

Stronger 221

Chapter 221: Saintess Decree with Abundant Rewards, Mysterious Prison_3

Initially, Lin Xuankong thought that these were just plain, sturdy Profound Iron Cages. But upon closer inspection, he realized that it seemed to be a Profound Iron Cage with a small Array inscribed on it. No wonder it could easily control the Tier Five Corpse Scorpion inside and prevent it from easily releasing poison and Demon Qi!

Beside him, Zheng Yunrui also noticed something unusual. She leaned over for a closer look and exclaimed softly, "It's the legendary Demon Capturing Array from the Rakshasa Kingdom, which can suppress all creatures carrying Demon Qi! The Black Tiger Gang actually possesses such a wondrous object? Just this Profound Iron Cage inscribed with a Profound Mysterious Array is more valuable than the famous Black Soul Wondrous Jade from the Great Marsh—even several times more valuable!"

In the distance, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying, who were trapped by the Black Soul Wondrous Jade, felt a mix of emotions upon hearing this. That Demon Prison Cage was indeed a treasure, but alas, it no longer belonged to them!

At this moment, they couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed seeing Lin Xuankong neither opening the cage nor touching the Tier Five Corpse Scorpion. Just then, as their disappointment peaked, their eyes suddenly lit up. Lin Xuankong had actually opened the cage door, reached in, and was now touching the Tier Five Corpse Scorpion!

The two exchanged glances, joy evident in their eyes. Meanwhile, Lin Xuankong activated the Blood-Burning Secret Technique and the Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique, firmly grasping the Corpse Scorpion's tail and body before pulling it out.

The Corpse Scorpion was not known for its physical strength. Despite its constant wriggling, it was unable to escape Lin Xuankong's grip. However, as soon as it left the cage, it began releasing Demon Qi and poison!

Zheng Yunrui's face turned pale, and she quickly retreated more than ten steps. Lin Xuankong, however, felt the invasion of poison and his expression merely shifted slightly. With an eager look, he took a deep breath, inhaling all the Demon Poison released by the Tier Five Corpse Scorpion into his lungs.

It felt cool and slightly sweet, with a hint of spicy fragrance. It was also slightly fetid, but the odor, mingled with the fragrance, wasn't very noticeable—somewhat like the taste of fried stinky tofu after being frozen.

Lin Xuankong savored it carefully for a moment, then placed the Corpse Scorpion back into the cage and closed the door tightly. Zheng Yunrui, witnessing this, was already so shocked her mouth hung wide open.

"Mumu, Brother Mu, are you okay? You just took a deep breath of the Demon Poison?" Was he trying to get more thoroughly poisoned, more quickly poisoned, and die faster?

Lin Xuankong frowned slightly and said seriously, "This Corpse Scorpion Demon Poison is indeed unique, but the taste isn't as good as I imagined!"

The taste isn't as good as imagined? Zheng Yunrui, her hair tied in neat buns, was utterly bewildered.

Liy Ruoqing stared, his mouth agape. Liy Ruo Ying was equally stunned.

At this time, Lin Xuankong walked straight to Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying. PUFF! He blew a large cloud of the Demon Poison he had inhaled from his lungs directly onto their faces.

Instantly, their expressions changed drastically. Then, their faces indeed turned a deathly, purplish-black shade.

The two, their faces now a ghastly color, felt their Cultivation levels rapidly declining. In mere moments, they dropped from the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer to the Mid-grade Fifth Layer, then to the Early Stage of the Fifth Layer, the Perfection of the Fourth Layer, and the Late Stage of the Fourth Layer. After just a few breaths, that single exhalation of Demon Poison had caused their Cultivation levels to plummet to the Early Stage of the Third Layer!

Lin Xuankong stood by their side, observing their changes carefully with his Celestial Eye. Only when their Cultivation fell to the Early Stage of the Third Layer did he nod slightly. With such feeble Cultivation levels, any petty schemes they might harbor wouldn't be able to affect him. This was truly foolproof!

Soon after, the shadows binding them suddenly disappeared. Lin Xuankong spoke, "Alright, now we can set off for the Secret Realm Center. We'll proceed slowly, collecting some Heavy Water Spiritual Objects along the way. Of course, right now I'm most interested in the Liy Family's Array Formation Method and the method of refining this Demon Prison Cage. Liy Ruoqing, you can start explaining now."

Engraving an Array on a Profound Iron Cage could indeed achieve miraculous effects, capable of trapping a Tier Five Demon. This Demon Capturing Array is truly extraordinary! If I could master it, my combat power would definitely increase significantly. The only question is whether this Array can affect even stronger Demons. If it can... A strong look of anticipation appeared in Lin Xuankong's eyes.

Chapter 222: How Can Cultivation Improve So Rapidly? The Demon-Catching Array Can Trap a Great Demon

Hearing that Lin Xuankong wanted a detailed explanation of the Liy Family's array formation method, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying exchanged a glance and both shook their heads slightly.

Liy Ruoqing said, "Elder Mu, it's not that I'm unwilling to explain the Liy Family's array formation method, but array cultivation is nothing like cultivating the Martial Dao, nor is it like alchemy or herb cultivation. It's not something that can be learned merely by having good talent or ample resources; the effort and time required far exceed what an ordinary person can imagine!

"As for the Demon-Catching Array needed to refine a Celestial Demon Bone, by referring to the family's Secret Manual and utilizing the endless power of the mountains and rivers at the Secret Realm Center, I can barely lay a crude Grand Array to suppress Demon Qi. After all, it relies on the Celestial Demon Bone's own power to suppress itself!

"However, to refine this kind of Demon Prison Cage, one must, at the very least, master all three thousand array inscriptions thoroughly. One must also remember the precise sequence of each complex inscription, control the nuance and timing of engraving them, and prepare three thousand finely polished, completely identical Profound Truth Jade Particles.

"During the array setup, if even a single stroke of an inscription is flawed, if the sequence of any inscription is incorrect, if the nuance or timing of engraving is not perfectly controlled, or if even one Profound Truth Jade Particle is not exactly the same size as the others, the refinement of the Demon Prison Cage will fail. The entire process would need to be started over from scratch!"

Liy Ruo Ying added from the side, "Our family's old sect master became an Initial Grade Array Master a hundred years ago. Yet, in those hundred years, despite attempting to refine numerous Demon Prison

Cages, he has only ever succeeded once. Furthermore, that particular Demon Prison Cage, due to using extremely small Profound Truth Jade Particles, can at most trap a Late-Stage Tier Five Demon!

