

Stronger 1391

Chapter 1391: Absolute Spirit World

After a moment,

the three elders of the Candle Dragon Race, who had already activated their powerful talents, suddenly shouted in unison.

Immediately following, three brilliant, dazzling beams of light shone from the dragon horn positions on the foreheads of these three Great Success Realm elders of the Candle Dragon Race!

The three elders of the Candle Dragon Race stood in a triangular formation, and when the light flickered from their forehead dragon horns, a palm-sized round object suddenly appeared in the center of the triangle where they stood! This round object resembled a crystal ball, displaying various landscapes inside: endless desert sands, a sky as blue as wash, vast oceans, and layers of mountains and jungles...

The numerous Divine Mountain Warriors present couldn't help but focus their gaze on the position of the 'crystal ball', showing expressions of curiosity on their faces.

At this moment,

Wu, the Grand Celestial Official of the Seven Cities Construction Hall, suddenly said solemnly: "Creatures of the Supreme Origin Realm, even those as powerful as invincible Saint Monarchs, cannot truly open a channel to the Little World! However, our Candle Dragon Race possesses an enviable powerful talent that allows us to open a Candle Dragon Passage between illusion and reality, through which a Cultivator's extremely weak Divine Soul can pass!

The crystal ball-shaped object before you is the manifestation of the Candle Dragon Passage, allowing you to send a strand of your Divine Soul into it to seek the treasure formed by the Little World Origin's condensation!

Furthermore, you must remember, finding the treasure formed by the Little World Origin's condensation is only the first step of the task. Only when you elevate your cultivation to the Strongest Immortal Lord Realm within this Little World, can you trigger the final Celestial Tribulation and ascend

with that treasure formed by the Little World Origin to the Supreme Origin Realm; only then will the task truly be completed!

As for how you accomplish these tasks once you're in the Little World, it will depend on your skills!

Alright, all Divine Mountain Warriors here, listen up: immediately use Immortal Techniques, Demon Techniques, and Buddhist Techniques to extract a strand of your Divine Soul and send it into the Candle Dragon Passage!"

Even before Wu, the Grand Celestial Official of the Seven Cities Construction Hall, finished speaking, over three hundred Divine Mountain Warriors couldn't hold back and began to extract strands of their Divine Souls, sending them into the Candle Dragon Passage. These Divine Mountain Warriors had been waiting for this day for a long time, some even for hundreds of thousands of years, and now finally had the opportunity to explore the Little World and obtain a sliver of the Little World Origin. How could they not be excited, how could they possibly hold back?

After extracting their Divine Souls to send into the Candle Dragon Passage of the Little World, these Divine Mountain Warriors each bid farewell to Wu, the Grand Celestial Official of the Seven Cities Construction Hall, and headed towards their respective residences! According to the arrangement of the Seven Cities Construction Hall, all Divine Mountain Warriors participating in the Little World exploration mission could retreat to their residences and did not need to expend energy on the punitive tasks of the Construction Hall during the mission!

Lin Xuankong and the three from the Li Family, seeing those Divine Mountain Warriors depart after extracting their Divine Souls, couldn't help but glance at each other. Then, all four focused their gaze and extracted strands of their Divine Souls, guiding them towards the Candle Dragon Passage!

...

"Wake up, little brother, wake up!"

A voice came from beside his ear.

The extremely weak strand of Divine Soul Lin Xuankong had sent into the Little World gradually awakened from the chaotic sensations of crossing the World Wall.

An incredibly intense hunger emanated from his stomach, his entire head was drowsy, and his whole body was extremely weak, to the point where even trying to open his eyes nearly exhausted all the power of the body his Divine Soul had possessed!

Just as the Celestial Official of the Candle Dragon Race had said, after passing through the Candle Dragon Passage into the Little World, although it is unpredictable what race the strand of Divine Soul might possess, there is a high chance it would land on a creature that had just died or was on the brink of death or just born!

The original owner of this body that he now possessed had clearly died from starvation and had dissipated their Divine Soul, allowing him to take over the body!

Lin Qiang, a native of Zhaotao Town, Jee Province, Great Yan Kingdom, aged nineteen, having experienced war that shattered his family, leaving him orphaned, fled alone from the marauding soldiers to Qingyuan County. According to his father's words before passing, there was an official in Qingyuan County named Miao Yunhu, who was Lin Qiang's father's best friend during his school days.

Unfortunately, during Lin Qiang's journey of escape, he not only encountered bandits but also fell victim to a crooked inn, exhausting all his money! By the time he arrived at Qingyuan County, he was already famished for several days. As soon as he entered the county, he relaxed, and that was the end for him!

After obtaining the remaining fragments of memory from Lin Qiang's mind, Lin Xuankong sighed slightly, furrowed his brows, and opened his eyes to look at the person who was calling him.

The person shaking and calling Lin Xuankong was a middle-aged man, wearing clothing similar to the butler attire popular in the early 20th century on the Blue Star from Lin Xuankong's past life. He wore a gourd-shaped butler hat, left a goatee, had on a blue buttoned tunic, black cloth pants, carried a smoking pipe in his right hand, and was gently shaking Lin Xuankong with his left hand.

Chapter 1392: Absolute Spirit World (2)

Seeing Lin Xuankong open his eyes and wake up, the middle-aged man dressed like a butler finally let out a breath, smoothed his goatee, and said, "Little brother, you almost scared me just now. This restaurant is something our Master spent a fortune on, it's only just been renovated and we were

planning to open for business in the next few days. If before we even open, someone dies at the door, Master Miao will probably skin me alive himself!

It's good you're fine, good you're fine!"

Speaking up to this point, the butler-like man turned his head and shouted behind him, "Damn it, what are you all standing around for? Hurry to the back kitchen and bring a bowl of today's leftovers and two cornbread buns for this little brother!"

Behind the butler-like man, a few servants dressed as waiters shuddered and immediately ran toward the back kitchen.

Seeing this butler do all this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but secretly nod. In his heart he thought: The way this Little World looks right now, it's practically like the Zhonghua Family's Blue Star in the early twentieth century—a chaotic era, foreign powers invading from outside, and inside seems to be a complete mess as well. There are actually people who, while fleeing war, end up running into bandits, then into black markets, and finally just starve to death! Still, this butler-like man in front of me isn't bad. Whether he's afraid the former body, Lin Qiang, dying at the door would be bad for the restaurant's reputation, or he really does have a bit of kindness, at least he genuinely intends to give me some food and drink!

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help mustering his last bit of strength, cupping his hands to the butler-like man before him. Panting, he said, "I... I thank... thank you, sir, for saving my life. If you hadn't shaken me for all you were worth just now, I'm afraid I would already be on my way to reincarnate again! Also, I would like to ask sir something. The Master Miao you just mentioned—could he possibly be named Miao Yun Lake?"

Hearing Lin Xuankong ask this, the butler-like man's expression changed slightly at once. He hurriedly waved his hands at Lin Xuankong and said:

"Little brother, how can you be so bold, to actually dare call Master Miao by his name! Fortunately I just ordered those lazy good-for-nothings to go do some work, so there's no one else here right now. But next time you absolutely must not do that. In Qingyuan City, there are very few who dare call our Master Miao by name. Probably only that County Magistrate or a few of the Lords of the Training would dare address him so!

It's said... I mean it's said, last year there was some brat who didn't know how high the sky is, and in public he shouted our Master's name outright. The result was that the crowd around him swarmed him and beat him black and blue! In our Qingyuan City, Master Miao is not just the Director of the Inspection Bureau, he's a true power holder. In just three years he's captured several hundred great bandits, and because of that he's greatly supported by the local common folk!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong's heart couldn't help but stir.

So this Miao Yunhai's influence in Qingyuan City is indeed considerable. The original host, Lin Qiang, randomly collapsed in front of a restaurant, and it actually turned out to be an establishment under Miao Yunhai's influence!

