

Stronger 171

Chapter 171: Shocking Black Dragon Elder, Celestial Demon Bone, and Heavy Water Spiritual Object_2

Injuring that mysterious Female Cultivator! This was something Liy Changming and Chu Qing absolutely couldn't accomplish, no matter how hard they tried!

Now, even Liang Qinhu, ranked eighth on the Hero List and the third head of the influential Liang Family, didn't even have the chance to treat this Old Lin to a meal! Even Ding Rui, a True Disciple of the Celestial Sect, personally and respectfully escorted him down the mountain...

Such honor, few in the entire Great Marsh Prefecture could enjoy.

Even if Ding Rui met high-profile figures like the Black Tiger Gang Leader, the Spiritual Snake Gang Leader, or Patriarch Feng, she would not be so courteous, at most treating them as equals!

These Martial Cultivators had all participated in the Demon Slaying Conference, yet some achieved such remarkable honor while others could only watch in envy. The difference between one person and another was practically greater than that between a human and a pile of dung!

But these Martial Cultivators had no idea.

Lin Xuankong didn't just get one Demon Pearl. He got two Demon Pearls, one hundred thousand units of Demon Flesh, the Sunflower Water Treasure Elixir, and the Holy Arrival Jade Token!

And the mysterious Female Cultivator Lin Xuankong injured? She was none other than the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect Saintess, the Third Princess of the Great Xia Dynasty, the one and only unrivaled prodigy among millions!

If they knew this, the jaws of everyone present would drop wide enough to swallow the Ghost Frog King's entire tongue!

As the crowd sighed and envied, Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei walked down the mountain side by side.

Han Feiyan, her three companions, and Ye Kai hurriedly followed behind.

Hundreds of Martial Cultivators gazed at Lin Xuankong's and Zhao Yufei's backs with boundless admiration. However, apart from Ye Kai, Han Feiyan, and her companions, no one else dared to follow too closely.

Casually follow such experts? What a joke! Did they not even know how to read the word 'death'?

「...」

In a spacious and exquisitely decorated stone building on the western foot of Luoxia Slope, Black Dragon Elder Guo Heilong of the Holy Dragon Association was drinking fine wine with Chu Yuhui and Chu Qing of the Spirit Snake Gang, along with the long-browed Li Baimei and Li Changshou.

Guo Heilong looked at Chu Qing.

"After leaving the Demon-Suppressing Valley, I'll report your achievements to the headquarters. With such an unparalleled record in Great Marsh Prefecture, the appointment order should come within three days at most. By then, you will be my third Steward!"

He pointed to the two long-browed Martial Cultivators in black robes beside him.

"This is Li Baimei and Li Changshou; both are veteran Stewards of the Great Marsh Branch. Chu Qing, once you officially become a Steward, you three must support each other in all endeavors. Always prioritize the interests of the Holy Dragon Association and the Great Xia Dynasty!"

Chu Qing raised his cup, toasting Li Baimei and Li Changshou. "I, Qing, will remember this and will always look to you two veteran Stewards for guidance!"

Chu Qing was well aware of the strength of these two.

Li Baimei and Li Changshou had been champions of the Demon Slaying Conference several decades ago.

Their talent was by no means inferior to his own. After joining the Holy Dragon Association, they had held sway in Great Marsh for decades!

Both were at the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer, their Holy Dragon True Skill having achieved Returning to the Essence, capable of battling Late-Stage Fifth Layer Demons!

Even figures like the Patriarchs of the Guo and Feng Families, or the Spiritual Snake Gang Leader, were not as powerful as these two Holy Dragon Association Stewards!

Guo Heilong continued, "Chu Qing, your Cultivation is close to the Fifth Layer; you may prepare to take the Sunflower Water Treasure Elixir. However, due to an order from the Saintess a few days ago, I rewarded the two Sunflower Water Treasure Elixirs from our branch to the new member San Gu! We may have to wait another year for the headquarters to send more Treasure Elixirs, as they are extremely rare and require Innate Spiritual Objects to be refined!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Qing felt a bit disappointed, but his face remained respectful.

"With this year, I can further solidify my Fourth-Layer foundation. Perhaps then, just one elixir will be enough for me to advance, which would save one or two Treasure Elixirs for the branch!"

Guo Heilong's face showed a pleased expression.

"It's gratifying that you think this way. It's unfortunate that San Gu went missing. Otherwise, I would have let you try those two elixirs first. Perhaps you could have advanced sooner!"

Saying this, he looked at Li Baimei and Li Changshou.

"Tonight, after capturing Zhao Yufei and another Martial Cultivator, see if you can find out about San Gu from them, and retrieve the two Sunflower Water Treasure Elixirs for Chu Qing to use!"

The two cupped their hands in acknowledgment. Li Changmei then said, "Please rest assured, Black Dragon Elder. With our Holy Dragon Bone-Setting Hand, we can make any Martial Cultivator wish for a

life worse than death. As long as we capture Zhao Yufei, we'll make sure she spills everything within ten breaths!"

Just then, a disciple in a black robe rushed into the stone building, looking anxious. "Black Dragon Elder," he panted, "there's a situation at the tournament!"

Guo Heilong frowned at the Late-Stage Fourth Layer disciple. "What could be more important than celebrating Qing? Can't it wait? You're ruining my mood and that of Yuhui and Qing!"

The Late-Stage Fourth Layer disciple, seeing the elder's displeasure, nervously cupped his hands and said, "Just now, a Martial Cultivator at the tournament managed to hold on for over ten breaths and even injured the Saintess! He has already taken the Demon Pearl reward!"

"What?!" The five people present shot to their feet simultaneously.

Everyone looked astonished. Even Guo Heilong, the highest-ranking among them, felt his pupils contract slightly.

Guo Heilong stared at the disciple. "Are you sure someone held on for over ten breaths and took the Demon Pearl?"

The disciple affirmed with a resolute expression, "It should be correct. Moreover, after the competition, Ding Rui, the Direct Disciple of Elder Hua from the Celestial Sect, personally escorted that Martial Cultivator down the mountain. She was extremely courteous, and it even seemed... seemed like she was trying to curry favor with him!"

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"Is Ding Rui flattering that Martial Cultivator?"

Guo Heilong furrowed his brows, somewhat incredulous. Ding Rui, this Celestial Sect female disciple... Guo Heilong was very familiar with her due to frequent interactions in various affairs! Ding Rui relied on being Elder Hua's Direct Disciple in the Celestial Sect; even towards me, an Elder of the Holy Dragon Association, she has never been polite. Such an exceedingly arrogant Celestial Sect disciple, actually addressing someone else courteously? If it's true, just based on this point, it can be judged that the

Martial Cultivator must have an outstanding battle record, perhaps even wounded the Saintess, or helped the Saintess gain some insight. Otherwise, Ding Rui would absolutely not behave this way!

At this moment, another white-robed disciple hurried in, cupping his hands, and said, "Elder, the Saintess has issued an order, asking the Elders to send ten disciples to assist the female disciples of the Celestial Sect in guarding Luoxia Slope. The Saintess will be in secluded Cultivation for the next few days to break through to the Sixth Layer, and absolutely no one is to be allowed halfway up the mountain!"

"This... I understand. Immediately take all the disciples there; they will be under the command and arrangement of True Disciple Ding Rui!" Black Dragon Elder said.

After the white-robed disciple left, the stone building fell completely silent. The five people around the stone table all wore surprised expressions, at a loss for words for a moment.

Black Dragon Elder remained silent for a moment, then looked at the black-robed disciple. "Who is the Martial Cultivator assisting the Saintess's breakthrough? Which sect is he from?"

The black-robed disciple cupped his hands, saying, "It's not yet clear, but that Martial Cultivator came to Luoxia Slope with Zhao Yufei from the Yin Talisman Sect!"

Black Dragon Elder's expression faltered. "The Martial Cultivator who helped the Saintess achieve her breakthrough... is the one who came with Zhao Yufei?"

Upon hearing this, Chu Qing frowned deeply. With my outstanding Talent and immense pride, I've always believed myself to be the most talented Martial Cultivator of my generation in Great Marsh Prefecture, the most diligent in Cultivation, and naturally, the strongest! But now, hearing this news, I instantly feel as if all my past pride has been shattered. I could only last nine breaths against Saintess Xiaoying'er, yet the Saintess was defeated by that Lin Xuankong. That Old Lin... could his Talent actually be better than mine? But isn't he quite elderly?