"The path of an Array Master is too profound and arduous, countless times more so than that of an Alchemist. Even just this one type of Demon-Catching Array is extremely difficult and obscure. Elder Mu, do you really want to learn?"

Before Lin Xuankong could speak, Zheng Yunrui, already feeling a headache, shook her head repeatedly and said, "Array Masters are indeed extremely rare. Even in the Rakshasa Kingdom, which is more prosperous than the Great Xia, my father has never heard of many Array Masters! Cultivating arrays requires far more dedication and time than alchemy. Unless a Martial Cultivator's Martial Dao is hindered and they cannot progress further, no one would choose to become an Array Master!

"Besides, as long as one has enough resources and is strong enough, there will naturally be opportunities to purchase treasures refined by Array Masters from others. Why bother learning it oneself? No one can master everything!"

Seeing them all speak this way, Lin Xuankong frowned and said, "Is being an Array Master really that difficult? Then I must learn!"

The three of them looked momentarily stunned.

Lin Xuankong thought to himself, Regardless of whether other arrays exist, this Demon-Catching Array that the Liy Family has mastered can lock down demons and even use the power of a Celestial Demon Bone to counter itself. The might of this array is simply divine and mysterious! Even if I focus on cultivating various martial arts in the future and may not be able to spend much time on arrays, as long as I learn it, I can pass this array down to my wife and children. Eventually, someone will be able to research and advance it! Learning more skills can never be a bad thing!

Thinking of this, he rummaged through Liy Ruoqing's Ghost Frog Pouch, took out a thick Secret Manual titled "Dragon Capturing Array," and began to read it. Whenever he encountered obscure parts, he asked Liy Ruoqing for a detailed explanation.

Moments later, the four of them headed towards the Secret Realm Center. Lin Xuankong, planning to study arrays, cut down some vines.

He had Liy Ruqing and Liy Ruo Ying use these vines to weave a rather large and soft couch.

Then, he summoned two Shadows of the Black Soul to carry the couch swiftly forward, while he sat comfortably on it, continuing to read the Secret Manual.

Seeing this, Zheng Yunrui and Liy Ruofeng, who were following behind, had very peculiar expressions.

Especially Liy Ruo Ying. Being an expert in the secret technique of activating the Black Soul Wondrous Jade, he naturally knew that while this technique was fine for short-term activation, prolonged use would consume considerable Qi Blood or True Qi.

At the very least, even at his Late-Fifth Layer cultivation and in normal condition, he could at most activate one Shadow of the Black Soul for the duration of half an incense stick!

But this Mu Shiba, merely for comfort, actually summoned two Shadows of the Black Soul? Even if he's at Sixth-Layer Perfection, he could sustain two Shadows of the Black Soul for half an incense stick's time at most, right? Such a waste of True Qi, in this perilous Ba Mountain Secret Realm, is simply... reckless! If his True Qi is depleted, and neither Big Brother nor I have recovered our strength, what if we run into another group of Tier Five Corpse Scorpions? That would be disastrous! Thinking this, Liy Ruo Ying sighed repeatedly.

Zheng Yunrui then exclaimed, "Brother Mu is truly extraordinary, being able to use Shadows of the Black Soul so casually while traveling. Even the Saintess of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect might not possess this kind of power!"

Hearing this, Liy Ruo Ying shook his head again. What is going on? This Mu Shiba's actions are bizarre, and Zheng Yunrui is definitely not thinking straight!

However, after half an incense stick's time had passed, Liy Ruo Ying became somewhat puzzled when he saw the two Shadows of the Black Soul still carrying the couch energetically.

After a full incense stick's time, Liy Ruo Ying's eyes were already filled with doubt.

An hour later, Liy Ruo Ying was utterly stunned!

Even Zheng Yunrui, who didn't understand the Black Soul Wondrous Jade, could guess that such a Miracle Jade capable of summoning powerful shadows must consume a significant amount of Qi Blood. But to sustain it for an entire hour? What did that even mean!?

Chapter 223: How Can Cultivation Improve So Fast? The Demon-Catching Array Can Trap a Great Demon_2

Liy Ruoqing, Liy Ruo Ying, and Zheng Yunrui were astonished as they journeyed. After traveling over a hundred miles, they finally found another Cold Pool.

Unfortunately, this pool only housed five or six Tier Five Corpse Scorpions. Therefore, Lin Xuankong, displeased with the meager harvest, collected only three drops of Heavy Water. As the group traveled further for over two hundred more miles and dealt with another Cold Pool, dusk began to set in.

On a hillside, a campfire blazed, and the four individuals each found a spot to rest.

Lin Xuankong put away the Demon Capturing Manual he had been skimming through—having read about a third of it—and then pulled out some Tier Three Demon Flesh from the Ghost Frog Pouch.

Liy Ruoqing, seeing this, tried to ingratiate himself, saying, "Elder Mu, in that Ghost Frog Pouch of mine you're holding, there are ten thousand pounds of Tier Three Demon Flesh, enough to feed dozens of people for months. When we reach the center of the Secret Realm, that Demon Flesh can also be used to set up a Demon-Catching Array!"

Lin Xuankong glanced at him. "Your Ghost Frog Pouch?"

Liy Ruoqing's face stiffened. "No, it's **your** Ghost Frog Pouch!"

Lin Xuankong ignored him. Lightning suddenly crackled in his hands. In no time, chunks of Tier Three Demon Flesh were rapidly cooked by the electricity. Moments later, over two thousand pounds of Tier Three Demon Flesh were piled on a rock.

Watching Lin Xuankong's Thunder Technique, Liy Ruoqing couldn't help but feel puzzled. In Great Marsh Prefecture, it seems only the Yin Talisman Sect uses Thunder Techniques. But the strongest in the Yin Talisman Sect, the Yin Talisman Sect Leader, is only at the Fifth Layer Late Stage. Who exactly is this Mu Shiba? Why does he also possess Thunder Technique?

Just as he was staring at Lin Xuankong with a face full of doubt, Lin Xuankong turned his head and glanced at him. "What are you looking at?"

Liy Ruoqing shivered. He wouldn't dare voice his suspicions about Mu Shiba's identity, so he quickly improvised, "Elder Mu, you don't actually need to cook the Demon Flesh before storing it. The Ghost Frog Pouch can keep Demon Flesh fresh for over ten years without it spoiling!"

Lin Xuankong couldn't be bothered with the idle talker. He gave a piece to Zheng Yunrui and sat down to eat the Demon Flesh himself.

Initially, Zheng Yunrui and the other two were fine. But after about the time it takes for half an incense stick to burn, Zheng Yunrui, who was gnawing on her piece of Demon Flesh, had completely forgotten to chew.