Still, that should count as a good thing. Since Lin Qiang's father was so certain that he and this Miao Yunhai were very close classmates and friends, and that they hadn't broken off contact all these years, then the stronger Miao Yunhai's power is, the better it should be for me! The only thing is, I don't know whether Miao Yunhai will distance himself from this relationship now that Lin Qiang's family has fallen apart.

Thinking this, Lin Xuankong no longer hesitated. He forced his dizzy head to stay up and said, "Sir, it's not that I don't understand proper etiquette. It's just that I rushed two to three hundred li to get here, precisely to look for Uncle Miao. My late father and Uncle Miao Yunhai were extremely close back in the day, classmates and friends for many years. Our Lin Family and the Miao Family have kept up quite a bit of contact over these years.

Unfortunately, a month ago the Hidden Cloud City where our Lin Family lived was besieged by the Great Yan Kingdom's overseas Ai Race army. After the city was breached, they even carried out a massacre. I had no choice but to flee Hidden Cloud City and come to Qingyuan City to seek refuge with Uncle Miao!"

The middle-aged butler-like man's face changed at these words. He carefully looked Lin Xuankong over a few times, then finally let out a low exclamation. "So you're Young Master Lin Qiang—y-you... with all that dust on your face, and having become so skinny, I almost couldn't recognize you!

Ai, I've heard about what happened in Hidden Cloud City too. They say the Mountain River Third Division over there fought down to their last artillery shell to hold Hidden Cloud City, annihilating more than twenty thousand Ai Race soldiers. But because the Dust River's waterway had been cut off by the Ai Race, they were completely isolated, and in the end the Ai Race still broke through the defenses!"

At this point, the butler-like middle-aged man turned around and shouted loudly behind him, "Why haven't you brought the food yet? You slackers! And listen, don't bring any leftovers. This little brother who fled here from the war is a descendant of one of Master Miao's old friends, so of course he must be treated well! First make a bowl of lotus seed, longan, and red date congee—easy to digest and good for replenishing Qi Blood—then hurry and prepare several tasty dishes!"

Hearing the butler shout like that, the few waiters who had been about to come running out froze instantly, put away the leftovers they'd been about to carry out, and ran back to the kitchen again.

The butler, meanwhile, slowly helped Lin Xuankong up and let him lean back on a Grandmaster's Chair, then said, "Since Young Master Lin has come here to seek refuge, as the Little Shopkeeper of Five Lakes Tower I definitely can't make any big decisions on my own. Once I've supervised them in serving a proper meal, I'll personally return to the Miao Mansion and report this to Master Miao! In your current condition, Young Master Lin, you must eat only a little at first and then get lots of rest."

Seeing how the butler's attitude completely reversed after he revealed his identity, the slight tension in Lin Xuankong's heart relaxed a bit.

According to the information in Lin Qiang's mind, the Great Yan Kingdom he was in was currently at war with several neighboring countries. Among them, the ones who had the upper hand over Great Yan were several corps of that overseas Ai Race. It was said that those corps possessed extremely formidable equipment. Whether firearms, rifles, or artillery, all were quite a bit better than the Great Yan Kingdom's defending forces. On top of that, the Ai Race navy was also very strong; otherwise they wouldn't be able to blockade the enormously wide Dust River!

As for the development of the various clans in this Little World, Lin Xuankong still couldn't be sure. But the Great Yan Kingdom and the surrounding countries it was fighting were roughly at the level of Blue Star's early twentieth century, all at the initial stage of the Industrial Revolution. At the very least, firearms, rifles, machine guns, grenades, large-caliber artillery, cruisers, submarines, aircraft carriers, airplanes, and the like had already been around for some time!

The Great Yan Kingdom had originally been quite prosperous, but over the past century corrupt officials had become ever more rampant, and the Royal Family of Great Yan had long since grown decadent... Under such circumstances, with the people unable to make a living, the Great Yan Kingdom—originally the strongest state among its many neighbors—had now become a target for invasion and partition by the surrounding clans and nations! Among them, the Ai Race occupied the most territory and was the

most ruthless, often resorting to city-wide massacres! In short, most of the border cities of the Great Yan Kingdom had already been temporarily occupied by the surrounding countries!

In such a turbulent, chaotic era—and with powerful firearms already present—things were really not looking good for Lin Xuankong, who had only just sent a strand of his Divine Soul over here!

What depressed Lin Xuankong the most was that

when he used his Divine Soul to barely maintain his Sensing Ability and carefully probed the surroundings, he found that there wasn't the slightest trace of Spiritual Qi in this restaurant room or nearby—not even a bit of mixed, impure Spiritual Qi of any attribute!

In other words, the Little World Lin Xuankong currently found himself in was indeed still in its early stage of derivation; it was an "Absolute Spirit Mini World" that hadn't even generated Spiritual Qi yet!

Under such circumstances, if Lin Xuankong wanted to cultivate within this Little World, it would be unimaginably difficult. Normally, all Immortal Techniques, Demon Techniques, Demon Techniques, and Buddhist Techniques require Spiritual Qi to circulate and transform within the body!

Without even the tiniest bit of Spiritual Qi, how is one supposed to Cultivate?

Chapter 1393: Blood Spirit Technique

If Lin Xuankong intends to practice the Demon Technique, it won't be that difficult!

Whether it's the Thousand Illusion Celestial Demon Race or the Ten Thousand Laws Celestial Demon Race, or the Profound Yin Demon Race of the Golden Dragon Immortal Realm,

they all possess Demon Race cultivation techniques that, in conditions of extremely scarce Spiritual Qi, involve killing other life forms and absorbing their Life Force and Energy!

Additionally, every Demon Race, including the Profound Yin Demon Race, has cultivation methods that absorb the power of fear and hatred from others' Divine Souls through torture!

Lin Xuankong learned these two cultivation methods of the Demon Race from the cultivation technique tomes of the Profound Yin Demon Sect in the Golden Dragon Immortal Realm, and can use them at any time!

However... for Lin Xuankong, the cultivation method of oppressing other life forms and absorbing the power of fear and hatred from their Divine Souls is really something he cannot accept, and he definitely couldn't bring himself to do it! Although Lin Xuankong claims not to be a righteous person, he can't resort to such extremely perverse actions, let alone continuously rely on torturing other life forms to acquire the Divine Soul Power needed for cultivation!

Thus, for Lin Xuankong, the only method to deal with this Absolute Spirit Mini World right now is to kill other life forms and forcibly seize their Life Force for cultivation!

Upon thinking this, Lin Xuankong's mind conjured up a cultivation method for a Demon Technique called "Blood Spirit Technique," which allows one to kill other life forms and transform large amounts of their blood into Spiritual Qi or Demonic Qi!

This rather evil and somewhat malicious technique, although Lin Xuankong has long mastered it, he has never cultivated it, hence the cultivation realm of this Blood Spirit Technique remains at an Entry Level state!

But this is not a difficult task for Lin Xuankong; now that his Divine Soul Age is over ten thousand years, it means that Lin Xuankong can possess a cultivation speed of over ten thousand times for any technique! Moreover, Lin Xuankong has cultivated various difficult techniques for over ten thousand years and has considerable experience in cultivation, and he is already a true Celestial Immortal. Cultivating the Profound Yin Demon Sect's technique from the Golden Dragon Immortal Realm would be effortless for him!

Upon thinking this, Lin Xuankong no longer hesitated and turned to the Miao Family steward beside him.

This Miao Family steward was obviously dispatched by the Miao Family to run the tavern as the Shopkeeper. Normally, as a Third-Rank Official in the Chancellor's Door, the Shopkeeper of the Miao Family's tavern dominating Qingyuan City would naturally hold an exceptional status. However, this Miao Family Shopkeeper clearly understood the relationship between the Lin Family and Miao Family, and treated Lin Xuankong with great respect...

This Miao Family Shopkeeper was obviously perceptive; when he saw Lin Xuankong looking over, he immediately bowed and cupped his hands, saying, "Young Master Lin, is there anything you wish to instruct a person like me to do? From childhood, I grew up in the Miao Family, and my father was granted the surname Miao; I am called Miao Youren. If Young Master Lin has anything to instruct, just call me Ren!"

