue Sect, the whereabouts of Guo Chui, and other details from the remaining Black Tiger Gang Steward.

Sitting on a rattan chair in the wooden building, he glanced at the two pieces of Black Soul Wondrous Jade, a Ghost Frog Demon Pearl, a bottle of Stone Snake Venom, and a set of Nine-Scaly Armor at his side. Then he looked at Liy Ruofeng, who was bound like a rice dumpling with Profound Iron Chains.

"Liy Ruofeng, you can now tell me the Nourishing Heart Method for the Black Soul Wondrous Jade!"

Liy Ruofeng was silent for a moment, looking at Lin Xuankong. Then, a cold smile appeared on his face.

"I, Liy Ruofeng, have practiced Martial Cultivation for thirty years. I've experienced countless battles, large and small, and the scars on my body number at least eight hundred, if not a thousand. I've never cared about life or death. To say such a thing is to underestimate me! The Nourishing Heart Method is a Secret Technique of the Black Tiger Gang; how could I possibly tell you? Even if you subjected me to a thousand tortures, if I so much as frowned, I wouldn't be a true man!"

Zhao Yufei proudly remarked from the side, "Such a man of unyielding spirit, unafraid of life and death. Then why did you just soil yourself under my Eight Gates Celestial Eye?"

Liy Ruofeng: ...

Lin Xuankong looked steadfastly at Liy Ruofeng. "You will tell me!"

Chapter 130: The Realm Above Ninth Grade, An Abundance of Gains

At Luoxia Slope, in the Kun Branch gathering area, hundreds of Martial Cultivators from the five gathering areas had already built hundreds of wooden houses. These Martial Cultivators, hailing from various sects across the hundred cities of the Great Marsh Prefecture, greeted each other and chatted, discussing the mysterious Female Martial Cultivator who had summoned them.

None of them would ever imagine that the extremely dangerous Demon-Suppressing Valley would have half its Demons slaughtered within days by a mysterious Female Cultivator!

At this moment, at the highest point of Luoxia Slope, in the first-floor hall of a spotlessly clean stone building, Xiaoo Ying'Er, dressed in white, was holding a black chess piece, frowning as she looked at the chessboard before her.

The man playing against her appeared to be thirty-four or five years old, with sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, exceptionally handsome.

Seeing the woman frown, he smiled and said, "Saintess, you're clearly going to win this game. Why are you still frowning?"

Xiao Ying'Er raised her delicate eyebrows slightly. "I'll only be happy if I beat you by several more eyes. In all these years playing chess with the Celestial Sect Leader, he's never pushed me into a situation like this. Yet you, the Vice Gang Leader of the Spirit Snake Gang, almost turned the tables just now! Not only did you mentor the top ranker on the Hero List, but your chess skills are incredibly strong too!"

The man cupped his hands. "Saintess, you flatter me!"

Xiao Ying'Er, still holding her chess piece, said, "You sound rather pleased with yourself! Let's see if you can still be this smug when we face each other in a few days!"

The man laughed. "Over the years, during my travels in Kyoto, I've always been at a disadvantage whenever we've sparred, Saintess! However, we are now in the Demon-Suppressing Valley, where everyone's Realm is suppressed to the Third Layer. The outcome is far from certain this time!"

Xiao Ying'Er, who yearned to break through her Realm, had a flicker of anticipation in her eyes. "If you can truly defeat me while we are both at the Third Layer Realm and help me comprehend the Cultivation Technique, I will credit you with a great merit!"

At that moment, the voice of Ding Rui, a female disciple from the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, came from outside the door.

"San Gu, the Saintess was very pleased with the Marsh Python Demon Pearl you presented and has already permitted you to join the Holy Dragon Association! So why aren't you with the Holy Dragon Association? What are you doing here?"

Listening to the voice outside, the handsome man glanced at Xiao Ying'Er, whose delicate eyebrows were still furrowed, and cupped his hands. "That's my disciple's sworn brother. I'll go have a word with him!"