She stared blankly at Lin Xuankong as he continuously devoured the Demon Flesh, silently counting. Seventy pieces... no, seventy-one... seventy-four... eighty-one pieces... Oh my god! Is Brother Mu's stomach a bottomless pit? How can he eat nearly a thousand pounds of Demon Flesh without his belly growing at all? Where did it all go?

Liy Ruoqing, who had just advised Lin Xuankong against cooking the Demon Flesh, was stunned. So, Mu Shiba cooked the Demon Flesh not to preserve it, but to eat it immediately? Is this guy even human? He ate fifteen hundred pounds in the blink of an eye!

A few moments later, all two thousand-plus pounds of Demon Flesh had entered his stomach. Lin Xuankong rubbed his belly in satisfaction.

Ever since the Qi Blood in his Life Plate reached 500,000, he had never indulged like this, always trying to conserve Demon Flesh. Now that his Qi Blood has condensed into True Qi, it has freed up ten times the storage capacity. I can significantly enhance this trump card again!

He exhaled comfortably, then sat happily on the soft couch and began to cultivate silently. The two shadows who had been carrying the couch prostrated themselves on the ground, one in front and one behind him, acting as bodyguards.

Zheng Yunrui, Liy Ruoqing, and Liy Ruo Ying stared at Lin Xuankong with puzzled expressions. They found Mu Shiba's various actions incredibly strange and mysterious. We completely can't understand him, can't see through him at all!

「At dawn」

The sky was faintly lit. Lin Xuankong, who was silently cultivating, suddenly stirred and opened his eyes. He looked at his Life Plate with some surprise.

[Realm: Transcendence Fifth Layer Early Stage]

[Yin Talisman Technique: Returning to the Essence 8/450]

[Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Attained Minor Success 166/500]

[True Qi: 56,498/500,000]

[Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique: Entering the Hall 77/100]

[Blood Eating Technique: Entering the Hall 98/100]

[Blood-Burning Secret Technique: Entering the Hall 27/100]

All his Cultivation Techniques and abilities—except for Heart Thought strength, Eight Gates Celestial Eye, and Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique, which were unaffected by his personal cultivation—had their improvement speed significantly increased after today's cultivation session!

The Yin Talisman Technique, whose proficiency could previously only increase by three or four points each session, had directly increased by seven points today. This was an improvement in cultivation speed of nearly sixty to seventy percent. The same applied to other techniques, such as the Longevity Technique, Bone Roar Technique, Blood Burning Technique, and Blood Eating Technique!

Lin Xuankong's eyes filled with astonishment. When cultivating the Martial Dao, shouldn't the cultivation speed slow down the further one progresses? After all, in Martial Dao cultivation, the more advanced one becomes, the greater the improvements are, and thus it should definitely be harder to make progress. Otherwise, how could Great Marsh Prefecture have only a handful of Tier Six Martial Cultivators? But why did my cultivation speed skyrocket after I entered the Fifth Layer?

Frowning in contemplation, he mused, Recently, aside from using the Heavy Water Spiritual Object to advance, I haven't consumed any Treasure Medicine, nor have I received guidance from any experts. In that case, could it be because when I used the Heavy Water Spiritual Object to advance to the Fifth Layer, I formed a Heavy Water Vein?

Understanding this point, his face lit up with joy. Thankfully, I didn't rush to advance back then. Instead, I waited until I obtained an Innate Spiritual Object before formally advancing to the Fifth Layer. Otherwise, I definitely wouldn't have this kind of cultivation speed!

With this cultivation speed, I'll probably be close to Sixth-Layer Perfection in two months at most. At that time, I'll truly be a Sixth-Layer Perfection powerhouse, unrivaled in Great Marsh Prefecture! Then, why would I need to worry about the Paper Tiger Gang, the Guo Family, the Feng Family, or Prefect Liy...

Chapter 224: How Can Cultivation Improve So Fast? The Demon-Catching Array Can Trap a Great Demon_3

The power of this Heavy Water Spiritual Object is incredible. It seems that this time, I must seek diligently in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm for more Heavy Water Spiritual Objects. Although I've reached the Fifth Layer, Young Lady and Yu Fei still haven't. And in the future, for the dozens of children we might have! It's always good to prepare more of such precious Spiritual Objects!

Feeling a surge of motivation, he instructed the shadow to rise. He then pulled the sleeping Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying, who were by a giant rock, to their feet. "Let's go! On to the next Cold Pool!"

「In the blink of an eye, more than ten days had already passed.」

With Lin Xuankong's Cultivation Speed greatly increased, he no longer felt the urgency to head to the Secret Realm Center.

After all, Tier Six Corpse Scorpions are there. And who knows if, after all these years, there might even be Tier Seven Demon Scorpions at the center? To be on the safe side, Lin Xuankong naturally wanted to improve his strength and prepare thoroughly before heading to the Secret Realm Center! Moreover, Heavy Water Spiritual Objects are so miraculous; of course, he wanted to collect more!

So, over these ten-plus days, he wound his way for many hundreds of miles. Of the numerous Cold Pools marked on Zheng Yunrui's map, he had visited almost one-twentieth, turning each of those Cold Pools inside out!

During this time, he naturally encountered many teams of Cultivators. Not every Martial Cultivator, upon seeing the Profound Phoenix Flame, would head to the assembly point. The ones who actually went were mostly official Martial Cultivators or those connected to the officials.

However, the teams of Cultivators Lin Xuankong encountered, though composed of formidable Fourth and Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators, still struggled against Tier Five Corpse Scorpions.

Thus, at every Cold Pool he visited, there was always at least one team of Cultivators watching from afar as Lin Xuankong and his group slaughtered Corpse Scorpions. Then, they would see his party of four 'plunder' the Cold Pool and swagger off.

It's not that these Martial Cultivators didn't want to compete with Lin Xuankong and his men. The main reason was that Lin Xuankong's two 'slaves' had reputations that were too formidable. It was no joke; with the Master of the Great Marsh Hall and the Law Enforcement Hall Master of the Black Tiger Gang present, what clueless team of Martial Cultivators would dare compete for resources with two Hall Masters from the Black Tiger Gang!

After these ten-plus days, the amount of Heavy Water Spiritual Objects Lin Xuankong had collected had impressively reached a full eighty-two drops!

「On this day,」

Lin Xuankong was sitting on a soft couch, channeling True Qi to outline Inscriptions of the Dragon Capturing Array in the void before him, when he suddenly felt a flicker in his mind's Life Plate.