A person like me... calling you a person like me is really peculiar!

Lin Xuankong felt speechless in his heart. Feeling somewhat weak, he slowly nodded and breathlessly spoke, "Indeed... Indeed, there are some things, I intend... intend to trouble Shopkeeper Miao with. I'm unsure if our tavern has fresh live big fish; please prepare several, and serve them with the dishes in that private room!"

"Fresh live big fish?" Shopkeeper Miao Youren gave Lin Xuankong a somewhat surprised look, clearly not understanding what this seemingly frail Young Master Lin, who appeared close to expiration, needed several fresh live big fish for. But aware of the Lin Family and Miao Family relationship, Miao Youren would certainly not dare to inquire rashly at such a time.

He muttered a sentence and immediately nodded, "Yes, one of our tavern's chef's specialties relies on fresh several-pound river fish. I'll immediately have the kitchen folks prepare it for Young Master Lin! As for that private room... Should I assist Young Master Lin there now?"

Lin Xuankong was very weak at this moment and naturally wouldn't act strong. After nodding in agreement, he allowed Shopkeeper Miao to support him, slowly moving step by step towards the nearby private room. This body's condition was indeed extremely dire. Although the private room was just twenty or thirty steps away from Lin Xuankong's position, even such a short distance took an agonizingly long time to traverse with Shopkeeper Miao's support. Moreover, he was exhausted and out of breath, with his heart pounding frantically as if it could collapse into pieces at any time!

It was only due to Lin Xuankong's Divine Soul's exceptional endurance and control that no accident occurred. Otherwise, with this body's former owner's original constitution, having faced such 'intense' movement, it would surely have already collapsed into Shopkeeper Miao's 'arms' and fainted, and might have directly perished!

After sitting in the private room, it wasn't long before Miao Youren, accompanied by several waiters, brought in a dozen steaming, fragrant, and flavorful dishes. One waiter, in particular, had a peculiar expression as he carried a large wooden bucket filled with clear water and seven or eight three-to-four-

pound river fish. Clearly, this waiter, who carried the bucket, had no understanding of why this young man, whom Shopkeeper Miao holds in high regard, would ask for several live fish at this time.

Seeing that the arrangements by Shopkeeper Miao were extremely thorough, Lin Xuankong expressed his gratitude before asking this Shopkeeper Miao and the waiters to leave the private room.

Chapter 1394: Blood Spirit Technique (2)

A moment later, Lin Xuankong had finished off a few side dishes, half satisfied,

His feeling of weakness that was about to make him faint was somewhat alleviated, at least he wasn't on the brink of death anymore!

Exhaling heavily, Lin Xuankong forced himself to stand up from his seat with effort, made his way to the large water bucket, and with the net prepared in advance by Shopkeeper Miao, he fished out a large river fish weighing about three to four pounds. Lin Xuankong's eyes focused, grabbing a wooden chopstick from the table, and he vigorously thrust towards the eye of the large fish!

Unfortunately, the first thrust was off due to his weakened state, hitting the fish's head and slipping off. Luckily, after a few more attempts, Lin Xuankong managed to drive the wooden chopstick into the fish's eye socket, and then, with a forceful twist, the fish writhed briefly before it succumbed to its fate!

At this moment, Lin Xuankong muttered incantations under his breath, forming a special hand seal of the Profound Yin Demon Sect with both hands, placing it over the wound of the fish!

The next instant,

The body of the large three to four pound fish trembled, blood pulsing from the wound, transforming into threads of blood that entwined around Lin Xuankong's hand, quickly permeating into his skin!

After seventy to eighty breaths, the body of the large fish was visibly shrinking. Not only had its blood been entirely drained by the Blood Spirit Technique executed by Xuankong, but even the residual life force within its body was wholly absorbed by Lin Xuankong.

Feeling the entirety of the fish's blood and life force integrating into his meridians, slowly transforming into strands of demonic qi over seventy to eighty breaths through the Blood Spirit Technique, Lin Xuankong's face lit up with an expression of having narrowly escaped death!

If not for his time in the Golden Dragon Immortal Realm where he had learned all the Demonic Techniques of the Profound Yin Demon Sect, Lin Xuankong wouldn't have had any chance of finding a cultivation method in this Absolute Spirit World, dragging along a body on the brink of death!

Deciding not to stop after draining the first large river fish of all its blood and life force, Lin Xuankong once again used the net to catch another few pounds worth of large river fish.

After nearly an incense stick's time,

The dining table previously adorned with delicious dishes was now piled with the shrunk corpses of seven or eight large river fish,

But at this moment, Lin Xuankong's eyes sparkled with a hint of spirit, and the feeling of extreme weakness had largely dissipated!

The most obvious change was when Lin Xuankong killed the first large river fish, it took all his remaining strength and effort, draining his reserves entirely. Yet, by the time he was dispatching the final few pounds worth of fish, Lin Xuankong's hands had regained strength, wielding the chopstick with ease, slaying the large fish in one blow! Furthermore, after absorbing all the blood and life force from the fish, Lin Xuankong had converted more than a dozen strands of demonic qi!

With this demonic qi supporting him, Lin Xuankong felt his hands grow stronger, even taking a few steps was noticeably easier!

It was only at this point that Lin Xuankong returned the dozen or so large river fish to the water bucket.

Seeing the Blood Spirit Technique, not yet fully mastered, already so uncanny and effective, Lin Xuankong had to admit that though the myriad of immortal techniques of the Human Race were powerful in effect, they could never accomplish this so swiftly. Back in the day, the demons of the Profound Yin Demon Sect were able to dominate many clans across the Golden Dragon Immortal Realm

for a reason. The myriad of Demon Techniques, once mastered, really could provide cultivators with rapid progress! Furthermore, in facing such an Absolute Spirit World, attempting to cultivate Immortal Techniques would also be quite difficult!

Originally, Lin Xuankong was planning to call out to Shopkeeper Miao, to ask him to prepare a few dozen more large river fish, but before he could open his mouth, he heard footsteps outside the private room.

With a creak, the wooden door of the private room opened, and in walked a tall, nearly eight-foot, broad-shouldered man. Besides being sturdy and robust, the man had a thick, full beard on his face, complemented by penetrating feline-like eyes and dark sword-like brows, making him appear extremely majestic, a true hero's visage!

The middle-aged man wore a suit of black scales armor, with a broad saber about four feet long hanging from his waist. Following behind him was a tall, graceful young woman dressed in simple white attire, seemingly seventeen or eighteen years old, with an egg-shaped face, willow-leaf eyebrows, and bright eyes—a radiant and charming beauty. Although she was slightly less stunning compared to the likes of Young Lady Li Xiaolan or Third Lady Xiaoo Ying'Er, she was undeniably a rare beauty!

Shopkeeper Miao Youren, who previously attended to Lin Xuankong, now stood outside the private room along with a few others, all appearing to be quite respectful towards this middle-aged man.

Having absorbed many memory fragments of Lin Qiang, Lin Xuankong recognized the armored man at first glance as Miao Yun Lake, the officer of the Qingyuan City Inspection Bureau whom Lin Qiang had met a few times with his father.

"Lin Qiang, it really is you!" Before Lin Xuankong could greet him, the middle-aged man wore a complicated expression, taking a few large strides to reach Lin Xuankong, placing both hands on his shoulders and giving him a close look.

"I heard from Youren that you managed to escape the encirclement of the Ai Race alone. You must have endured countless hardships to flee all the way here! Your father... sigh!"

The middle-aged man's voice carried a trace of sorrow. He sighed heavily and raised his brows, "Ever since I got the news that the Lin Family had fallen, I've tried several times to lead a force over, but that damned Captain Ma outright refused to allocate a single battalion! In any case, you managing to survive

and reach Qingyuan City is indeed a blessing, ensuring the continuation of my Brother Lin's lineage! This is indeed good news, this is indeed good news!"