At this moment, Li Baimei's long brows twitched slightly. "If his strength is so tremendous... then what about the disappearance of San Gu, Feng Zhulong, Guo Chui, and the others?"

"With the strength to injure the Saintess... forget San Gu, Guo Chui, and the others; even if I were suppressed to the Third Realm, I would definitely be defeated on the spot! The disappearance of San Gu, Guo Chui, and the others is definitely related to those two!" Guo Heilong said gravely.

Li Baimei suddenly stood up. "Then should I mobilize Martial Cultivators to capture them now? They dared to harm disciples of the Holy Dragon Association!"

Guo Heilong shot a glare at Li Baimei. "Li Baimei, Li Baimei, don't you think before you speak? You've lived for fifty or sixty years—did all that experience go to the dogs?"

Li Baimei's expression stiffened as he instantly realized. That Martial Cultivator is someone who helped Xiao Ying'Er break through and earned the Saintess's gratitude! If I dared to capture him, I would likely face the Saintess's wrath directly. She's the Celestial Sect Saintess... her wrath is something neither I nor anyone in the entire Holy Dragon Association could endure!

Guo Heilong's brows furrowed tightly, and he sighed. "If the new disciple San Gu and the others were indeed killed by that Martial Cultivator, the Holy Dragon Association can only endure it! Not only must we endure, but for the time being, it's best if no word of this leaks from any of us, lest we invite disaster! If the Saintess becomes enraged, even the Saint Dragon President would be terrified, let alone us... Let's just observe quietly for now!"

After he finished speaking, the stone building fell silent once more. The previously cheerful banquet instantly became incredibly oppressive.

Everyone present held positions in Great Marsh Prefecture comparable to the Black Tiger Gang Leader or various Patriarchs; all frowned and kept silent, none daring to speak recklessly any longer.

After a moment, Li Baimei sighed, "It's just a pity about the Sunflower Water Treasure Elixir that San Gu had. This will also delay the promotion of the new Steward, Chu Qing!"

Guo Heilong frowned, pondering for a moment. Suddenly, as if remembering something, he said, "The Ba Mountain Secret Realm in Ba City is set to open in about twenty-odd days. That Secret Realm, due to the pervading Highly Poisonous mist and numerous Highly Poisonous Corpse Scorpions, remains unclaimed! However, it produces a small amount of Heavy Water Spiritual Objects, which are treasures among Sunflower Water Spiritual Objects! If we can obtain them, we can immediately ask the

Alchemists of the Kyoto officials to refine them. They can produce the Heavy Water Treasure Pill, which is a treasure among Sunflower Water Treasure Elixirs. The Heavy Water Treasure Pill can significantly increase a Martial Cultivator's chances of advancing to the Fifth Layer. Furthermore, it allows them to achieve Condensation of the Heavy Water Vein, which contains the Power of Heavy Water. This, in turn, will enhance their Cultivation Speed in the Fifth Layer by several tenths!"

Upon hearing this, the eyes of everyone present lit up.

Li Baimei and Li Changsheng couldn't help but feel a sense of wistful regret. When they had advanced to the Fifth Layer, they had consumed only ordinary Sunflower Water Treasure Elixirs, forming ordinary Sunflower Water Veins within their bodies. As a result, it had taken them over twenty-odd years to reach the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer! Now that their Qi Blood was beginning to decline, what chance did they have for further advancement! If only we had taken the treasure-grade Heavy Water Treasure Pill refined from Heavy Water Spiritual Objects back when we were advancing, perhaps we would already be Sixth Layer experts now, with the chance to become branch Elders in the Holy Dragon Association, holding positions far higher than our current ones!

A fervent look of anticipation appeared in Chu Qing's eyes. If I advance to the Fifth Layer with the Heavy Water Vein, I'll definitely have a chance to reach Perfection in the Fifth Layer within fifteen, or even twelve, years! In this lifetime, I might even have the opportunity to step into the Sixth Layer and possess that even more miraculous Wood Vein! That would slow the decline of my Qi Blood, and my future would be limitless! It's just... that Ba Mountain Highly Poisonous Secret Realm...

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Chu Yuhui, who was standing by the side, saw the expectation in Chu Qing's eyes and immediately stood up.

"Disciple, once we leave the Demon-Suppressing Valley, we will head straight to Ba City. This time, even if I have to risk my life fighting those highly poisonous Corpse Scorpions in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, I will find the Heavy Water Spiritual Object for you!"

Seeing his Master like this, Chu Qing felt a tightness in his heart and stood up.

"Master, there are many Tier Four and Tier Five Corpse Scorpions in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, and there might even be Tier Six Corpse Scorpions. All of them are fatally poisonous and extremely dangerous. Disciple... I can definitely wait another year to break through!"

Chu Yuhui shook his head, his eyes filled with determination.

Guo Heilong then spoke, "When the Ba Mountain Secret Realm opens, many Late Stage Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators from the Great Marsh Prefecture and Nanyuan Prefecture will enter to seek Heavy Water Spiritual Objects. There might even be some Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators searching for Treasures for their juniors! Li Baimei, you should go to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm with Brother Yuhui and Chu Qing. With you, a veteran Steward of the Holy Dragon Association, others will surely not dare to contend with you for the Spiritual Objects! However, the most dangerous thing in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm is not other Martial Cultivators, but the deadly Corpse Scorpion Venom. After leaving the Demon-Suppressing Valley, see if you can buy Zhengyuan Grass to resist the Corpse Scorpion Venom. If you can't, try to avoid those highly poisonous creatures as much as possible. This time, I hope you can find one or two drops of the Heavy Water Spiritual Object for Chu Qing!"

Li Baimei was naturally very wary of those highly poisonous Corpse Scorpions, but since the Elder had spoken, he couldn't refuse. So he steeled himself and said, "Elder, don't worry. When we leave the valley, I will arrange for all our personnel to search for Zhengyuan Grass, the only thing that can cure Corpse Scorpion Venom! When we get to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, unless we encounter Tier Five Corpse Scorpions... Otherwise, I'll have a chance to kill Late Stage Tier Four Corpse Scorpions from hundreds of meters away, so their terrifying Corpse Scorpion Venom shouldn't trouble us! This time, we will surely help Steward Chu Qing find a few drops of the Heavy Water Spiritual Object!"

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Outside Luoxia Slope, Lin Xuankong looked towards Han Feiyan, Ye Kai, and the others, saying, "Feiyan, Brother Ye, Yu Fei and I are heading to the Zhen Character and Xun Branch gathering points this time. It's a long journey, filled with numerous Demons. Are you all sure you want to follow?"

Han Feiyan heard this, her face showing some reluctance. "Brother Lin, Han Xiu, a few others, and I want to follow you. We may not be able to help in battles, but handling minor tasks is no problem for us!"

Lin Xuankong smiled. "Once we leave the Demon-Suppressing Valley, there will be many opportunities to meet again!"

Ye Kai, understanding Lin Xuankong didn't want him to follow, smiled and said, "Yes, we can meet outside too. Brother Lin will definitely come to Ba City to get the Alchemy Manual for the Golden Body Treasure Elixir!"

Han Feiyan glared at him. "Don't you know you could send someone to deliver it to Brother Lin? Must you make Brother Lin travel all the way to Ba City!"

Ye Kai shook his head. "It's not just about the Alchemy Manual. Have you forgotten that the Ba Mountain Secret Realm near Ba City will open in about twenty days? That Little World has many good things!"

Han Feiyan was stunned for a moment upon hearing this, then frowned. "The Ba Mountain Secret Realm is full of highly poisonous Corpse Scorpions. Occasionally, there are some Spirit Herbs and Elixir, but they are mostly guarded by poisonous Corpse Scorpions. There are even Tier Five Corpse Scorpions! Good things? Nonsense! Going in there is practically asking to die!"

Ye Kai laughed. "You'd be throwing your life away if you went in, but with Brother Lin's strength, if he makes a trip, he might be able to obtain premium Spirit Grass like Zhengyuan Grass, or even get the Heavy Water Spiritual Object!"

Han Feiyan fell silent upon hearing Zhengyuan Grass and the Heavy Water Spiritual Object.

Lin Xuankong, however, asked with puzzlement, "Heavy Water Spiritual Object?"