[Array: Demon-Catching Array: Entry Level 1/3,000]

Immediately after, the four words 'Vigorous in Old Age' faintly shimmered.

[Array: Demon-Catching Array: Entry Level 1/50]

Lin Xuankong couldn't help but feel a wave of emotion. Liy Ruoqing and Zheng Yunrui really hadn't been exaggerating. The path of Arrays was indeed far more difficult than Elixir crafting! No wonder that 'multi-talented' old Gang Leader of the Black Tiger Gang had spent a hundred years yet was still merely an Initial Grade Array Master! This Array Cultivation actually required a level of proficiency comparable to when I cultivated the Pine Crane Longevity Technique! And I actually had to study for more than ten full days, memorizing all three thousand incredibly complex Inscriptions, before the Array finally appeared in my Life Plate! However, now that this Array was in my Life Plate, my learning speed would be more than sixty times faster! I would far surpass that old Black Tiger Gang leader's learning speed!

Just as he was deep in thought, he suddenly sensed something and looked ahead.

「A moment later,」

About twenty to twenty-five miles away, a group of dozens of Martial Cultivators was rushing in his direction.

Among these fifty-odd Martial Cultivators, nearly a quarter were Fifth Layer, while most of the others were Late Stage Fourth Layer. However, every single one of them had a look of utter panic, fleeing in disarray. Nearly half had faces tinged with a purple-black aura, clearly afflicted by Corpse Scorpion Venom!

A dozen Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators and dozens of Late Stage Fourth Layer ones, beaten to such a state? The ones chasing them are probably Tier Six Demons at the very least!

Lin Xuankong slightly raised his hand, signaling the others to stop. He then stood on the soft couch, looking closely at the incoming group.

Chapter 225: Why Should I Save the Saintess? The Saintess Gave Too Much!

Lin Xuankong's Eight Gates Celestial Eye could see extremely far. Naturally, Zheng Yunrui and the other two could not clearly see the dozens of Martial Cultivators rapidly approaching. However, upon seeing 'Mu Shiba' raise his hand, the three of them stood still without hesitation.

「Not long after,」

those dozens of Martial Cultivators came running, stopping a few miles away from the three. Only then did Zheng Yunrui, Liy Ruoqing, and Liy Ruo Ying understand why Lin Xuankong had told them to stop.

Thinking of how Lin Xuankong could detect the situation tens of breaths earlier, the three of them looked at Lin Xuankong once again, their eyes filled with admiration.

Lin Xuankong spoke, "Do you recognize these Martial Cultivators?"

Zheng Yunrui took a few careful glances and said in surprise, "It seems to be Vice City Lord Zhou Zhenghu of Prison Dragon City, Vice City Lord Xie San Kun of Ba City, and City Lord Cold Blood Robe of Wine City, among others. Among these fifty or so people, there are actually over a dozen Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators, mostly around Mid-grade!"

Lin Xuankong frowned slightly. The position where these dozens of people stood was right in the direction of the next Cold Pool. "Let's go take a look!"

「A moment later,」

the four had approached those fifty or so Martial Cultivators. Noticing someone approaching, the fifty or so Martial Cultivators who were using Zhengyuan Grass to detoxify themselves looked over warily. Upon seeing the four's faces clearly, they immediately became serious.

Among them, the most powerful, Wine City's City Lord, Cold Blood Robe, who was at the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer, directly stood up and respectfully cupped his hands towards them, "So, it's Hall Master

Liy of the Black Tiger Gang Great Marsh Hall and Law Enforcement Hall Master Ruo Ying. Blood Robe pays respects!"

The other dozen Fifth Layer Early Stage and Mid-grade Martial Cultivators also stood up one after another, respectfully cupping their hands when they saw Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying.

The remaining thirty or so Martial Cultivators, though not introducing themselves, looked at Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying with respect and awe.

The Black Tiger Gang, being the unchallenged largest gang in the Great Marsh Prefecture, along with having Prefect Liy as a figurehead, naturally commanded respect from everyone present.

However, seeing the two Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang standing beside a stranger lying on a soft couch, everyone's faces showed not only respect but also some confusion.

In their impression, these two Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang were of the highest status and power.

But now they were standing beside an unknown young Martial Cultivator, and the young man was comfortably sitting while they were standing? Is the young man injured and receiving special care? Or is he a descendant of the Liy Family?

For a moment, everyone looked at Lin Xuankong, their faces full of questions.

At this moment, noting Cold Blood Robe and many Martial Cultivators greeting them, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying only nodded slightly and did not respond.

These two Black Tiger Hall Masters had already been completely subdued by Lin Xuankong's seemingly infinite True Qi, immense appetite, strange Pupil Technique, numerous Demon Pearls, and various other means and abilities during their time following him.

Although both of them still felt troubled about being 'slaves', in front of so many people, with Lin Xuankong not having spoken yet, they naturally didn't dare to overstep!

Lin Xuankong glanced at everyone and then looked at Liy Ruoqing. "Find out what's going on."

Liy Ruoqing respectfully cupped his hands and then looked towards the dozens of Martial Cultivators.

The dozens of Martial Cultivators, including multiple City Lords, were all surprised upon seeing this.

It seemed he wasn't a descendant of the Liy Family, nor was he receiving special care for being injured... because this young man could command two Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang, and without his permission, these two prestigious Hall Masters didn't even dare to speak?

Who is this person? What background does he have? What level of power does he hold to wield such authority?

Even Wine City's Cold Blood Robe, Prison Dragon City's Zhou Zhenghu, Ba City's Xie San Kun, and other Mid-grade Fifth Layer City Lords looked at Lin Xuankong with astonishment.

With a serious expression, Liy Ruoqing asked, "City Lord Han, Zhou Hengzhu, City Lord Xie, City Lord Ling, you are all Fifth Layer experts, and the others around you are also strong individuals. Why are you all poisoned and wounded?"

Wine City's Cold Blood Robe withdrew his gaze from Lin Xuankong with a peculiar expression. He then sighed and cupped his hands towards Liy Ruoqing. "We fifty or so gathered together can fight against a Corpse Scorpion at the Early Stage or Mid-grade of the Sixth Layer! However, we recently encountered a seventh-rank Great Demon. Even sacrificing over ten Late Stage Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators wasn't enough to approach it. It's truly shameful to speak of!"

"A seventh-rank Great Demon?"

Liy Ruoqing's expression changed upon hearing this, his eyes showing deep fear.

His current strength was Late Stage Fifth Layer, nearing Perfection. Such a Realm and power could easily suppress any of the fifty or so Martial Cultivators present!