Lin Xuankong, seeing Miao Yun Lake's genuine emotions, knew it was not feigned, especially since there was no need to deceive an orphan from a fallen noble family. He couldn't help but feel a sense of kinship with this middle-aged man Miao Yun Lake. In these chaotic times, where human feelings were diluted, it was rare to find someone like Miao Yun Lake, who was so enthusiastic and sincere to the descendants of an obliterated family!

Moved by this sentiment, Lin Xuankong pondered slightly and then spoke, "Elder Miao, the Ai Race that attacked our Lin Family numbered over five thousand strong, a complete military regiment. Moreover, their ambitions surely exceed capturing a few towns in that area; their next target is either this Qingyuan City or Baihe City. Elder Miao should indeed make early preparations!"

Upon hearing this, Miao Yun Lake nodded, "Rest assured, the Ai Race attacked those towns while Jee Province was unprepared. Currently, we've gathered nearly ten thousand troops at both Qingyuan and Baihe Cities. Here at Qingyuan, there's a Tiger and Leopard Battalion of three thousand equipped with foreign guns and cannons! Although these forces may not be enough to take the initiative and wipe out the Ai Race's regiments, they are more than sufficient to defend the city!"

He led Lin Xuankong to the table, continuing, "Since you're in Qingyuan City now, consider it your home. Later, come home with me. I've already arranged a room and a few servants for you. If you need anything else, feel free to tell me or let Miao Youren know, so he can help you."

"Also... you remember this girl, don't you?"

He gestured towards the young woman standing near the door, who upon hearing this, slightly furrowed her brows, hinting at slight displeasure!

Lin Xuankong looked up, cupped his hands towards the young woman, and said, "Of course, I remember the Third Sister. It's only been four or five years since our last meeting, but she's already grown into such a graceful young lady. Had we not met here, I might not have recognized her!"

Chapter 1395: The Ma Family's Unrivalled Power

Seeing Lin Xuankong speak like this, the young woman's brows furrowed once more, but she didn't say anything.

Not until the middle-aged man, Miao Yun Lake, coughed and his face turned somber did the young woman reluctantly nod towards Lin Xuankong, "Brother Qiang has come from afar; Wan'Er extends her respects here! Brother Lin has encountered a great change in his family, and Wan'Er also feels saddened in her heart, but since you're here now, consider it home. If you need anything in the future, just tell Wan'Er directly."

Seeing his daughter speak like this, Miao Yun Lake's expression finally softened, while a trace of sadness appeared in his eyes as he looked at Lin Xuankong and spoke:

"Speaking of which, among the many peers, you and Wan'Er were the closest in childhood. But in the blink of an eye, both of you have grown up, and seem somewhat distant now! When Wan'Er saw Lin Qiang during her childhood, she was so close to you, sticking to you relentlessly! Every time your father brought you home, Wan'Er wouldn't relent and insisted on following your father back to your home!

Alas, given your ages, you should be discussing marriage by now. If your father hadn't encountered misfortune this time, I would certainly persuade Wan'Er's mother to agree for the two of you to be together! What a pity...

Upon hearing Miao Yun Lake talk about 'marriage discussion,' the beautiful Miao Wan'Er immediately lowered her head slightly and furrowed her brows tightly, obviously displeased with her father bringing up this matter. Yet her father's authority kept her silent.

Although Miao Wan'Er's head was lowered, her frown was quite hidden and showed nothing in front of Lin Xuankong, he, being a 10,000-year-old 'old monster,' could easily sense the Third Miss Miao's distant attitude despite her silence.

Lin Xuankong felt close to Miao Yun Lake due to accepting some memory fragments and regrets from Lin Qiang and because Miao Yun Lake was exceptionally warm towards the 'fallen' Lin Qiang. Otherwise, witnessing such a scene would hardly interest him in speaking much with the Ma Family folks. After all, Lin Xuankong, who had long achieved the Celestial Immortal position, had his own temper!

At this moment, Miao Yun Lake glanced at the dishes on the table, saying: "Do you find the food to your taste? If not, not flavorful, I'll have Youren arrange other foods to nourish you well."

Lin Xuankong slightly shook his head; his current body was too weak, hungry for days, hence too frail to suddenly indulge. If he suddenly ate too much, it might harm his intestines or even cost him his life. "Uncle Miao is too kind; for someone like me, a person adrift like duckweed, having a bite to eat is enough. The shopkeeper Miao Youren specially arranged for the inn to prepare such a lavish meal for me, which I am extremely grateful for!"

This gratitude was not casually spoken by Lin Xuankong, who naturally had his pride as a true Celestial Immortal. Since awakening, the Miao family shopkeeper Miao Youren catered to his every need. Had it not been for the seven or eight big river fish arranged by Miao Youren, Lin Xuankong would have perished, and the mission to explore the Little World would have been declared a failure! Moreover, Miao Yun Lake, the Qingyuan City Inspection Bureau Chief, is no minor official, yet he treats 'Lin Qiang,' a man with a ruined family and no background anymore, so warmly and without airs...

As the saying goes, repay a drop of kindness with a spring; Lin Xuankong gained some benefits, naturally feeling grateful to both Patriarch Miao Yun Lake and shopkeeper Miao Youren.

Listening to Lin Xuankong's words, Miao Yun Lake was quite satisfied as he stroked his beard, then glanced outside the door and nodded slightly.

Outside the private booth, Miao Youren, with his steward attire, hearing Lin Xuankong speak and seeing his Patriarch's appreciative and satisfied expression towards himself, immediately showed a hint of joy in his eyes. He never expected Lin Xuankong to praise him in front of Ma Family Patriarch Miao Yun Lake!

One must know, as someone working for one of the many industries under Ma Family, as a so-called shopkeeper in a restaurant, he is exceedingly insignificant within Ma Family's vast influence. Yet now, because of Lin Xuankong's praise, he gained affirmation from Ma Family Patriarch Miao Yun Lake, a great fortune for Miao Youren!

"Well, since you've finished eating, let's return to the residence together! Before I came over, I had someone clean out a suite in a side courtyard for you and arranged several maidservants for your service. After we return, you check if you're satisfied. If there are any areas that feel lacking, just speak up! Moreover, being here, don't stand on ceremony; remember, over twenty years ago, in that grand battle at Dust River, if not for your father fighting desperately in the Battle Array and saving me, I, Miao Yun Lake, wouldn't enjoy today's prestige!"

After saying this, Miao Yun Lake stood up, looking at the shopkeeper Miao Youren outside the booth, saying: "In the coming days, Youren, you stay by Lin Qiang's side, handling his food, clothing, housing, and traveling, make sure to attend to him well, as for money, tell the accounting office, Lin Qiang's treatment and monthly silver coins, follow Miao Mansion's eldest young master's standards!"

Upon hearing this, Miao Youren displayed an expression of excitement and joy on his face, bowing repeatedly with his hands in salute, saying: "Rest assured, Master, Youren will surely take good care of Young Master Lin, surely take good care!"

Chapter 1396: The Ma Family's Overwhelming Power_2

For this Chief Shopkeeper Miao, being transferred from his current position at the tavern to become Lin Qiang's steward at the Miao Mansion is a dream come true. Not to mention anything else, just the amount of silver taels he might handle in the future would be more than ten times greater! Right now, the tavern he is responsible for barely handles sixty or seventy taels of silver a month at full capacity, whereas the two young masters and two young ladies at the Miao Family Mansion spend as much as 800 taels of silver monthly—equivalent to the monthly turnover of more than ten taverns!

Most critically, the current chaotic times have led to repeated incidents of bandits breaking into homes to rob and kill in Qingyuan City. Among them, seven or eight establishments similar to the Miao family's tavern have been broken into by bandits at night, who killed the shopkeepers, the staff, and the chefs completely clean! The reason for targeting taverns and jewelry stores is naturally because they usually have a lot of ready silver! But the Miao Mansion is different, occupying nearly a thousand acres, with over a hundred nursing home guards skilled in martial arts and weapons. Nearby, there is a specialized inspection office for protecting the Miao Mansion, staffed with a hundred people armed with muskets!