Ye Kai nodded and explained about the Ba Mountain Secret Realm and the Heavy Water Spiritual Object. "Brother Lin should also be at the Fourth Layer in Cultivation, right? If you can obtain the Heavy Water Spiritual Object and have it refined into a Heavy Water Treasure Pill by a Royal Alchemist from Kyoto, when you advance to the Fifth Layer in the future, your Cultivation Speed will be fifty percent faster than if you consumed an ordinary Treasure Elixir! However, this Ba Mountain Secret Realm will attract many powerful Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators to search for Treasures. The fatal Corpse Scorpion Venom inside is feared by everyone; even Sixth Layer and Seventh Layer Martial Cultivators cannot fully resist it! If it weren't for a powerhouse like Brother Lin, ordinary Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators going in would almost certainly be throwing their lives away! The Ba Mountain Secret Realm is even more dangerous than the Demon Slaying Conference. After all, the Demonic Poison of the creatures inside is terrifying, and their Realms are not suppressed! And because of the innumerable highly poisonous creatures inside, it's said that even Seventh Layer and Eighth Layer Martial Cultivators

cannot withstand the True Qi consumption in the central area, which is why no one has ever reached the center to obtain the Celestial Demon Bone!"

Han Feiyan heard this and couldn't help but stare. "How could the Celestial Demon Bone be so easy to obtain? Factions like the Yin Talisman Sect, the Huang Family, and the Guo Family, even at their peak, never possessed a Celestial Demon Bone. Don't even dream about such things! The most precious things in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm are Zhengyuan Grass, which can counter Same Tier Demon Poison, and the equally precious Heavy Water Spiritual Object. If anyone can get some Zhengyuan Grass or a few drops of the Heavy Water Spiritual Object and come out alive, they would already be the luckiest of the lucky!"

Lin Xuankong began to contemplate upon hearing this.

The Ba Mountain Secret Realm produces such a precious Heavy Water Spiritual Object. If I can obtain it, I might have a chance to use an Innate Spiritual Object to break through to the Fifth Layer... Others have less than a one-in-twenty chance of advancing using an Innate Spiritual Object. However, with my Vigorous in Old Age, that chance increases sixtyfold. Doesn't that mean a single drop of Heavy Water could give me the chance to activate the Heavy Water Vein, which can drastically increase a Martial Cultivator's Cultivation Speed! As for the so-called highly poisonous Corpse Scorpions in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, I can completely ignore any poison below the Immortal Tier... There are still twenty days until the Ba Mountain Secret Realm opens. During this time, I estimate my Cultivation can reach Fourth Layer Perfection! By then, at Fourth Layer Perfection, with various Cultivation Techniques, numerous Battle Armors, Treasures, and Demon Pearls in hand, fully equipped, I should have a chance to fight even if I encounter Tier Five Demons or powerhouses! Of course, I should prepare thoroughly before going, so I can be more confident. After all, Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators and Tier Five Demons can attack from tens or even hundreds of meters away. Just hearing about it sounds ferocious! Hundreds of meters is more than a kilometer. Taking the life of a Third Layer or Fourth Layer Martial Cultivator from over a kilometer away... that's comparable to a human-shaped cannon! Once I leave the Demon-Suppressing Valley and cultivate to Fourth Layer Perfection, should I find someone at Early Stage Fifth Layer to spar with before deciding whether to go or not? The Charming Chief Steward is at Early Stage Fifth Layer. But what reason could I use to spar with her without revealing my astonishing Cultivation Speed? Besides her, I wonder which other factions have someone at Early Stage Fifth Layer I could test my skills against... The Black Tiger Gang, the Feng Family, and the Guo Family should have some, right!

Chapter 174: Battle Power Soars Again, No One in Great Marsh Prefecture Unshaken

After leaving Luoxia Slope, Ye Kai very consciously returned. As for Han Feiyan and the others, Lin Xuankong suddenly thought of something and needed their help, so he took the four of them towards the Xun Branch gathering place.

After traveling for several hours, as evening approached, Han Feiyan quickly found a cave nearby. Then, the four members of the Han Family actively cleaned up the cave and went to the distant woods to start building treehouses.

「In the evening,」

Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei went to a clearing more than ten miles away from the cave. He took out the Marsh Python, Evil Sheep, and Ghost Frog Demon Pearls with some anticipation. After circulating his Qi Blood, he simultaneously activated the three Demon Pearls.

Immediately, Demon Qi filled the clearing in the forest. A Ghost Frog King as large as two millstones, a Marsh Python with red patterns stretching three to four zhang long, and a triangular Evil Sheep as huge as a fully grown rhinoceros appeared simultaneously in the clearing.

With a thought from Lin Xuankong, the Ghost Frog King and the Evil Sheep immediately fixated on each other. The next moment, hundreds of Long Tongues suddenly shot out from the Ghost Frog King's mouth, attempting to bind the Evil Sheep. The Evil Sheep bleated, its entire coat bristling. It then charged to the side to dodge the Ghost Frog King's Long Tongues, transformed into an illusionary shadow, and rammed its three long horns against the Ghost Frog King.

The sound of tearing air and the thuds of intense battle filled the forest as the two Demons fought fiercely without respite. The Ghost Frog King ranked high on the Demon Pearl leaderboard, naturally possessing powerful Demon Techniques. Although the Evil Sheep Demon ranked much lower than the Ghost Frog King, its defense far exceeded the Ghost Frog King's; its smooth fur could not even be corroded by the Ghost Frog King's venom. Moreover, its Evil Sheep Dash was extremely fast. It produced an explosion of power far greater than Lin Xuankong's Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique, enabling it to transform into an illusionary shadow at any moment and stab at its opponent with its incredibly sharp horns!

Several dozen breaths later, the Ghost Frog King finally used its hundreds of Long Tongues to bind the Evil Sheep's four hooves, dragging it into its huge mouth. However, even after swallowing the Evil Sheep whole, the Ghost Frog King still took several more dozen breaths to slowly dissolve it into Blood Qi and Demon Qi using the venom in its stomach. The defense of the Evil Sheep's pelt was more than twice as strong as that of other Demons, far beyond what a Same-Tier Martial Cultivator could compare! If it were not for the Ghost Frog King's overwhelming Devour ability—trapping prey in its stomach as if in an alternate dimension from which escape was impossible—killing the Evil Sheep would have been far more difficult.

Next up was the battle between the Marsh Python and the Ghost Frog King. The Marsh Python possessed the greatest strength among the three Demons. Each time the Ghost Frog King's Long Tongues bound it, the Marsh Python could easily snap twenty to thirty of them. What shocked Lin Xuankong was the Marsh Python's terrifying regenerative ability. This ability remained intact even after it became a Marsh Python Demon, and it did not require any of his Qi Blood. Instead, it relied on surrounding water droplets to instantly recover. Even when pinned down by the Ghost Frog King, with half its body already in the Demon's mouth, it could instantly regenerate the consumed half!

Moreover, at Zhao Yufei's reminder, Lin Xuankong tested it further. The summoned Marsh Python Demon could use its Demon Qi, which was harmless to its host, to heal Lin Xuankong's injuries. Although the healing speed was not as fast as using Marsh Python Gall, it was still remarkably quick. The speed at which a Tier Three Marsh Python Demon could heal its host's injuries was comparable to the recovery speed of a Tier Two Marsh Python.

Zhao Yufei explained that if Lin Xuankong left Demon-Suppressing Valley and regained his Fourth Layer strength, summoning a Tier Four Marsh Python Demon would provide healing effects equivalent to Tier Three Marsh Python Gall. She added that if Lin Xuankong reached the Fifth Layer in the future, the summoned Tier Five Marsh Python Demon would heal its host's injuries even faster. As long as the host's brain was not instantly obliterated, it could save them.

Only after personally testing it did Lin Xuankong deeply understand why the Marsh Python's Demon Technique, though not combat-oriented, still ranked so highly. With such a powerful Demon Technique capable of healing its host, it made perfect sense that the Marsh Python Demon Pearl ranked higher than the Ghost Frog King's. It was practically an inexhaustible supply of Marsh Python Gall, only requiring a significant amount of Qi Blood for each use.

And would he ever lack Qi Blood?

These two new Demon Pearls were incredible. The Evil Sheep Demon Pearl could grant a Martial Cultivator combat power several times their own. With the Marsh Python Demon Pearl in hand, as long as I'm not instantly killed, I can fight continuously!