Xiao Ying'Er nodded slightly and continued to study the chessboard.

The handsome man then rose and walked outside.

Standing at the hall entrance, he glanced at San Gu. The two walked to a more secluded spot before the handsome man frowned and asked, "What's the matter?"

San Gu's six eyes glinted. "Bang Master Chu, what if that Lin Xuankong comes here and claims the Demon Pearl was condensed from a Demon he killed? Have your subordinates from the Spirit Snake Gang spotted him near the gathering area?"

Chu Yuhui, the Spiritual Snake Deputy Leader, raised his eyebrows slightly.

"In this world, all things belong to the capable—be it Treasures, Cultivation Techniques, beauties, or even the world itself! The Demon Pearl bears no name; naturally, it belongs to whoever possesses it!

"As for that Lin Xuankong, killing a few Tier Three Demons is nothing significant. It's only because everyone's Realm is suppressed here in the Demon-Suppressing Valley. Otherwise, with my Mid-grade Fifth Layer Cultivation, a single True Qi Finger from dozens of zhang away would be enough to obliterate him, body and soul! If my men spot him around here, I'll have my disciple Chu Qing help you dispose of him!

"In short, presenting the Treasure and joining the Holy Dragon Association is your pivotal moment for a meteoric rise. You must always remember what I've done for you!"

「In Cold Fragrance Valley, within a wooden building,」

Liy Ruofeng had, in the end, told Lin Xuankong the Nourishing Heart Method, including the Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique—the one he was most proficient in from the Black Tiger Three Techniques.

It was not merely out of fear of death. The main reason was that Lin Xuankong had threatened to feed him his fill and then, in front of those dozens of Martial Cultivators, make him lose control of his bowels and bladder dozens of times each day.

Liy Ruofeng, fearing utter humiliation more than death itself, decisively recited the Heart Method and the Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique to him for a full hour. As one of the top figures in the Black Tiger Great Marsh Hall—second only to one and above thousands—Liy Ruofeng feared death. However, the

thought of completely losing face, of soiling himself in front of those who had once feared and respected him, was even more unbearable.

It wasn't just Demons that had fatal weaknesses; everyone had their vulnerabilities, and Liy Ruofeng was certainly no exception.

Before Liy Ruofeng died, he told Lin Xuankong a piece of news that made him frown: San Gu had presented the Marsh Python Demon Pearl to a mysterious Female Martial Cultivator, and that Female Martial Cultivator...

To think that Female Martial Cultivator could command Ding Rui and had even slaughtered all the Tier Three Demons near several gathering areas within just a few days! Even though Lin Xuankong was confident in himself, he had to admit that this Female Martial Cultivator possessed strength, equipment, and Treasures far superior to his current self. At the very least, he knew he couldn't have cleared such a vast expanse of the Demon-Suppressing Valley in mere days... This Female Cultivator was probably a Fifth Layer expert, or perhaps even higher!

But the Marsh Python Demon Pearl was condensed from a Demon he himself had killed; it should rightfully be his! And that San Gu... he absolutely had to die!

This mysterious Female Cultivator was planning to hold a martial arts tournament seven days from now. She would fight numerous experts for seven consecutive days, claiming that anyone who managed to injure her can obtain either the Marsh Python Demon Pearl or the Evil Sheep Demon Pearl.

If he cultivated diligently during these fourteen days and fully assimilated all his recent gains, his strength would increase significantly. Could he, perhaps, then be able to give this Female Cultivator a beating?

Her background was mysterious, and her actual strength was likely immense. But within the Demon-Suppressing Valley, she could at most exert Third Layer Cultivation. He should have a chance... right?

Thinking this, anticipation flickered in Lin Xuankong's eyes. Fourteen days... Just how much could he prepare, how much could he improve...?

He suppressed these thoughts and recalled the Miracle Jade's Nourishing Heart Method. The Nourishing Heart Method wasn't complex.