One can say that across Qingyuan City, aside from the County Magistrate and a few training grounds, and the mansions of several large landowners, the safest place is the Miao Family Mansion!

Therefore, when Miao Youren heard from his master that he would be reassigned to the Miao family mansion, he was overjoyed. If Lin Xuankong, Wan'er, and Miao Yun Lake weren't in front, the Chief Shopkeeper might have laughed out loud.

The elegant woman, Wan'er, listening to her father's arrangements, could not help but furrow her brows again, pondering something unknown.

...

Half an incense stick later,

Lin Xuankong, along with his steward Miao Youren, was escorted by the Miao family's father and daughter in a sedan chair into the spacious Miao Mansion, through several complete corridors, to the outside of the Miao family's main hall.

At this moment, the main hall was rather quiet, aside from several charming servants attending, there was only a woman, about thirty years old but with a somewhat charming appearance, sitting on the right Grandmaster's Chair at the head of the hall. Seeing Miao Yun Lake and Wan'er bringing Lin Xuankong and Miao Youren back, this woman, seemingly Lady Miao of the mansion, suddenly stood up and came towards the hall door, saying while walking:

"The affairs at home are quite busy, needing to direct those servants to arrange accommodations for you, Qiang! So I did not go with Yun Lake and Wan'er to the tavern to welcome you. You must not blame me, your aunt!"

Miao Yun Lake directly sat on the left Grandmaster's Chair at the head of the hall, then glanced at Lin Xuankong and Wan'er,

Wan'er, seeing her father glance over, immediately said to the charming woman in her thirties: "Aunt manages nearly a thousand servants in our mansion daily and is even more busy preparing the annex today! For these reasons, although Aunt did not personally go to fetch Brother Lin, he certainly won't blame Aunt!"

Miao Yun Lake, sitting in the Grandmaster's Chair on the left side, could not help but frown, clearly looking somewhat displeased, but said nothing.

Lin Xuankong, being very observant, understood the situation immediately. Even though Miao Yun Lake, the Director of Qingyuan City Inspection Bureau, held an extraordinary status, his position at home seemed low, with a 'fear of his wife' appearance!

After a brief consideration, gathering some fragments of information from Lin Qiang's past memories, Lin Xuankong suddenly understood.

The charming woman before him was Ma Nanfeng, the mistress of the Miao Family Mansion. Normally, in a setting similar to the Nanjing Government Period on Blue Star, men would be in charge, holding the full authority over the family. However, the Miao family was different. Even though Miao Yun Lake himself was the Director of the Inspection Bureau with a high position, in front of Ma Nanfeng, it was insignificant!

Ma Nanfeng came from the prestigious Ma Family in Jee Province. The Ma Family is undoubtedly overpowering in Jee Province, with individuals in central departments of military, political, and commercial spheres, and even the highest official in the previous term was a member of the Ma Family! Even in the Great Yan Kingdom, the Ma Family counts as one of the top four families in the nation!

If Ma Nanfeng were not from the Ma family's main branch, where would Miao Yun Lake, a mere second lieutenant at the time, have had any chance of marrying a lady from the Ma family? Moreover, Ma Nanfeng married Miao Yun Lake only because she was captivated by his handsome appearance, and certainly not because the Miao family had any formidable influence!

Therefore, the apparent owner of the Miao Family Mansion might be this Director Miao Yun Lake of Qingyuan City Inspection Bureau, but the true holder of authority whom everyone in the Miao Family Mansion looks to is Ma Nanfeng!

After Wan'er finished speaking, she glanced at Lin Xuankong, her eyebrows furrowed once more. Lin Xuankong naturally understood the reason behind her display, feeling a bit pity for the sincere and cordial Director Miao beside him. A man as magnificent as him, burdened with military achievements, having narrowly escaped death to reach the position of a second lieutenant, was trapped and helpless, marrying this Ma Nanfeng!

Although because of this relationship, Miao Yun Lake was later promoted directly from a squad leader of the inspection bureau to its director, few in Qingyuan City are unaware that this rise was solely because of his wife. Of course, knowing the reason for Miao Yun Lake's ascension does not mean people dare gossip recklessly, for this Ma Nanfeng is from the Ma Family, and who would dare to speak ill of the Ma Family in Jee Province unless they thought their life was too long?

Certainly, to Lin Xuankong, who had in his past achieved the position of a Celestial Immortal, and once commanded countless beings as the First of the Golden Dragon Immortal Realm, the Ma Family's formidable power amounted to a tiny, insignificant ant... However, before gaining the ability to protect himself through the Blood Spirit Technique, Lin Xuankong currently feels he is just a little ant facing the mighty Ma Family!

Crucially, Lin Xuankong highly regards Director Miao Yun Lake's character. Currently, so as not to embarrass him, Lin Xuankong secretly sighed to himself, and cupped his hands toward Ma Nanfeng, the Miao Family Mansion's mistress sitting up high, "Lin Qiang pays respects to Lady Miao. Concerning what Lady Miao just mentioned, you are truly too courteous!"

Ma Nanfeng lazily nodded slightly, "Well, since the descendant of Yun Lake's former acquaintance has come, of course, our Miao Family must entertain properly, otherwise others might say Yun Lake is ungrateful!"

She glanced at Lin Xuankong, "I heard Yun Lake mention the Lin Family twice before and have met your father a few times! According to Yun Lake, when your Lin Family was prosperous, it could be considered somewhat wealthy. But, alas, the current situation is chaotic, and the borders of the Great Yan Kingdom are constantly tumultuous, and small families that may soon perish still number countless. Since you managed to escape from the Ai Race's encirclement, you can be said to have some fortune!"

At this point, she paused before speaking again, "Well, if you have no other matters, Lin Qiang, then follow the servants and proceed to the annex arranged for you!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong glanced at Director Miao Yun Lake, who secretly nodded at him, seeming almost afraid of being noticed by Ma Nanfeng!

Regarding this Director of the Inspection Bureau, who feared his wife, Lin Xuankong could only silently sigh.

Chapter 1397: Expert

A short while later,

Lin Xuankong, together with several servants and the junior steward Miao Youren, headed toward the side courtyard in the west.

After Lin Xuankong, Miao Youren, Miao Wan'er and the others left the main hall,

Ma Nanfeng, who was sitting upright in the Grandmaster's Chair, frowned and looked at Miao Yun Lake beside her, a look of hating iron for not becoming steel appearing on her face,

"Two days ago I already told you that a great figure capable of influencing the tides of the three northern prefectures would be staying over at Qing Lake Residence for a period of time, and incidentally getting a grasp of the situation here in Jee Province in its war against the Ai Race!

This matter is something not even County Magistrate Huang of Qingyuan County and the others know about; it was my elder sister, who serves as director of the Military Intelligence Office in Jee Province, who secretly tipped me off. And yet you don't seize the opportunity to go over there more often?

Do you realize that if you can manage to say a few words to that great figure who is living in seclusion at Qing Lake Residence, or win his favor, your position as Inspector Bureau Chief is sure to soar to the heavens? If everything goes smoothly, in another ten years or so you might even sit in my father's seat!

And yet these past two days you've been running to the Inspection Bureau every day to fuss over those trifling matters of catching thieves and robbers; today you even specially went to the restaurant to welcome some ruined good-for-nothing. Do you really plan to rely on doing those petty thief-catching chores and currying favor with these ruined good-for-nothings to accomplish some great enterprise? To attain some lofty post?"

Hearing this, Miao Yun Lake couldn't help but knit his brows and sigh:

"I am the Inspector Bureau Chief of Qingyuan City; of course I must maintain the peace of Qingyuan City and manage all the various affairs of the Qingyuan City Inspection Bureau. If I don't handle those matters of catching thieves and robbers, who am I to hand them over to? Am I supposed to be like that County Magistrate Huang of Qingyuan County, with nothing in his eyes but gold and jewels, fine wine and beautiful women to make you happy?