With these new gains, my combat power has increased significantly! If I use these Demon Pearls, along with the Black Soul Wondrous Jade, Double Vine, and Manluo Demon Pearl, against that White-clothed Female Cultivator...

Overjoyed, a thought suddenly struck Lin Xuankong. He looked towards Zhao Yufei and asked, "Do you like the Evil Sheep Demon Pearl, Ghost Frog Demon Pearl, and Marsh Python Demon Pearl? Would you like to pick one?"

Upon hearing this, a slight daze appeared on Zhao Yufei's cold and beautiful face. In the past, she had desperately yearned to obtain a Demon Pearl for the Zhao Family. After all, Demon Pearls were peerless Treasures that could vastly increase a Martial Cultivator's strength and significantly bolster a family's foundation! 'Animal-type' Demon Pearls were especially coveted; even the most powerful experts in the world cherished every single one. Prodigal daughters like the Mysterious Female Cultivator, who treated them so recklessly, were exceedingly rare! Such precious Demon Pearls... and now her husband had obtained three in the Demon Valley and was even offering one to her. Zhao Yufei could sense the sincerity in Lin Xuankong's offer. She believed that if she simply asked, he would truly give her one of these Demon Pearls she had always dreamt of.

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But at this moment, she suddenly felt that the Demon Pearl was priceless, and this husband beside her... he was something that countless Demon Pearls couldn't exchange for! Even that mysterious female cultivator praised him as a peerless genius among millions!

Thinking of this, Zhao Yufei gently shook her head. "After leaving the Demon-Suppressing Valley, won't you still have to prepare for the Ba Mountain Secret Realm? Each of these Demon Pearls can significantly improve your strength. These two newly acquired Marsh Python Demon Pearls and Evil Sheep Demon Pearls, in your hands, can multiply your combat power many times over! I really want a Demon Pearl, but your safety is more important than ten or even a hundred Demon Pearls! With you around, am I still afraid I won't be able to get Demon Pearls in the future?"

Lin Xuankong was somewhat surprised by her words. At this moment, she gently leaned closer. Feeling the gentleness of this cold and charming Daoist nun, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but feel a warmth in his heart.

"The Blood-Burning Secret Technique I've been cultivating recently is quite interesting. Shall I let Yufei try it today?"

Deep in the night, moonlight poured over Luoxia Slope. The mountainside had already become a forbidden area. Disciples at the late stage of the fourth layer of the Holy Dragon Association stood solemnly around, ensuring that not a single living thing—even a fly—could pass!

At the mountain peak, inside the Stone Tower Secret Chamber, Xiaoo Ying'Er gently exhaled, sensing the Wood Vein gradually emerging within her. After seven hours of breakthrough, she had finally become an early-stage martial cultivator of the sixth layer! This realm was already the level of Celestial Sect Elders. From this moment on, she, the Celestial Sect Saintess, finally possessed strength matching her status!

Once the Transformation Grass Vein, with its Transformation Power, grows to mid-grade, she will be able to transform into any martial cultivator she has met, even imitating their True Qi aura without the slightest flaw!

It was all thanks to that peerless genius, Lin Xuankong. If it weren't for the battle with him, her bottleneck at the late stage of the fifth layer would have delayed her for at least half a year, if not a full year! How many martial cultivators at the late stage of the fifth layer were stuck in this realm their entire lives, unable to break through—such as the four guardians under Prefect Liy of the Great Marsh Prefecture, the leaders of the Black Tiger Gang and Spirit Snake Gang, the Yin Talisman Sect Leader, the patriarchs of the Guo Family and Feng Family, as well as many stewards of the Holy Dragon Association...

Thinking of this, Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er couldn't help but look at the Holy Arrival Jade Token beside her. I wonder what that 'Blood Ox' genius is busy with now? Her lips curled up, a mischievous look in her eyes. She picked up the jade token, channeling her True Qi into it. Immediately, some blurry images and sounds entered her mind.

This sound... is so strange... Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned slightly, channeling more True Qi into the jade token. Soon, those blurry images and sounds became somewhat clearer!

The next moment, Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er's usually calm and clear eyes widened significantly.

Hmm???

Hmm!!!!

What on earth! Why am I seeing such images and hearing such sounds!

Surprised and flustered, her breathing became erratic, and she threw the Holy Arrival Jade Token from her hand! She anxiously tried to stabilize her somewhat chaotic True Qi, shaking her head hard as if trying to erase the images she had just seen from her mind.

Unfortunately, the more one tries to forget something, the more one tends to remember it! For a moment, those images and sounds, like a Demon Spell, trapped Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er!

"I, Xiaoo Ying'Er, swear I will never use the Holy Arrival Jade Token to spy on others again! How could I have encountered such a thing!"

「Six days later,」

At the entrance of a stone house deep within Cliff Peak, Lin Xuankong looked at the over one hundred martial cultivators outside. They were handling the hundreds of Marsh Python corpses he and Zhao Yufei had slain nearby. These people included not only martial cultivators from the Xun Character Gathering Place but also all the martial cultivators who had rushed over from the Zhen Character Gathering Place, including Lv Sandao and others.

At this moment, as the many martial cultivators processed the Demon corpses and looked towards Lin Xuankong, their gazes held admiration and gratitude, as well as deep apprehension!

Two days ago, after careful consideration, Lin Xuankong had made all the martial cultivators who knew his strength swear an oath, just as Han Feiyan had done. They also had to go into hiding for a while after returning to their respective sects! Lin Xuankong did this because he understood very well that his astonishing abilities, including the killing of Liy Ruofeng, needed to be kept secret for the time being!

Whether these people could avoid the investigations of powers like the Black Tiger Gang was not a major concern. The sects and factions behind them, though not as powerful as the Black Tiger Gang, were influential in their own territories. Hiding for a while would be no problem at all, unless the Black Tiger Gang dared to casually wipe out a sect with thousands of members.

This method couldn't keep their mouths shut forever, but he didn't need to silence them for too long. As long as the secret could be hidden for another month or two, it would be enough time for him to

become a true powerhouse with True Qi. By then, even without using many Demon Pearls and treasures, he would be able to match fifth-layer experts. And if he used all his trump cards...

Retracting his gaze, Lin Xuankong turned and entered the stone house to continue his cultivation.

Several hours later, he withdrew his Heart Spirit from his cultivation, his eyes showing joy as he looked at his fingernails. At this moment, his previously dry and aged fingernails had become quite lustrous, almost like jade.

Chapter 176: Combat Power Soars Again, All in Great Marsh Prefecture Are Stunned_3

Teeth, leg bones, hip bones, including the skull, had all undergone Metamorphosis... If someone were to cut open his flesh right now, they would be astonished to find that every one of his bones was as lustrous as jade and incredibly solid!

[Realm: Transcendence Fourth Layer Late Stage]

[Yin Talisman Technique: Attained Minor Success 161/232]

[Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Attained Minor Success 91/500]

[Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique: Attained Minor Success 69/450]

[Eight Gates Celestial Eye: Fifth Layer 71/200]

[Perfect Qi Blood: 499,112/500,000]

[Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique: Entering the Hall 1/100]

[Blood Eating Technique: Entering the Hall 17/100]

[Blood-Burning Secret Technique: Integration 1/50]

[Divine Protection Elixir: Initial Grade Elixir Technique 21/32]

Lin Xuankong's eyes filled with joy. I've finally reached the Late Stage of the Fourth Layer!

Back then, Chief Steward Jiang Yuran, Grand Chief Steward Gao Yunchao, and Wu Liangye were all at this Realm too! In the entire Yin Talisman Sect, only a few people are at a higher Realm than me now. As for overall combat power... I haven't fought them yet, so I'll assume they're stronger for now!

Besides, his various Cultivation Techniques were rapidly improving as well. The Blood Eating Technique had reached Entering the Hall level.

Nowadays, during a single meal, he could devour over a thousand pounds of Demon Flesh without any negative effects on his digestion!

His Perfect Qi Blood was approaching its limit of 500,000 points. To increase the Qi Blood limit again... I'll probably have to wait until I'm seventy! Of course, the current nearly 500,000 points of Perfect Qi Blood already represented an absolutely terrifying reserve.

Such an amount of Perfection Level Qi Blood, when converted to Transcendent Qi Blood, was roughly equivalent to two to three million points—equal to the Qi Blood replenished by one hundred thousand servings of Nine Revolutions Qi Replenishing Soup!