However, the strength of a Late Stage Fifth Layer compared to a seventh-rank Great Demon was quite weak, utterly inadequate!

But... Liy Ruoqing glanced at Lin Xuankong and thought silently, Mu Shiba should be at Sixth-Layer Perfection, combined with his various strange and powerful abilities, as well as four Black Soul Wondrous Jades and numerous Demon Pearls, he should be able to overwhelm a seventh-rank Great Demon, or at least fight to a draw. In that case, with the help of many Martial Cultivators, we could definitely defeat the Great Demon!

The most important thing is, my second brother and I are being seen as 'slaves' by so many people. Don't we need to save face?

Chapter 226: Why Should I Save the Saintess? The Saintess Gave Too Much!_2

If Mu Shiba were to display his extraordinary strength, then in the eyes of others, the fact that we are his 'slaves' would not be so shameful. Perhaps some might even envy us... After all, not everyone can cling to the thigh of a truly top-tier expert!

While Liy Ruoqing's thoughts were turning, Zheng Yunrui's eyes lit up. She recalled the earlier Profound Phoenix Flame and couldn't help but ask, "They say this location hasn't yet reached the Secret Realm Center, and even a Tier Six Corpse Scorpion is extremely rare. How did you all encounter a Tier Seven Great Demon? Or, is this Tier Seven Great Demon related to the earlier Profound Phoenix Flame?"

Zhou Zhenghu clearly recognized this young lady from the Zheng Family Trading Company and replied immediately, "It is indeed related to the earlier Profound Phoenix Flame. The Tier Seven Great Demon we plan to deal with this time is not a Corpse Scorpion from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, but a Brown Bear Demon Person. Because that Tier Seven Brown Bear Demon Person injured the Celestial Sect Saintess, Elder Hua Yanluo therefore summoned the Martial Cultivators in the Secret Realm to collectively fight against that Tier Seven Great Demon."

Zheng Yunrui was surprised. "Injured the Celestial Sect Saintess, and Elder Hua Yanluo commanded everyone to fight together? Can it really be as I previously guessed, that even teaming up with Elder Hua, the Saintess couldn't defeat that Demon?"

Zhou Zhenghu nodded. "The Saintess didn't know it was a Tier Seven Great Demon before engaging that Demon, so she was caught off guard and injured. Now, the Saintess has gathered more than six hundred Martial Cultivators above the late stage of the Fourth Layer from the two prefectures. She has also set

up a total of four defensive lines and prepared a large number of Corpse Scorpions. They plan to use Corpse Scorpion Venom to suppress the Demon's Realm, and then completely eradicate that Demon!"

"Gathered more than six hundred Martial Cultivators above the late stage of the Fourth Layer? So many powerful cultivators!" Zheng Yunrui's eyes showed astonishment.

Lin Xuankong couldn't help but be moved upon hearing this. This Great Marsh Prefecture and Nanyuan Prefecture indeed fall under the Celestial Sect's jurisdiction! Over six hundred Martial Cultivators above the late stage of the Fourth Layer... Even the Black Tiger Gang, reputed to be the number one gang in Great Marsh, couldn't gather such a number. The Black Tiger Gang only has a few late-stage Fifth Layer cultivators and controls many sects and families. It's estimated that even if the Black Tiger Gang summoned all its Third Layer Martial Cultivators, they couldn't gather six hundred people; even sixty would be a challenge! Yet the Celestial Sect Saintess easily gathered over six hundred powerful cultivators—her status is indeed extraordinary and her power immense—unmatched by anyone in Great Marsh Prefecture!

Zhou Zhenghu then respectfully clasped his hands towards Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying, saying, "Hall Master Liy and Hall Master Ruo Ying, both of you are powerful late-stage Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators and hold Demon Pearls. Your strength far exceeds ours. Even when compared to the Stewards of the Holy Dragon Association, you two are by no means inferior. If you two join our team and head to the second defensive line, our chances of dealing with that Tier Seven Great Demon will definitely increase significantly!"

The group of Martial Cultivators couldn't help but look fervently at Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying after hearing this. If the two powerful Hall Masters from the Black Tiger Gang joined them, their chances of using Corpse Venom to deal with the Tier Seven Great Demon would indeed be much higher!

Liy Ruoqing's and Liy Ruo Ying's expressions changed upon hearing this.

Liy Ruoqing clasped his hands towards Lin Xuankong and said, "Elder Mu, the Celestial Sect Saintess holds an extraordinary status and is also the Third Princess of the Great Xia Dynasty. If we can save her, it would be a great service to the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect and the Great Xia Dynasty!"

Lin Xuankong frowned and thought for a moment. He had come to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm and was preparing to head to the Secret Realm Center for Cultivation and to increase his strength, seeking the Heavy Water Spiritual Object and greater opportunities... As for the Third Princess's crisis... I don't even know her. She can be as great as she likes; why should I risk my life for her?

Thinking of this, he frowned and said, "We still need to head near the Secret Realm Center. Regarding the Third Princess's situation, there are over six hundred late-stage Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators involved. Even by just stalling, they can eventually wear down a Tier Seven Great Demon to its death! We don't need to get involved. Let's continue on our way!"

Upon hearing this, a faint disappointment flickered in Liy Ruoqing's eyes. He was still hoping Elder Mu would demonstrate his divine might, which would give him and Ruo Ying some prestige! But with Elder Mu's order, how could he dare defy it!

He could only look at Zhou Zhenghu and the others and say coldly, "This Elder Mu currently has important matters to attend to, so Ruo Ying and I truly cannot spare the time. We can only hope for your victory and wish you success in serving the Saintess and repelling the Tier Seven Great Demon!"

Zhou Zhenghu and the others couldn't help but show disappointment on their faces upon hearing this.

The dozens of Martial Cultivators felt likewise. However, seeing Liy Ruoqing needing to consult the young man for every decision made their suspicions grow.

Seeing the four about to leave, Cold Blood Robe couldn't help but speak out, "The Saintess Decree offers extremely generous rewards! That includes a Ghost Frog King's Demon Pearl, three ordinary Demon Pearls, hundreds of thousands of catties of Tier Three Demon Flesh, and the Second Grade position of Saint-Protector General!"

In his eagerness, he repeated the various rewards Xiao Ying'Er had mentioned, looking expectantly at Liy Ruo Ying and Liy Ruoqing.

After hearing about the rewards, Liy Ruoqing couldn't help but swallow heavily. A Saint-Protector General... a position and salary comparable to a Prefect! Plus various Demon Pearls and a vast amount of Demon Flesh! Even as the Master of the Great Marsh Hall, accustomed to grand scenes, he was still somewhat overwhelmed by such rewards! But his first request for Lin Xuankong to join the team had already been rejected. How could he dare to ask again? He could only remain silent!