As for that great figure you spoke of who can influence the winds and clouds of the three northern prefectures, since he has quietly come to Qing Lake to live in seclusion, he clearly doesn't wish to be disturbed. If I, a mere small bureau chief of the Inspection Bureau, keep running over there every day, wouldn't that just annoy him? It may well be that if I go and happen to run into that great figure, not only will I fail to gain any favor, I might even provoke his displeasure!

And as for you calling Lin Qiang a ruined good-for-nothing—yes, his family has indeed fallen on hard times, but his father once saved my life and was a sworn brother who shared life and death with me for many years. If, when the descendants of a brother who has been through life and death with me fall into

hardship and come to seek refuge, I don't take proper care of them, then in future, when my men hear of it, who will still sincerely help me do things! Moreover, Lin Qiang is quite learned and also a fine-looking youth. In my view, if he is given some duties, he will surely accomplish something in the future!"

Seeing her husband speak like this, Ma Nanfeng's expression could not help but change; in the blink of an eye, it shifted from a dark scowl to a pitiful, helpless look,

"Fine, fine, I won't oppose you giving that ruined good-for-nothing a bit of care, so people don't gossip,

but you must at least listen to my advice. These next few days you should still go over to Qing Lake Residence more often. It's not like I'm asking you to make a big show of looking for that great figure—just pretend to run into him by chance, isn't that enough! If you let such a good opportunity slip by, with that mule-stubborn temperament of yours, when will you ever rise above your station! Back then, when I, Ma Nanfeng, took a fancy to you, wasn't it because I thought you were a man of great ambition? Do you really plan to spend your whole life as some second-rate little Inspector Bureau Chief, rotting away in this godforsaken Qingyuan County where not even birds bother to shit?

Even if you won't think for yourself, you should think for me and the children! Do you want to go to Jee Province every year and see that all of the children's older cousins and younger cousins live in wealth and splendor, while your children are no different from the common run of people?

When will you finally put more of your mind on getting promoted? Besides, with your talent and ability, staying cooped up in such a small Inspection Bureau, you simply can't spread your wings!"

By the time she was done, Ma Nanfeng's tears were already pattering down.

This woman truly had a fine hand at tactics—seeing that a hard line wouldn't work, she immediately put on a pitiful face!

Seeing this, Miao Yun Lake immediately felt a headache coming on; he sighed again and said, "Alright, stop this, I'll do as you say. In the coming days I'll make time to go over to Qing Lake Residence more often!"

When Ma Nanfeng saw Miao Yun Lake agree, she at once wiped away her tears and smiled, "I knew it, back then I, Ma Nanfeng, definitely didn't misjudge you!"

...

In the western wing of the Miao Mansion, within a small courtyard for guests.

Lin Xuankong stood in the courtyard and looked around. Though this courtyard wasn't large, it still covered three to four hundred square meters. The northern house was a row of three main rooms, bright and well-lit; on the west and east sides there were three small rooms each, serving respectively as quarters for male and female servants, and as firewood room and kitchen.

Miao Youren, standing to the side, sidled over with a beaming smile and said, "Young Master Lin, in previous years this courtyard has always been used by Master Miao to entertain certain distinguished guests—at the very least, only local gentry of some standing and reputation were qualified to stay in these small courtyards of our Miao Family. Although this courtyard may not be quite on par with the residence Young Master Lin originally lived in—after all, you are the eldest young master of the Lin Family—still, among the courtyards our Miao Family uses to receive guests, this is one of the very best. It shows just how much Master Miao likes and cares for you!"

At the moment these rooms have all been tidied up. Young Master Lin, why don't you go into the main rooms and rest for a while? As for what you'd like to eat this evening, just tell Youren. So long as it can be found in Qingyuan County, Youren can get it ready for you!"

Eat what?

Lin Xuankong's eyes couldn't help but move slightly.

Earlier at the restaurant, although he had already used the Blood Spirit Technique to absorb the blood and Life Force of several big River Fish weighing several catties, that bit of blood and Life Force was still far from enough to repair the chronic ailments of this body! Moreover, this body itself wasn't particularly strong; it even leaned towards being somewhat frail and scholarly. If he wanted to quickly raise his strength, he still needed more Spirit Blood and Life Force!

Chapter 1398: Expert (2)

After a brief contemplation, Lin Xuankong spoke up, "Is there a larger fish pond nearby? I love eating fish, and I enjoy catching fresh fish with my own hands!"

Love eating fish? Thinking back to the tavern, this Young Master Lin in front of me had already ordered several river fish, and now he still wants fish! Miao Youren couldn't help but murmur secretly in his heart, thinking: Young masters from wealthy families indeed have unique tastes! However, according to Master Miao Yun Lake's instructions, Young Master Lin has a sufficient amount of silver every month to squander, so he can choose whatever he likes!

Thinking of this, Miao Youren showed a smile, "Young Master Lin really knows how to enjoy life. Speaking of fishing, the best places around the county for fishing are Qingshui River and Qing Lake! If the young master feels he's recovered, I can arrange a carriage and nursing home at any time to take the young master there!"

"I've recovered quite a bit. Let's go wash the horse now, I'll go later!" Lin Xuankong decisively said.

Miao Youren was taken aback upon hearing this and murmured again in his heart, but on the surface, he showed a smile, "Alright, alright, I'll go make arrangements now!"

Two incense sticks later,

Lin Xuankong was sitting in the carriage, pondering some secrets of the Blood Spirit Technique when Miao Youren's voice came from outside, "Young Master Lin, we've arrived at Qingshui River!"

Lin Xuankong lifted the curtain on the small window of the carriage and looked outside. He saw a river about ten meters wide outside, and on this side of the river, there were five or six rather exquisitely constructed pavilions, two of which were already occupied with people fishing. On either side of Lin Xuankong's carriage were seven or eight robust nursing home guards, looking around vigilantly!

After getting off the carriage, Lin Xuankong walked straight to the pavilion, while Miao Youren brought over fishing gear and bait.

At this moment,

two white-skinned, handsome men in military uniforms saw someone arriving at the pavilion and immediately strolled over.

Miao Youren glanced at them and immediately cupped his fist towards the two men, "Director Liang, Captain Wei, you two are fishing today too!"

Among the two men in military uniforms, the tall and slim one nodded slightly and looked at Lin Xuankong with some confusion, "Miao Youren, aren't you working at Shifang Tavern? Why aren't you busy at the tavern today, and how come you have time to accompany someone fishing? Which young master from the Miao Family is he, I've never seen him before!"

Miao Youren chuckled, "Director Liang, this young master is a junior of one of Master Miao's close friends, and he just arrived in Qingyuan City recently. It's normal that Director Liang doesn't recognize him!"

Having said this, he turned to Lin Xuankong, "These two are captains from Linhai Camp in Qingyuan City. The one speaking is Director Liang's younger brother, Director Liang Yucheng, and the other one is Deputy Captain Wei Hong. Both of them are important figures commanding thousands of soldiers, and their reputation in Qingyuan City is almost equal to that of Master Miao!"

At this moment, Lin Xuankong planned to catch a few hundred pounds of big fish and absorb some blood and life force, so he didn't have much interest in small talk with these people.

However, considering that he would definitely hang around in Qingyuan City for some time, and these two didn't seem arrogant, treating a little shopkeeper from the Miao Family politely, Lin Xuankong nodded to them with a smile, "I'm Lin Qiang, pleased to meet you both. As I'm new here, I hope you two elder brothers can take care of me in the future!"

The tall and slim, handsome Director Liang Yucheng waved his hand, "Director Miao is very famous in Qingyuan City, even the County Magistrate, my brother Captain Liang, and Director Lu frequently interact with him, supporting each other. Since you are Director Miao's person, you can live freely in Qingyuan City! Brother Lin, don't be so polite, we're all brothers in the future!"