The entire Yin Talisman Sect, with its thousands of disciples, consumed far less than this daily. It would take all of them together many days to deplete such a terrifying amount of Qi Blood!

The most delightful development was that both the Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique and the Blood-Burning Secret Technique had advanced in Realm once again, substantially increasing their Explosive Power multiplier.

Now, once I erupt, my speed and Explosive Power will surely be even more formidable!

If the current me, wearing the thirty thousand pounds of Exorcism Equipment, were to face that Mysterious Female Cultivator again, even if she only wore a light white robe, she definitely couldn't surpass my speed. Even without using my other numerous trump cards, I could absolutely knock her down instantly and beat her mercilessly!

While Lin Xuankong was pondering, Lin Jiao suddenly ran out from the neighboring room, his clothes disarrayed.

"Look quickly! The color of the Demon-Suppressing Array in the sky has changed from red to green! We can leave the valley! This is truly great news, exceptionally good news! Hahaha!"

From the stone house on the right, Zhao Yufei walked out, looking energetic. For the past two days, in the presence of her fellow sect members like Nalan Yunzhu, she had felt a bit shy about staying in the same stone house as Lin Xuankong. So, she had stayed separately for a few days and, as a result, seemed noticeably more spirited.

"It's time to return to Great Marsh Prefecture!" Zhao Yufei said, gazing at Lin Xuankong with a complicated expression.

The many events during the trip to Demon-Suppressing Valley had far exceeded my expectations... This journey to Demon-Suppressing Valley has subtly altered my destiny, leading me down a path I never imagined. Moreover, I firmly believe that not only has my fate changed because of Lin Xuankong, but in the future, the destinies of the entire Yin Talisman Sect, Great Marsh Prefecture, and even the wider world—countless lives—might be transformed because of him! The journey to Demon-Suppressing Valley was merely the beginning!

...

「Yin Talisman Sect Hall.」

Four Grand Chief Stewards, along with Ma Jiang and other Stewards, all wore puzzled expressions. Each of them carefully examined Zhao Yufei, Lin Xuankong, and Hu Shuo, who were seated in the lower positions.

Jiang Yuran, dressed in a moon-white long robe, frowned and asked, "Because that Mysterious Female Cultivator killed most of the Tier Three Demons in Demon-Suppressing Valley, everyone else returned safely, apart from Steward Xu Bei? And that Mysterious Female Cultivator was so powerful that even Chu Qing couldn't last ten breaths against her?"

"Later, another mysterious Martial Cultivator appeared, defeated that Mysterious Female Cultivator, and received the Marsh Python Demon Pearl as a reward?"

Hu Shuo glanced at Lin Xuankong awkwardly before looking up and saying, "That's roughly how it went. We heard it from others, as we didn't leave Juefeng Mountain most of the time."

These words were true. He only knew that Lin Xuankong had instantly killed those Tier Three Marsh Pythons. As for Lin Xuankong's subsequent, more ferocious feats, he had indeed heard about them from others.

Unfortunately, he had promised Lin Xuankong to keep it confidential, so he couldn't reveal the matter of killing the Tier Three Marsh Pythons... This Elder Steward felt as if he had swallowed twenty-five little mice, their claws tearing at his insides!

"Liy Changming was defeated, Chu Qing lost, and even the Mysterious Female Cultivator capable of commanding Ding Rui and the Holy Dragon Association was defeated... Who exactly was the one who defeated *that* Mysterious Female Cultivator?"

Jiang Yuran's bright eyes were filled with amazement. She was extremely familiar with the Martial Cultivators of Great Marsh and knew how formidable Liy Changming and Chu Qing were, which was why she was so astonished.

Grand Chief Steward Wu Liangye and Grand Chief Steward Gao Yunchao also exchanged surprised glances.

Grand Chief Steward Wu Liangye sighed, "Liy Changming is a distinguished figure among the younger generation of Great Marsh Prefecture. Even I would struggle to defeat him!"

"If I were to go up against Chu Qing, with his enigmatic Spiritual Snake Technique and the infamous White Snake Venom on his weapon... I doubt I would last ten moves against him!"

"The Mysterious Female Cultivator who defeated Chu Qing within a few breaths, and the mysterious Martial Cultivator who defeated *her*—who on earth could they be?"

Chapter 177: Combat Power Soars Again, All in Great Marsh Prefecture Are Stunned_4

The Great Marsh Prefecture, a Frontier State Mansion, had not seen such extraordinary talents in centuries!"

Gao Yunchao's eyes suddenly flashed. "You know," he said, "could this mysterious Martial Cultivator be related to that Conical Hat Guest? That Conical Hat Guest was also extremely powerful and elusive!"

Jiang Yuran's eyes sparkled. "Hmm, it's not impossible!"

Zhao Yufei, hearing this, secretly glanced at Lin Xuankong.

Lin Xuankong: ...

Your imaginations are too wild! You can connect completely unrelated things!

He immediately decided to change the subject, turning to Ma Jiang. "Boss, I haven't seen you in over twenty days! I've been eager to have a drink with you!"

Ma Jiang laughed heartily at this, slapping the table.

"Forget all that! The fact that we all made it back alive is a tremendous blessing, worthy of a grand celebration!"

Grand Steward Jiang, how long are you going to keep questioning? Shouldn't you welcome everyone back properly first?"

「At the Great Marsh Branch of the Black Tiger Gang,」

Two Stewards, along with dozens of other Stewards, stood somewhat nervously on either side.

Zhao Renxiong and Hall Master Liy exchanged glances, their faces extremely grim.

Especially Hall Master Liy Ruoqing. This time, to ensure Liy Ruofeng could make significant gains in the Demon Valley, he had even lent the Black Tiger Gang's famous Nine-Scaly Armor to Liy Ruofeng.

Who would have known that out of the thousand Martial Cultivators, seven or eight hundred would survive, yet the Black Tiger Gang's Vice Hall Master, Grand Chief Steward, and several Stewards would all be wiped out, not a single one emerging from the Demon Valley! Now, the once talent-filled Black Tiger Gang Great Marsh Hall was left with a pitiful two Stewards!

This Hall Master Liy, who had overseen the Great Marsh for over a decade, tightly clenched the red Demon Pearl in his hand, feeling that the recent momentum of the Black Tiger Gang Great Marsh Hall was deeply problematic.

At this moment, a Steward hurried into the hall, cupped his hands, and said,

"We've received word from the Gu Yue Sect. San Gu and several other members of their sect were all wiped out. None of them made it out of the Demon Valley!"

"San Gu of the Gu Yue Sect was as strong as Ruo Feng, and his men were no worse than Shangguan Si's. A lineup like that... wiped out as well?" Hall Master Liy's face turned ashen.

Zhao Renxiong furrowed his brow, pondering for a moment before decisively stating,

"Feng Zhulong from the Feng Family and Guo Chui from the Guo Family are both extremely strong, and they were assigned to the same gathering place as Vice Hall Master Li. They might have some information about what happened to him!"

Before he finished speaking,

another Steward hurried into the hall, cupped his hands, and said,

"Reporting to the Hall Master, the Feng Family has sent someone over! They said that their Sixth Young Master Feng and the people he took with him didn't make it out of the Demon Valley, and they want to ask about the situation here!"

Zhao Renxiong: ...

Hall Master Liy's face showed a trace of shock.

Zhao Renxiong frowned deeply. "Feng Zhulong had a Tier Four Spirit Cat. With Tier Three Demons, it would be hard for them to cause him any trouble. He should have been able to dominate the Demon-Suppressing Valley. Could he have met with disaster too?"

Suddenly, the sound of something tearing through the air came from outside. Immediately after, a burly, square-faced, broad-mouthed middle-aged man in a purple robe strode in.

"Hall Master Liy, Hall Master Zhao, is Vice Hall Master Li here? My nephew Guo Chui had an agreement with Vice Hall Master Li and the others before entering the Demon Valley. They were to join forces against other people and those Demons. Why hasn't he returned yet?"

Zhao Renxiong frowned upon seeing the newcomer. "Brother Yun Kui!"

Liy Ruqing said in surprise, "Young Master Guo possesses the Kui Ox Library and is ranked fourth on the Hero List. He could easily defeat more than ten Same Tier Martial Cultivators simultaneously. He, like Ruo Feng, also didn't make it out of the Demon Valley?"