Lin Xuankong's heartbeat also quickened upon hearing those rewards.

Chapter 227: Why Should I Save the Saintess? She Gives Too Much!_3

Hundreds of thousands of catties of Tier Three Demon Flesh, the Ghost Frog Demon Pearl, three Demon Fox Demon Pearls, plus the esteemed position and generous salary of the Saint-Protector General... Lately, my appetite has skyrocketed. With over two hundred thousand catties of Demon Flesh disappearing by several thousand catties daily, replenishing with hundreds of thousands of catties of Tier Three Demon Flesh would be perfect! During this period of hunting Corpse Scorpions, those small Corpse Scorpions had little meat and were highly toxic. Though the taste was decent, it wasn't enough to fill the gaps between my teeth. Now the Saintess offers hundreds of thousands of catties of Tier Three Demon Flesh!

Especially those three Demon Fox Demon Pearls and the Ghost Frog Demon Pearl. Compared individually, the Demon Fox Demon Pearls naturally don't match the combat power of the Ghost Frog Demon Pearl. But there are three of them! If I obtain three more Demon Fox Demon Pearls, wouldn't that mean I can summon a total of ten Five-eyed Demon Foxes, capable of shooting fifty terrifying red light beams simultaneously? Under such concentrated fire...

The rewards given by this Saintess are really too much! These rewards are excessively enticing! No wonder these Martial Cultivators are willing to risk their lives against the extremely dangerous Tier Seven Great Demon!

However, the Celestial Sect Saintess and Elder Hua from the Celestial Sect likely possess numerous powerful Treasures. If even they were defeated and needed to enlist a large number of Martial Cultivators for combined resistance, it's better for me, at the Early Stage of the Fifth Layer, to proceed cautiously! Although the Saintess's rewards are thrilling, I must not rush. I should find ways to further increase my strength and proceed only when I am absolutely confident!

"Continue towards the Cold Pool!" Lin Xuankong instructed. The shadows in front of and behind his soft couch immediately lifted it and carried it off into the distance.

Zheng Yunrui naturally followed without hesitation. Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying, feeling somewhat frustrated, had no choice but to follow as well.

After they walked away, Zhou Zhenghu, Cold Blood Robe, Xie San Kun, and several other City Lords shook their heads repeatedly, lamenting that some people didn't cherish such an opportunity to connect with the Saintess. Even if it meant risking life and limb, winning the Saintess's favor would ensure a bright future for their entire families!

"This mysterious man is young. Even if he can subdue Hall Master Liy, his strength is probably at most at the Early Stage of the Sixth Layer, still not enough to deal with the Tier Seven Great Demon!" Zhou Zhenghu said with a frown.

"If he can't even grasp such an opportunity, his strength must be insufficient... Forget it; relying on ourselves is better than relying on others. Let's rest for a while and quickly head to the second defense line. There's more manpower there, so the chances should be better!" Cold Blood Robe sighed.

In the distance, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying glanced at Lin Xuankong stealthily, both starting to doubt Lin Xuankong's strength at this moment.

If this 'Mu Shiba' really is at Sixth-Layer Perfection, combined with the four pieces of Black Soul Wondrous Jade and numerous Demon Pearls, he might indeed be able to fight the Tier Seven Great Demon... The position of Saint-Protector General is higher than Prefect, the salary is extremely generous, and the rewards are incredibly abundant! His cautious behavior likely indicates his strength is insufficient! Liy Ruoqing thought.

Sitting on the soft couch, Lin Xuankong continued to use strands of True Qi to outline Inscriptions in the void before him. As the Inscriptions were drawn continuously, new insights kept emerging in his Brain Mansion. With the Dragon Capturing Array now in his Life Plate and boosted by the sixty-fold Vigorous in Old Age enhancement, his comprehension of arrays was progressing at a remarkable speed!

「More than an hour later.」

The group stopped by the Cold Pool. Lin Xuankong summoned seven Demon Fox demon creatures. After they beat two Tier Five Corpse Scorpions to death, he had Liy Ruoqing dive to search for Spiritual Objects, while he took out the Demon Prison Cage from his Ghost Frog Pouch. Watching the cage, which could easily suppress Tier Five Corpse Scorpions, he suddenly had a bold idea.

Chapter 228: Surpassing All Artifact Refiners in Great Xia, The Mist of Tier Nine Corpse Scorpion

More than an hour later, the dripping wet Liy Ruoqing leaped out of the Cold Pool. He held two drops of Heavy Water Spiritual Objects in his hand as he walked towards Lin Xuankong, the Hall Master of the Black Tiger Gang Great Marsh Hall. Liy Ruoqing possessed neither Lin Xuankong's Eight Gates Celestial Eye nor his mysterious Thunder Technique. Consequently, searching for Heavy Water Spiritual Objects was naturally much more arduous for him than for Lin Xuankong. However, worried about being casually killed by Mu Shiba, he and Liy Ruo Ying acted more proactively and earnestly.

At this moment, just as Liy Ruoqing was about to hand the Heavy Water Spiritual Objects to Lin Xuankong, a look of astonishment flashed across his face. Lin Xuankong had already taken out a considerable amount of Profound Iron from the Ghost Frog Pouch and was using Rune Thunder to continuously etch Inscriptions onto it. Those Inscriptions were clearly the incredibly complex Inscriptions of the Dragon Capturing Array!

Martial Cultivators who practice different Martial Dao naturally have different forms of True Qi. For example, Liy Ruoqing's True Qi manifested as Tiger Claw True Qi, while Yan Yunfei and others had True Qi in the form of Sword Aura. Lin Xuankong's True Qi, however, was Rune Thunder imbued with profound Runes! At this moment, as Lin Xuankong continuously channeled his power, the Rune Thunder gradually etched Inscriptions onto the surface of the Profound Iron.

Seeing this, Liy Ruoqing couldn't help but exclaim in astonishment, "Elder Mu has already memorized the Inscriptions of the Dragon Capturing Array and can even skillfully etch them? How... how could it be so quick? I've been learning the Dragon Capturing Array with my Second Uncle since I was a child. It took me several years just to proficiently memorize the form of each Inscription, and then over a decade more before I could guarantee I could skillfully engrave most of them! The path of Arrays is arduous and difficult to cultivate... I never expected Elder Mu to possess such strong Array Talent!"