Beside him, Officer Wei Hong cupped his fist towards Lin Xuankong, then looked with some excitement at the fishing gear near Lin Xuankong's feet, and smiled, "Since Brother Lin also enjoys fishing, we can fish together. Fishing is more enjoyable when there's a competition!"

After saying this, he waved to the soldiers in another pavilion, and they immediately brought over the fishing gear and buckets from that pavilion.

Seeing this, Miao Youren continuously winked at Lin Xuankong and then smiled, "The two officers plan to fish with Young Master Lin, which is great. I've heard among the young masters and officers in Qingyuan City, Director Liang and Captain Wei's fishing skills are extremely high, even my Master Miao occasionally praises the two, saying they are the top among the fishing experts he's seen, in terms of baiting, choosing spots, and fishing itself!"

Liang Yucheng and Wei Hong laughed upon hearing this, waving their hands, indicating that Master Miao is the real fishing expert but is too busy with official duties to have the time for fishing.

Lin Xuankong originally intended to focus on fishing and killing fish, but considering these two were so enthusiastic, he couldn't refuse, so he agreed.

A moment later,

The three of them chose a spot in the spacious pavilion to fish,

Liang Yucheng, holding his fishing rod, looked over at Lin Xuankong and whispered, "Since Brother Lin is from the Miao Mansion and a descendant of Director Miao's close friend, you must be quite close to Miss Miao Wan'er. I wonder when Brother Lin would have time to fish with Miss Wan'er. I've heard Miss Miao's fishing skills are good, and I've long wanted to compete with her!"

When Lin Xuankong heard this, he realized that the guy came to fish with him with ulterior motives, not caring much for fishing, and couldn't help but feel speechless.

He casually dealt with the guy a few words and then focused on fishing.

Normally speaking, whether in his past life or during his ten thousand years of cultivation in the Golden Dragon World, Lin Xuankong seldom fished and didn't possess any fishing skills! However, his Divine Soul remains genuinely at the Celestial Immortal realm, even if the Divine Soul brought to this Absolute Spirit World is extremely weak, it still has the foundation of a Celestial Immortal realm!

With such a powerful foundation of a Celestial Immortal Divine Soul, his sensing ability, not to mention compared to ordinary people, is even far superior to the most sensitive beings in this Absolute Spirit World!

With this ability blessed, Lin Xuankong relied on hearing, touch, and vision to observe the changes in water flow and the movement of fish within, seemingly like he's cheating!

Everything under the water surface,

under Lin Xuankong's concentrated energy and sensing, appears almost transparently. The movements of the fish seem slow by thousands of times! Where fish gather, which fish takes the bait, or which fish is just pretending, Lin Xuankong senses it all clearly!

Under these circumstances, with the best bait, fishing rod, and hook, Lin Xuankong's accuracy in timing and his fishing speed is incredibly fast!

Within just half an hour,

The ten or so buckets that Miao Youren prepared in advance were completely filled, and the fish caught amounted to over two hundred, most weighing three to four pounds each! In other words, in just one hour, Lin Xuankong caught around eight hundred pounds of river fish! But because the body Lin Xuankong currently possesses is too weak, he simply lacks the strength to continue fishing, nor does he have the energy to maintain a high concentration of his Divine Soul. Otherwise, if he were to keep fishing for several hours, all the fish near the pavilion might be caught by Lin Xuankong!

And during this hour, the two officers from the barracks, Liang Yucheng and Wei Hong, together caught just over thirty fish, not even half filling one wooden bucket... This disparity made the two so-called fishing experts of Qingyuan City dumbfounded!

Chapter 1399: Blood Spirit Breaks Through

The most interesting thing is,

actually, halfway through the fishing, Liang Yucheng and Wei Hong simply gave up fishing and instead stayed by Lin Xuankong's side, carefully watching his fishing technique!

For officers like Liang Yucheng and Wei Hong, who love fishing, watching Lin Xuankong fish was practically an enjoyment.

When Lin Xuankong finally stopped, Officer Liang Yucheng, who had been watching wide-eyed, couldn't help but exclaim: "Fishing like Brother Lin's, in my more than twenty years of living, I have never seen anything like it, not even heard of it!"

"This isn't fishing; those wild big fish look like they're purposefully swimming over to bite the hook, and they line up to bite it! Even using a net to catch fish in this Qingshui River is far less efficient than Brother Lin's fishing!" Wei Hong also repeatedly marveled from the side.

"The most amazing thing is that Brother Lin's fishing technique seems not much different from mine. Why is he so consistently successful? It's unimaginable, unimaginable; in my opinion, Brother Lin's fishing skill can simply be called an immortal's craft!" At this moment, Liang Yucheng looked at Lin Xuankong as if looking at a monster.

As for Miao Youren, who was always by Lin Xuankong's side directing a few servants to collect the fish, he was full of praise. However, this time, his praise was different from before. Before, his compliments towards Lin Xuankong carried a fawning tone, but now they were genuine admiration for his extraordinary fishing skill!

But how could they know, that the one sitting beside them wasn't some 'fishing immortal' but a genuine Celestial Immortal who has descended to the mortal world, far more potent than any legendary immortal of the Great Yan Kingdom, an immortal who lives forever!

Liang Yucheng picked up a few large fish from the bucket, weighed them, after marveling for a while, he continued: "If it weren't for the fact that Brother Wei and I have some business tonight and need to visit County Magistrate Huang, we would certainly invite Brother Lin to the Drunken Cloud Tower for a good gathering, maybe even to get some of your Fishing Skill! Hmm, how about this, three days later is

Brother Wei's birthday, there will be a banquet at Drunken Cloud Tower. Brother Lin, why don't you come, and then we can have a great drink then!"

Wei Hong nodded and said: "Right, right, right, three days later, I'm planning to have a banquet at Drunken Cloud Tower, almost all young talents and beauties of Qingyuan City will be there. Since Brother Lin is new to Qingyuan City, Brother Liang and I can introduce you to our friends. A fishing expert like Brother Lin and today's fishing miracle will surely become a beautiful talk of Qingyuan City. All our friends will definitely want to get to know Brother Lin!"

These two guys are definitely addicted to fishing. Upon meeting a 'fishing expert' like Lin Xuankong, they immediately had the feeling of regretting not having met sooner!

However, Lin Xuankong wasn't too taken with these two, as in his eyes, since these two were main officers in the army, it felt a bit extravagant during these chaotic times, as they indulged in entertainment and fishing instead of training rigorously! But though he wasn't fond of their slightly unorthodox ways, their sincere enthusiasm and instant camaraderie made it hard for Lin Xuankong to refuse!

Moreover, Lin Xuankong thought that to quickly find the three brothers from the Li Family and together seek out the Little World Origin, he must quickly develop some influence during these chaotic times. At present, these two have some reputation in Qingyuan City, with quite a background especially with military ties, complementing the power of Miao Yun Lake perfectly. So all things considered, making friends with them could bring some benefits!

"Since it's Brother Wei's birthday, Lin Qiang will certainly attend and celebrate with Brother Wei!" Lin Xuankong said.

"Good, good, good! Then we'll meet in three days. Remember to come with Miss Wan'Er, Brother Miao Wu, and Brother Miao Wen!" Liang Yucheng smiled broadly as Lin Xuankong agreed, and Wei Hong also beamed with joy.

Lin Xuankong suddenly thought of something and said: "This time I came to Qingyuan City to look for a few lost friends named Li Shou, Li Ming, and Mr. Li. I've already asked Uncle Miao Yun Lake to post notices in the city, but since those three have already been scattered, they might not come to Qingyuan City! I wonder if you two have any other means to help reach out in nearby cities, maybe placing some notices, so once they receive the message, they can rush over to Qingyuan City!"

Liang Yucheng, hearing this, immediately waved his hand, "Brother Lin, no worries! I have an uncle who works in the General Affairs Office of Jee Province; once I return to the camp, I'll give him a call and ask him to arrange it. In a few days, all over the sixty-plus towns and counties in Jee Province, your three friends' missing notices will be posted!"