Guo Yunkui, the Guo Family's Third Chief and a Mid-grade Fifth Layer cultivator, had a face as dark as the bottom of a pot. "The Guo Family sent seven people into the Demon Valley, and not one has returned! Hall Master Liy, from what you just said... Vice Hall Master Li didn't make it out either?"

Liy Ruoqing fell silent.

In previous Demon Slaying Conferences, the Feng Family, Guo Family, Black Tiger Gang, and Gu Yue Sect had always allied to secretly reap benefits, and their hauls were always quite substantial!

In contrast, the Huang Family and the Yin Talisman Sect would have all their elites wiped out each time, their core strength constantly diminishing, leading to their gradual decline!

This time, the contingent sent by the Feng Family, Guo Family, Black Tiger Gang, Gu Yue Sect, and others was the strongest in the history of the Demon Slaying Conference. They had expected a great harvest... Who would have thought that in a Demon Slaying Conference with the highest survival rate ever, where every other family and sect was celebrating, not a single person from the Feng Family, Guo Family, or Black Tiger Gang's parties had returned alive!

Thinking of this, Liy Ruoqing, Zhao Renxiong, and Guo Yunkui all had faces as dark as the bottom of a pot.

"My sixth brother, Feng Zhulong, along with Young Master Guo, Vice Hall Master Li, and San Gu, possessed strength far exceeding ordinary peak Tier Three cultivators. They absolutely could not have died to Tier Three Demons. The only possibility is that someone targeted them!"

From outside the hall, a voice carried in from a distance. Then, a short, plump, round-faced Martial Cultivator with narrow eyes floated into the hall. It was none other than the Feng Family's Eldest Young Master, Feng Zhushi, an Early Stage Fifth Layer cultivator!

The Guo Family's Third Chief, Guo Yunkui, had a dangerous glint in his eyes. "Could the people from the Yin Talisman Sect be targeting our families?"

Feng Zhushi narrowed his already small eyes. "Impossible. The strongest from the Yin Talisman Sect, Zhao Yufei, is only Late Stage Tier Three. Even three or five of her combined wouldn't be a match for my sixth brother! The rest of them are even more mediocre!"

Guo Yunkui clenched his fists tightly. "We must find a way to investigate! Our three families must unite and investigate relentlessly! We absolutely must find out what happened at the Zhen Character Gathering Place!"

「More than two Hours later,」

The Yin Talisman Sect's welcoming feast finally concluded.

The welcoming feast prepared in the hall was indeed excellent, featuring all the most authentic dishes from the New Piaoxiang Tower. Unfortunately, the portions were too small!

Lin Xuankong, accustomed to consuming over a thousand pounds of Demon Flesh per meal, felt the emptiness in his stomach as he stepped out of the hall.

As he walked along the street, he glanced at the taverns and eateries lining the road. He saw some Yin Talisman Sect disciples and many Loose Cultivators animatedly discussing the astounding events of this Demon Slaying Conference.

Whether it was the survival rate far exceeding previous years, the peculiar Mysterious Female Cultivator, or the mysterious Martial Cultivator who defeated her, these topics had rapidly spread through word of mouth among Martial Cultivators. They had become subjects of amazement and post-meal conversation.

As various accounts circulated, they were embellished and became increasingly fantastical. Tales spread of the Mysterious Female Cultivator shattering hundreds of Tier Three Demons in a single day, and of the mysterious Martial Cultivator unleashing boundless power with a wave of his hand, instantly defeating her!

In short, the fame of these two mysterious Martial Cultivators, one male and one female, had even overshadowed that of the Conical Hat Guest, who had recently gained notoriety in the Great Marsh Prefecture...

A short while later, Lin Xuankong approached Wutong Village and suddenly felt a headache coming on.

Although Zhao Yufei hadn't insisted he propose marriage immediately upon their return to the Great Marsh Prefecture, the truth can't be concealed forever. Sooner or later, he'd have to face the music—a catastrophe akin to a meteor striking the continent!

How should he persuade... no, 'guide' the Young Lady during this time? How could he get her to accept that he planned to find her a 'sister'?

Also, the Black Tiger Gang, Guo Family, Feng Family, and Gu Yue Sect must be in an uproar by now...

Recently, besides diligent Cultivation to quickly reach Fourth Layer Perfection and rapidly enhance his strength, he needed to stir up some trouble to divert their attention, preventing their investigations from leading to him! What kind of major incident could he create that would capture the attention and manpower of these major powers without revealing his identity?

Chapter 178: The Terrifying True Qi of a Fifth Layer Expert, Lin Xuankong's Life as an Old Master

Standing at the location of his family's wooden building on Cow and Horse Street, Lin Xuankong looked somewhat surprised at the stone lions on either side of the spacious gate.

Having been away for more than twenty days, Lin Xuankong almost didn't recognize his own home... that old wooden building had been replaced with a blue brick and Glazed Glass tile two-story structure, which appeared quite grand!

"Madam, you're back!" A dignified woman in her thirties, dressed in a steward's outfit, suddenly stepped out from the entrance and bowed to the side of Lin Xuankong.

Lin Xuankong turned his head to look, only to see a Young Lady standing silently by his side, smiling brightly,

still wearing that green dress,

still as charming as ever,

though, she now carried a fresh scent of medicinal herbs.

"Welcome home, husband!" Lii Xiaolan said with a smile, raising the basket in her hand, "The house is already prepared with dishes, all personally made by Sister Little Chun from the Huang Family. Those are the luxurious tastes of a noble family. Additionally, there are two jars of fine wine from the New Piaoxiang Tower's cellar! And freshly made leek pies!"

Upon hearing this, the female steward's expression tightened, and she quickly bowed again, "Master Lin, the master has returned!"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly. He turned to look at his wife beside him, feeling a mix of emotions.

"Why are you daydreaming? Come inside and see the few small buildings I had built!" Lii Xiaolan grabbed his hand and pulled him towards the courtyard.

Lin Xuankong felt the softness of her hand as he followed her.

Looking at the meticulously designed and grand pavilions one after another, he couldn't help but laugh, "You've been busy with Cultivation every day and still found time to hire someone to build these. You've put in a lot of effort, my dear!"

After passing through several corridors, the two entered the rear hall, where several plates of red and green cold dishes were already laid out on the table.

A sturdy woman saw Lii Xiaolan and Lin Xuankong come in and greeted them, "Master and Madam are back, I'll go get the food from the kitchen right away!"

Lii Xiaolan said, "This is Shi Xiaochun—Sister Little Chun—who watched me grow up. I had to say many good things to Sister Ni Chang to bring her to our home as a cook. From now on, you'll enjoy her cooking, for her skills even surpass the master chefs at Piaoxiang Tower!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but sigh inwardly. This time, he had originally planned to spend some silver to properly refurbish the house. After all, with over one hundred thousand jins of Tier Three Demon Flesh, and two hundred thousand jins of Tier Two Demon Flesh along with various demon materials, he didn't know how many silver taels that would be worth. Even revealing a small fraction of these resources could greatly improve their lives! However, before he even had a chance to act, his

Young Lady had already gone ahead and organized the house, even hiring an excellent cook! This courtyard and these small buildings are no less luxurious than any of the Stewards' residences in the Yin Talisman Sect! ...Of course, if it were to be judged by Realm, his own Late Stage Fourth Layer would make him akin to the two strongest Grand Chief Stewards in the Yin Talisman Sect, fully qualifying him for even more lavish places! But this courtyard was already extremely exquisite, and the most important part was that he, the master, didn't have to worry about it. He could just comfortably start enjoying it. His Young Lady, acting as such a great steward, had really given him a huge surprise!

Moments later, the steaming, aromatic dishes were all set on the table.

After letting the two maids and Sister Little Chun leave, Lii Xiaolan blinked her bright eyes, "Quick, tell me everything about your time in the Demon-Suppressing Valley!"

Lin Xuankong trusted his wife even more than Zhao Yufei, so he recounted most of the events—except for the busy times in the cave and using the Blood-Burning Secret Technique with Zhao Yufei!

Lii Xiaolan listened intently, sometimes furrowing her brows, sometimes clapping and laughing, sometimes widening her bright eyes.

By the end, her mouth was gaping.