Lin Xuankong shook his head slightly. What does this have to do with Array Talent? he thought. The reason I mastered the three thousand Runes so quickly is, of course, because I was extremely dedicated, reciting them for seven to eight Hours every day! With the Vigorous in Old Age enhancement, my eight Hours a day are equivalent to hundreds of Hours for others. Naturally, I'm very fast!

"I have an idea and would like to hear your opinion," Lin Xuankong said, looking at Liy Ruoqing.

Hearing Elder Mu say this, Liy Ruoqing still felt somewhat flattered, even though he had begun to suspect whether Mu Shiba was truly at Sixth-Layer Perfection. In the past ten-odd days, Mu Shiba had never been so courteous. Feeling somewhat wistful and touched, Liy Ruoqing cupped his hands and said, "Elder Mu, please speak freely. How could I dare to offer any suggestions? At most, I can only share some of my immature and humble views."

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly and pointed to the Demon Prison Cage beside them. "This Demon Prison Cage can currently only suppress Tier Five Demons. The fundamental reason isn't that the Miniature Demon-Catching Array is insufficiently powerful, but rather because the Profound Truth Jade Particles that provide the Array Power haven't been inscribed with Demon-Catching Inscriptions. This is what has reduced the Demon Prison Cage's might. Is that correct?"

Liy Ruoqing nodded and said, "Indeed, it's because those Profound Truth Jade Particles were not inscribed with Array Inscriptions!

"The Demon Capturing Array's power is extremely strong. If it were powered by mountains and rivers, it could even affect the Celestial Demon Bone's Endless Demon Power, drawing upon the bone's own power to suppress itself! The true might of a Miniature Demon-Catching Array is naturally also extremely strong; it can do far more than just suppress Tier Five Demons!

"If my Second Uncle had used Profound Truth Jade Particles inscribed with Demon-Catching Inscriptions when refining the Demon Prison Cage back then, its power would have increased dozens of times, reaching the limits of a Micro Array, capable of suppressing even Tier Seven Demons!"

Speaking of this, Liy Ruoqing sighed, "It's just that Profound Truth Jade is extremely precious, produced only in the Central Divine Dynasty, east of the Boundaryless Mountain.

"And three thousand Profound Truth Jade Particles of perfectly identical size and shape can only be crafted in the workshops of some Major Sects within the Central Divine Dynasty.

"As for inscribing the corresponding Inscriptions on every single Profound Truth Jade Particle... these particles are thirty times smaller than a sesame seed. Inscribing such incredibly complex Inscriptions on them is something ordinary Martial Cultivators simply cannot achieve!"

Lin Xuankong raised his eyebrows and said, "In that case, if I were to replace the Profound Truth Jade Particles in this Demon Prison Cage with Inscription Particles, wouldn't its power instantly increase dozens of times? It would even have a chance to trap Tier Six Demons, or perhaps even Tier Seven Demons!"

Upon hearing this, Liy Ruoqing immediately and repeatedly shook his head. "Forgive my bluntness, Elder Mu, but that's just wishful thinking...

"If you alter even a single Profound Truth Jade Particle on this Demon Prison Cage, the entire Micro Array will instantly fail!

"Unless you can now find three thousand Profound Truth Jade Particles of identical size and then inscribe each one with Dragon Capturing Array Inscriptions! According to the Dragon Capturing Array Secret Manual, in the Central Divine Dynasty, top-tier Array Masters and Artifact Refiners from Major Sects can indeed collaborate to create such Profound Truth Jade Particles and refine such Demon Prison Cages. However, no one in the Great Xia Dynasty has ever accomplished it!"

Liy Ruo Ying, who was standing nearby, quickly chimed in, "Elder Mu, this Demon Prison Cage is the only Demon-Catching Treasure my Second Uncle has successfully refined in a hundred years. It's capable of easily suppressing Tier Five Demons! While it might not be an invaluable treasure, it's the only one of its kind in the entire Great Marsh Prefecture, and indeed, the entire Southern Border!"

"If you plan to alter it, please at least wait until we've left the Secret Realm and obtained three thousand Profound Truth Jade Particles!"

Seeing both of them speak so earnestly, a faint smile touched Lin Xuankong's lips. "The countless Artifact Refiners of the Great Xia Dynasty have been unable to process Profound Truth Jade Particles into perfectly uniform sizes and shapes... I, for one, would like to try!"

Chapter 229: Surpassing All Artifact Refiners in Great Xia, The Mist of Tier Nine Corpse Scorpion - Part 2

The two Liy Family Brothers frowned tightly upon hearing him speak, their eyes full of doubt. But considering Mu Shiba's numerous powerful techniques, neither dared to refute him directly. If it were anyone else, they would have already scorned and ridiculed him with disdain!

Really taking himself seriously! There are thousands of Artifact Refiners in the Great Xia Dynasty, and not a single one can handle such special requirements of these Profound Truth Jade Particles. Yet you, just a Martial Cultivator, are so confident? This Mu Shiba is truly too arrogant! Liy Ruoqing shook his head silently.

Lin Xuankong then looked at Zheng Yunrui, "Miss Zheng, you have two Profound Truth Jades. I plan to purchase those two Profound Truth Jades for a set of Exorcism Armor, how about it?"

Upon hearing this, Zheng Yunrui was momentarily stunned, shaking her head repeatedly, "Brother Mu, if you plan to use the Profound Truth Jade, just take them. In the past two days, you have already given me six drops of Heavy Water Spiritual Object, and the value of those spiritual objects has exceeded the value of the two Profound Truth Jades!"

After she finished speaking, she handed the two Profound Truth Jades to Lin Xuankong without hesitation.

"I came to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm this time just to try my luck. I initially thought that obtaining one drop of Heavy Water Spiritual Object would be an immense fortune! Now that I've already gotten six drops of Heavy Water Spiritual Object, if all these Heavy Water Spiritual Objects are refined into Heavy Water Treasure Pills and then resold by my father, they might be exchanged for four Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jades!"

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong didn't stand on ceremony. He took the Profound Truth Jades, his eyes revealing a trace of anticipation, and said to the three, "Then let's continue our journey, this time heading directly towards the center of the Secret Realm!"

Two Shadows of the Black Soul immediately rose from the ground, lifting the palanquin. Lin Xuankong sat on it, his gaze fixed on the two egg-sized Profound Truth Jades.

In the next moment, the Profound Truth Jades enlarged continuously before his eyes.

In an instant, the Profound Truth Jades had expanded to over a hundred feet across, filling his entire field of view—under the operation of the Eight Gates Celestial Eye, even a drop of water could be magnified to the size of a millstone, let alone such large Profound Truth Jades!