Wei Hong added from the side: "This is indeed easy; though Younger Brother Liang's uncle isn't a high official in the General Affairs Office, he does hold some power. Arranging such small things is a piece of cake!"

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but feel a bit affection for these two seemingly wanton officers, as though they had a bit of leisure-loving nature, they were nonetheless straightforward and enthusiastic people!

"Then I'll trouble you, two brothers. If you really can help me find those three friends, I, Lin, will surely give a generous reward!" Lin Xuankong said.

Chapter 1400: Blood Spirit Breakthrough_2

"No need for any generous reward. As long as Brother Lin can teach me and Brother Wei some of your Fishing Skill, the two of us will be a hundred times happy, hahahaha!" Liangwei City and Wei Hong both burst into loud laughter again.

After the two of them left in a military jeep,

Lin Xuankong stood in the pavilion, his brows slightly furrowed. He was currently cultivating the Blood Spirit Technique. Although Demonic Techniques had always been known for their fast Cultivation Speed, to cultivate this frail body to the Earth Immortal Realm was easier said than done, and to cultivate to the Realm of the Strongest Immortal Lord would take an even longer time!

Setting aside those Realms, just going from an ordinary mortal at present to a slightly higher level within the Transcendence Realm would still take some time. Even with the more than ten-thousand-fold boost from Vigorous in Old Age, it would still require time. After all, the natural aptitude of this body was quite poor. Compared to when Lin Xuankong was in the Golden Dragon Immortal Realm, even that already decrepit body back then had far better roots than this one!

Right now, the Great Yan Kingdom was in a time of turmoil, with wars constantly breaking out everywhere, and this was already a world that possessed powerful firearms! In such a world, even if one cultivated to the third or fourth layer of Metamorphosis, it would still be almost impossible to truly guarantee one's own safety in the fullest sense. At the very least, one had to reach above the seventh layer of Transcendence where one could traverse the skies! And if he wanted to rely purely on cultivating the Blood Spirit Technique, he would definitely have to cultivate it to quite a profound Realm, and in that case, he had no idea how many living beings he would have to kill...

Forget it! To hell with it. As long as he didn't slaughter his own kind and instead killed more cattle, horses, pigs, dogs, birds, beasts, and fish in the water, that would be enough!

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong instructed Miao Youren and the others beside him, "Move all these fish into my carriage. I'll rest for a bit in the pavilion."

Miao Youren and the others nodded repeatedly, then went off in teams of two, carrying away the three large buckets. Lin Xuankong looked toward one of the large buckets, took out the fattest fish inside that weighed five to six jin, twisted off its head, and rapidly absorbed the blood and Life Spirit Power of this big fish.

After more than ten breaths of time, over a dozen big fish had already been drained of their blood and Life Force by Lin Xuankong, and at this moment his expression shifted, a hint of joy surfacing in his eyes.

In his mind, those lines of purple-gold characters were already flickering. The line showing the Blood Spirit Technique had already changed, going from "Not Yet at Entry Level" directly to Entry Level!

Lin Xuankong felt streams of heat surging through every part of his body. A large amount of fine sweat, mixed with some impurities from within his body, continuously seeped out through his pores! That originally frail and skinny body slowly became fuller, the muscles all over his body slightly bulged, and even the bones deep within his body gradually changed, becoming a bit sturdier and thicker.

'With the Blood Spirit Technique stepping into the Entry Level, this body of mine has also grown much stronger. Before, even just fishing for a little while would make me so exhausted I could barely stand it, almost fainting! Now, though, I feel my Energy brimming over. I shouldn't be much weaker than some ordinary burly men who've been training year-round!

It's just that this body had always lived in comfort, spending every day just reading, and then during the escape from calamity it went hungry and suffered, becoming far too weak. Otherwise, if this body had originally been very strong, then with the breakthrough of the Blood Spirit Technique just now, it might have directly driven this body into the First Realm of Transcendence, instantly surpassing all kinds of limits of ordinary human bodies in this Absolute Spirit World!

Lin Xuankong muttered inwardly, then looked toward the big bucket in front of him that was filled with a hundred seventy to eighty jin of fish. He placed both arms on the rim of the bucket, circulated the faint True Qi of the Blood Spirit Technique in his body, then suddenly exerted force with both hands. The nearly two-hundred-jin water bucket in front of him actually shook violently. Although he was still not at the point of lifting it directly, it wasn't too far off! At the very least, this body now was already far stronger than the ordinary common folk in this war-torn world!

Just then,

from the most remote pavilion about twenty zhang away from this one, a somewhat flustered commotion suddenly sounded,

"Mr. Sima should be fine, right? Two hours ago when Mr. Sima went out, he was still perfectly well! How could he suddenly faint here!"

"You lot, do you not know what kind of person Mr. Sima is? You actually let him come alone to this cold, windy riverside to fish. If I hadn't heard about it and rushed over in time, I'm afraid no one would even know that Mr. Sima had fainted here!"

"Hurry and drive the car over. Get ready to carry Mr. Sima into the car, then send him at once to the best hospital in Qingyuan City.

You few, take the other car back first and arrange a doctor in advance. Also, once you're back, immediately call Jee Province over there and have them send their best doctors!"

Hearing the commotion over there, Lin Xuankong frowned and looked in that direction, only to see over a dozen tall, strongly built, extremely burly men surrounding an old man who had collapsed in the pavilion. On the other side stood two tall women, one of whom was scolding the others.

After scolding for a while, that woman watched as several of the burly men hurried toward the two cars parked near the pavilion.

Someone's in trouble? Lin Xuankong looked toward the pavilion and saw that the man lying on the ground seemed to be around sixty or seventy years old. His hair and beard were all white, his eyes tightly shut, and he was dressed in a plain black long jacket, looking very much like an utterly ordinary old man.

However, the dozen or so men and the two women surrounding this old man on the ground all carried an extraordinary air about them. It was clear that they were people long accustomed to high positions or with very strong backgrounds!

Especially that woman with the darkened expression—her looks were exceptionally outstanding. Even if she couldn't quite compare to peerless beauties like Xiao Ying'er, Li Xiaolan, and Guang Yu'er, she wasn't far behind. Compared to the Miao Family's young miss, Miao Wan'er, she was more than a cut above!

Of course, in this Absolute Spirit World right now, perhaps only a Cultivator like Lin Xuankong, who had cultivated the Blood Spirit Technique, could clearly see the detailed features of these people from a distance of twenty zhang, that is, about sixty meters. As for anyone else, unless they were the same kind of "Celestial Immortal Descended" human as Lin Xuankong, it would absolutely be impossible!

As Lin Xuankong was observing, he saw the white-haired old man lying on the ground suddenly tremble, then slowly open his eyes.

"Mr. Sima, y-you're awake! H-how are you feeling?" The dozen burly men saw the white-haired old man wake up and all brightened, the tallest among them speaking up in a somewhat excited tone.

The white-haired old man lying on the ground, however, showed a rather dazed expression on his face. He did not respond directly to the tense-looking people around him. Instead, he lowered his head and muttered in an extremely low voice, "My luck's not bad after all, turns out I'm a... Wonder how Brother Longevity, Brother Changshou, and Brother Lin are doing, did they have the same good fortune as me?"

He barely moved his lips as he muttered this, his voice so low that even someone standing within a foot or two of him probably wouldn't be able to hear clearly.

However, Lin Xuankong's Divine Soul was inherently extremely powerful, and after he advanced to Initial Tier Perfection as a Celestial Immortal, his Divine Soul had been tempered once more. Under such circumstances, his Divine Soul was incomparably strong. Even though, after "descending," only a faint trace of his Divine Soul had come down, it still possessed extremely powerful perception! Thus, although the white-haired old man's voice was so soft as to be almost inaudible and the people around him couldn't hear a thing, Lin Xuankong could clearly see the movement of his lips and could also hear that minuscule voice with perfect clarity!

What made Lin Xuankong's gaze suddenly shift again and again was that this white-haired old man had actually said the words "Brother Longevity, Brother Changshou, and Brother Lin"!