"You've reached Late Tier Four? Ah, you're almost catching up to my Realm, you're progressing so fast in Cultivation! And you actually obtained over one hundred thousand jins of Tier Three Demon Flesh, two hundred thousand jins of Tier Two Demon Flesh, two pieces of Black Soul Wondrous Jade, four Sunflower Water Treasure Elixirs, three Demon Pearls, nine sets of Battle Armor, and dozens of pieces of Exorcism Equipment? If all of this were turned into delicacies... no, what I mean is, even the major forces like the Feng Family, Guo Family, Black Tiger Gang, and Yin Talisman Sect, if taken individually, wouldn't have such vast resources!"

Lii Xiaolan's bright eyes sparkled with a mix of surprise, delight, and joy. She was surprised and delighted at how her husband had surpassed even a large family with his own efforts. When she married Lin Xuankong, it was out of pity and a soft heart, only intending to help him temporarily. She never expected that over time, her increasingly capable husband had grown to this extent. How could she not be delighted! Of course, she also felt a bit lost; this guy had already surpassed her Realm... Hmph, fortunately, no matter how strong he gets, he still isn't better than my Shadow Concealment Technique!

Soon, a hint of worry appeared in Lii Xiaolan's bright eyes.

"Do others know about all you've earned? If too many people are aware, even Late Stage Fifth Layer experts might not be able to resist the temptation of so much wealth and treasures, even experts of the Sixth Layer would salivate, just like seeing leek pies and delicacies!"

She thinks everyone is like her, unable to resist good food! Lin Xuankong was quite impressed by his wife's analogy.

He shook his head, "Don't worry. Even if others know I've gained something, no one will know I have accumulated this much!"

Only Yufei knew most of his gains, but she was already family!

Chapter 179: The Terrifying True Qi of a Fifth Layer Expert, Lin Xuankong's Life as an Old Master - Part 2

Lii Xiaolan saw him speak so confidently, which finally put her mind at ease. However, when she personally witnessed Lin Xuankong open several Ghost Frog Pouches, the stunning young lady couldn't help but place a hand over her chest, marveling for a long while!

"Pick any Battle Armor you like; they're all famous in Great Marsh Prefecture. If you want to use one, it'd be best to ask Xiao Xiuyi to modify it—change its color and style! As for the Demon Pearls, just pick whichever one you want! Most importantly, during your Cultivation, eat Demon Flesh with all your might. I believe your Cultivation Speed will greatly increase because of it!"

Lin Xuankong, with the grand air of a lord, generously lavished the resources at his disposal upon the young lady before him, hoping to stun her.

Just as Lin Xuankong had hoped, Lii Xiaolan was thoroughly overwhelmed. Despite having spent years by the side of the Huang Family's eldest daughter and being accustomed to luxury, her beautiful face now wore a blank expression, and she even forgot to swallow the pastry in her mouth!

After a long pause, the young lady finally began to eat her pastry along with the other dishes. "You keep the Demon Pearls for yourself," she said. "I stay at home all day, so I'm not in much danger. I'll wait until Xiao Xiuyi modifies a Battle Armor before I wear one... Oh my god! Sister Ni Chang's Huang Family, with thousands of Martial Cultivating clansmen, only has three complete sets of Exorcism Armor, yet you

have nine! Never mind anything else, just with these Exorcism Armors, you'll soon be considered the biggest upstart in Great Marsh Prefecture!"

Lin Xuankong laughed. "Then you'll be Lady Bao in the future!"

Lii Xiaolan was speechless.

"What Lady Bao? I'll be Lady Lin!"

She happily took a bite of her food. "Actually, I already guessed that the one who defeated the Mysterious Female Cultivator had to be you!"

"So confident in your husband?" Lin Xuankong took a bite, chewed a few times, and then praised, "This food is truly delicious, even better than what the head chef at Piaoxiang Tower makes!"

Lii Xiaolan replied, "Of course, I'm confident in you. Don't forget who your master guiding you onto the Martial Dao is! Besides, even those Sect Leaders and gang leaders who occasionally visit the Huang Family can't stop praising Sister Little Chun's cooking. Of course, it's delicious!"

After saying that, she frowned slightly. "It's wonderful that you gained so much in Demon-Suppressing Valley—things others can only dream of! But while you were so happily killing in there, the Black Tiger Gang, the Guo Family, the Feng Family, and the Gu Yue Sect are probably already investigating who was responsible for all that carnage!"

Lin Xuankong raised an eyebrow. "I've already briefed those Martial Cultivators. In the short term, the Black Tiger Gang and the others shouldn't be able to find anything."

The two of them chatted as they ate. Before they knew it, four to six hours had passed, and Lin Xuankong had finally eaten until he was about one percent full.

At that moment, he stole a glance at Lii Xiaolan and, feigning nonchalance, said, "Ah, my dear, we'll be living in a grand mansion in the future! Even so, we mustn't be extravagant... I've heard that the masters

of those great families all have three or four wives, marrying a whole bunch of them and having lots of children! That's absolutely wrong, particularly wrong, extremely wrong. Don't you agree, my dear?"

Hearing this, Lii Xiaolan carefully examined Lin Xuankong from head to toe. Being scrutinized by his young lady, and with the matter of Yu Fei weighing on his conscience, Lin Xuankong felt a bit uneasy. "What are you looking at?"

Lii Xiaolan leaned in, sniffing him carefully. "I think you reek of a vixen!"

Lin Xuankong immediately put on a righteous expression. "How could that be? I haven't been to the Qiaan Branch, nor have I hunted any Demon Foxes. How could I possibly smell like a vixen!"

Lii Xiaolan said, "Bringing up the matter of multiple wives for no reason... I think now that you're rich, you're starting to get ideas. Are you planning to 'get promoted, get rich, and ditch your wife'?"

Lin Xuankong's face was a mask of stern righteousness. "Absolutely not! How could I, Lin Xuankong, be that kind of person? I'm just thinking that with such a large family enterprise, and me getting on in years, I have to consider the future! We can't be without heirs; we need to have several descendants to inherit the family business, right?"

Hearing this, Lii Xiaolan instantly understood. She stole a glance at her increasingly robust husband, then suddenly lowered her head, a faint blush creeping up her cheeks as she licked the large prawn in her hand.

For a moment, a mix of happiness, surprise, and worry churned within Lii Xiaolan. "Regarding... regarding descendants," she stammered, "there's no need to hurry, is there? Let's talk about it in a few... a few days! I... I'll go refine some Elixirs!"

With that, the blushing young lady transformed into a blur and slipped into the nearby Alchemy Room!

"Tell me clearly how many days! It can't be more than nine, or else it'll become more than ten!"

Lin Xuankong laughed heartily. His index finger twitched in anticipation, and he couldn't help but rub his hands together before picking up a beautifully cooked abalone with his chopsticks and swallowing it in one bite.

Oh, very good! The taste is excellent!

Yu Fei, don't worry. Just wait until I handle this sister of yours!

「The next morning,」

After finishing his Cultivation, Lin Xuankong ate a few bowls of porridge meticulously prepared by Sister Little Chun. He then greeted the young lady—who had spent all night refining Elixirs in the Alchemy Room and hadn't dared to return to her own room—before leaving home.

Upon arriving at the Cow and Horse Street outpost, Yang Mountain, Li Er, Little Hu, and the others were overjoyed to see Lin Xuankong.

After chatting for a while and arranging matters at the outpost, Lin Xuankong and Lin Jiao, who had hurried over, headed towards the Feng Family residence together.

Chapter 180: The Terrifying True Qi of a Fifth Layer Expert, Lin Xuankong's Luxurious Life_3

Before entering the Demon-Suppressing Valley, both of them had spent quite a bit of silver at the Feng Family, so now they naturally needed to pay a visit. However, Lin Jiao thought of Lin Xuankong's strength and the fact that the Silver Jade Steward from the Feng Family had placed a bet on the Exorcism Gloves; he couldn't help but feel extremely envious!

The current Lin Xuankong was no longer one to be overjoyed by twenty-two pieces of Exorcism Equipment. For Lin Jiao, however, those twenty-two pieces were something he could never hope to obtain in his lifetime.

"The Feng Family probably never expected that a Mysterious Female Cultivator would appear at this Demon Slaying Conference and directly slay those Tier Three Demons, allowing most of the Martial Cultivators who placed bets to leave the valley alive! I wonder what expressions the Feng Family members will have now, hahaha!"

Lin Jiao laughed heartily, as he had also bet quite a bit of silver and stood to gain a hefty profit!

Not long after, the two arrived near the Feng Family Mansion, which spanned over a hundred acres. However, in the wide plaza before the Feng Family's main gate, numerous white banners hung, and an endless array of paper horses and carriages were displayed. Seeing this, Lin Jiao's thick eyebrows furrowed, and Lin Xuankong also raised an eyebrow slightly.

In the wide plaza before the Feng Family's main gate, dozens of Martial Cultivators stood gathered. They were whispering among themselves, and about a dozen of them looked gloomily at Feng Cai, the Steward of the Feng Family, who stood at the entrance.

Lin Xuankong and Lin Jiao walked over and listened for a moment, finally understanding the situation. These people had all placed bets earlier and had come today specifically to exchange their seals for silver coins. Steward Feng Cai had not refused to redeem them, but he explained that the Sixth Young Master of the Feng Family had died in the Demon-Suppressing Valley. The family was currently holding a funeral, so he asked them to return in two or three months.

Among the many Martial Cultivators, a burly, red-faced man spoke in a deep voice, "Steward Feng, when we placed our bets, you personally promised that we could come to exchange them anytime after leaving the Demon-Suppressing Valley. Now you're delaying things, pushing it off for two or three months! I wagered fifteen thousand silver taels before entering the valley! If you won't pay out our winnings, you should at least return my principal immediately!"

Seeing someone speak up, the other Martial Cultivators began complaining in low voices.

"Yeah, forget about doubling our compensation for now; at least return our principal!"

"That's right! Asking us to wait two or three months? How is that reasonable!"

"Brother Guann is right! Though we may not be as powerful as your Feng Family, we are all Second and Third Layer cultivators, not some strays you can dismiss with a few words!"

Steward Feng Cai stood at the wide entrance of the Feng Family, looking at the murmuring crowd, and said calmly, "Our Feng Family has stood in the Great Marsh Prefecture for two or three hundred years,

relying on good faith and strength. Do you think our Feng Family would default on such a paltry sum of silver? Once our family's many affairs are settled, we will naturally compensate you with silver coins!"

The red-faced man frowned. "Compensation? I don't want compensation, just return my principal!"

Feng Cai looked at the red-faced man and said indifferently, "Guan Zhong, you're the Vice Sect Leader of the Seven Swords Sect, right? You carry yourself with quite an air. Haven't you seen that our Feng Family is holding a funeral? Are you here to cause trouble? Do you really think your Early Stage Fourth Layer cultivation is so impressive that you can act unscrupulously here?"

The red-faced man's face darkened. "Before I entered the valley, the odds were only 1.2; I wasn't expecting to win much silver from your Feng Family. How long are you planning to hold onto my silver taels?"

At this, about a dozen Third Layer Martial Cultivators also stepped forward to stand beside the red-faced man, questioning Feng Cai. The surrounding Martial Cultivators began to clamor as well, their courage bolstered by the presence of an Early Stage Fourth Layer expert.

Just then, a Martial Cultivator with a longsword at his waist leaped over from a distance. This middle-aged Martial Cultivator, dressed in a cyan long robe, had a distinguished air and landed directly beside the red-faced man. He then frowned at Feng Cai.

Seeing the newcomer, Feng Cai's eyes flickered. "Sect Leader Yan Yunfei of the Seven Swords Sect. Prison Dragon City is hundreds of miles from here. You've traveled quite a distance; it must have been arduous!"

Upon seeing the newcomer, the many Martial Cultivators visibly relaxed. Yan Yunfei, Sect Leader of the Seven Swords Sect from Prison Dragon City, was a renowned Early Stage Fifth Layer True Qi expert. With him present, the crowd felt they had a pillar of support.

"I am merely accompanying my sworn brother to retrieve his principal." The imposing Yan Yunfei gently stroked the longsword at his waist.

Feng Cai laughed. "Regarding the silver, as I've already said, you can come to exchange it in two or three months, once our Feng Family's funeral affairs are concluded!"

Yan Yunfei and the red-faced man exchanged a glance, both their brows tightly furrowed. Yan Yunfei then said to Feng Cai, "My sworn brother urgently needs those fifteen thousand silver taels to purchase Zhengyuan Grass in preparation for the Ba City Secret Realm! I hope Steward Feng will, for my sake, not make things difficult!"

Feng Cai ignored him, swung his long sleeves, and turned to walk back into the mansion.

At the same time, a light chuckle echoed from within the Feng Family Mansion. "Yan Yunfei, do you think your reputation carries that much weight?"

In the next instant, with a crisp "CHI!" sound, a flash of Cyan Sword Qi erupted from within the Feng Family Mansion, shooting up into the sky. This cyan radiance was extremely bright and agile, and it appeared to possess terrifying power!

Seeing this, the expressions of the crowd in the plaza changed. A hint of panic appeared in their eyes, and they quickly backed away.

In the next instant, the Cyan Sword Qi that had risen into the sky carved an arc, shooting towards a spot in the plaza a hundred zhang away. In a fleeting moment, the Cyan Sword Qi shot towards Yan Yunfei's face.

Lin Xuankong, watching from the side, felt his pupils contract. This incredibly agile cyan radiance... is this the remote True Qi attack of a Feng Family Fifth Layer expert? It's indeed extremely agile and terrifyingly fast! Most importantly, without activating my Celestial Eye, I can't even see who in the Feng Family Mansion launched this Cyan Sword Qi!

At this moment, as the cyan radiance reached his face, the already alert Yan Yunfei sidestepped sharply, narrowly avoiding the decapitating strike of the cyan radiance at the last possible second. However, after the cyan radiance shot past Yan Yunfei's side and traveled several tens of zhang, it wheeled around and once again sped towards Yan Yunfei at an alarming rate. This Cyan Radiance True Qi seemed to possess a kind of spirituality, capable of arcing back to attack!

Simultaneously, one stream of cyan radiance after another shot out from the Feng Residence, all slashing towards Yan Yunfei!

The Martial Cultivators who had reacted quickly retreated far away, no longer daring to remain near Yan Yunfei.

Yan Yunfei let out a long cry, drew the Exorcism Longsword from his waist, and as its light flickered, streams of silver Sword Aura shot out continuously from the longsword, striking the cyan radiances and colliding with them! As the Silver Glows and cyan radiances clashed, they shattered into countless minute Sword Auras, and loud explosions boomed continuously. These minute Sword Auras and the resulting shockwaves spread outwards.

The Second and Third Layer Martial Cultivators in the plaza hastily circulated their Qi Blood for defense, not daring to be careless in the slightest! Two Second Layer Martial Cultivators, merely by being a little too close, were instantly riddled with dozens of bloody holes and collapsed, gravely injured.

Crucially, the incoming cyan radiances were overwhelmingly fast and numerous; there were at least several dozen of them. Not only were Second Layer Martial Cultivators severely wounded by the aftershocks, but even the Early Stage Fifth Layer Yan Yunfei was continuously forced to retreat. In the blink of an eye, he was driven back a hundred zhang to the edge of the Feng Family's plaza, almost retreating into the long street.

Far off in the long street, some onlookers—Loose Cultivators and common folk alike—turned pale with fright and scrambled to flee, terrified of being struck by the cyan radiance and obliterated into dust!

Even then, the person within the Feng Family Mansion launching the Cyan Radiance True Qi attack still hadn't shown themselves. This Cyan Radiance True Qi attack can reach such an incredible distance!

As Lin Xuankong considered this, his brow furrowed. The True Qi attack of a Fifth Layer Martial Cultivator is indeed exceedingly formidable, far more wondrous than the Martial Dao attacks of Third and Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators. This ultra-long-range Cyan Radiance True Qi, with its extreme agility and terrifying power, can even wound Second Layer cultivators with its aftershocks. An ordinary Third or Fourth Layer cultivator facing such cyan radiance... If I reach the Fifth Layer, I'll immediately possess such abilities too! A fervent anticipation gleamed in Lin Xuankong's eyes.

Just then, Lin Jiao, who was beside him, suddenly paled, grabbed Lin Xuankong, and pulled him back. This was because, at that very moment, among the dozens of cyan radiances attacking Yan Yunfei, three abruptly changed direction, streaking towards the red-faced man and the other Martial Cultivators in the plaza!