Lin Xuankong's right hand gradually condensed a very minute but tremendously powerful Thunder Blade. With the Yin Talisman Technique cultivated to the current realm, controlling thunder to form a Thunder Blade was naturally a breeze!

CHCHCHCH!

The sound of the minuscule Thunder Blade cutting through the jade stone echoed.

In an instant, the egg-sized Profound Truth Jade had been divided into two, four, eight, sixteen, thirty-two pieces...

Walking beside the palanquin, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying both furrowed their brows.

Liy Ruoqing silently mused. What a waste, an absolute waste! That precious Profound Truth Jade, ruined just like that! Does Mu Shiba really intend to refine three thousand Jade Particles himself? What a pipe dream! Not a single Artifact Refiner in the entire Great Xia Dynasty could achieve this. If you can do it, I'll take your surname!

「In the blink of an eye, two days passed.」

Near the Secret Realm Center, on a small mountain, Lin Xuankong stood atop it, gazing towards the heart of the Secret Realm.

He saw that most of the hundreds of miles of mountains and rivers at the Secret Realm Center were covered in a peculiar mist. This mist flashed with seven colors, intertwined like countless strands of colorful smoke. The mist's colors were extremely vibrant, exuding an eerie and evil aura.

Zheng Yunrui spoke, "Brother Mu, that mist is the Seven Poisonous Fogs of the Ba Mountain Secret Realm Center!

"It is said that over a hundred years ago, a Tier Nine Late Stage Corpse Scorpion Demon attempted to forcibly refine the Celestial Demon Bone but failed. Its Divine Soul was annihilated by the Demon Qi of the Celestial Demon Bone. These Seven Poisonous Fogs were emitted from the corpse of that Tier Nine Corpse Scorpion, and countless Corpse Scorpions in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm also derived from its body!

"The closer you get to the Secret Realm Center and the Celestial Demon Bone, the stronger the toxicity of these Seven Poisonous Fogs becomes! Although True Qi can block the Poisonous Fog outside the body, the closer you get to the center, the faster the Poisonous Fog will erode and destroy True Qi. Even Martial Cultivators at the Seventh Layer or Eighth Layer need to prepare a large amount of Qi Blood Elixirs and Demon Flesh to even get close to the Celestial Demon Bone!"

Lin Xuankong stared at the Poisonous Fog, thinking to himself. Poisonous Fog emitted from the corpse of a Tier Nine Great Demon? My Immortal Tier Poison Resistance should be sufficient! However, the Celestial Demon Bone alone, with just the Demon Qi it emits, can annihilate the Divine Soul of a Tier Nine Great Demon... How powerful must this Celestial Demon Bone be? Additionally, the center may

harbor Tier Six Corpse Scorpions or even Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions. Facing a Late Stage Tier Six Corpse Scorpion now, I would struggle to win... I must prepare adequately before heading to the Secret Realm Center!

"Let's rest here for a few days. I've prepared the Jade Particles; I just need to carve the Inscriptions!" Lin Xuankong said.

Sitting on the palanquin, he took out over four thousand Jade Particles, much smaller than sesame seeds, from the Ghost Frog Pouch.

These smooth Jade Particles glistened with a milky white sheen under the sunlight of the Secret Realm.

Upon hearing this, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying both frowned again.

In the past two days, they had seen Lin Xuankong using his Thunder Technique to cut and polish the Jade Particles.

Though they were Fifth Layer experts, lacking the potent Eye Power of the Eight Gates Celestial Eye, without utilizing Artifact Refining Tools, they naturally could not discern whether those minuscule Profound Truth Jade Particles, smaller than sesame seeds, were truly uniform in size and shape!

However, Liy Ruoqing, who had specialized in Arrays for over twenty years, was utterly certain at this moment. Without special Artifact Refining Tools, he couldn't achieve uniformity in three thousand Jade Particles, let alone himself. Even the old master couldn't do it. Not a single Artifact Refiner in the Great Xia Dynasty could, nor could the Artifact Refiners of the Central Divine Dynasty, without using Artifact Refining Tools! Handling such tiny Jade Particles until they are perfectly uniform, especially crafting three thousand of them all identical in size, is beyond human capability... The main point is, Mu Shiba had purely manually cut and polished them in just two days, producing over four thousand Jade Particles. Achieving uniform size with such a rough Refining Method in such a short time is absolutely impossible! If he could truly manage it, wouldn't that mean his Artifact Refining Talent not only surpassed mine and Second Uncle's but also that of all Artifact Refiners in Great Xia? How is that possible?

As Liy Ruoqing thought of this, he saw Mu Shiba already picking up an exceptionally tiny Jade Particle, ready to use the Thunder Blade to carve an Inscription on it!

Liy Ruqing couldn't help but curl his lip. It really looks like he's serious. This Mu Shiba truly intends to complete the Demon Prison Cage and enhance its power? Second Uncle specialized in this for a hundred years and couldn't achieve it. Can a guy with only twenty-odd days of Array training succeed? Ha! If I weren't afraid to demoralize you, I'd definitely humiliate you thoroughly. You are truly too arrogant!

Chapter 230: Mu Shiba's Invincible Stance

At this moment, in Lin Xuankong's vision, the more than four thousand Jade Particles, each several times smaller than sesame seeds, were all the size of fists and perfectly round!

Moreover, under the careful observation of the Eight Gates Celestial Eye, these Jade Particles were revealed to be completely identical in size. This made Lin Xuankong marvel; Yu Fei's Eight Gates Celestial Eye was indeed extremely suitable for Artifact Refining—at the very least, exceptionally suited for processing materials used in Artifact Refining!

This was only the Fifth Layer Realm of the Eight Gates Celestial Eye. If Yu Fei cultivated the Eight Gates Celestial Eye to a High Realm in the future, and its Eye Power became stronger, who knows what kind of miraculous sights would be seen once it was activated!

Additionally, with the thirtyfold enhancement, Yu Fei's cultivation of the Eight Gates Celestial Eye Secret Technique was progressing faster and faster. According to her, the next realm of the Eight Gates Celestial Eye was even more mysterious! Back then, those few Late Eighth Layer Demon Dao experts fought to the death for the legendary Sixth Celestial Eye—an Abnormal Technique that even they yearned for...

After contemplating for a while, Lin Xuankong calmed his Heart Spirit, recalling three thousand Array Inscriptions. Then, moving the Thunder Blade in his hand, he began inscribing on one of the 'fist-sized' Jade Particles.

「In the blink of an eye, another seven days passed.」

In the morning, after completing his cultivation of various Cultivation Techniques, Lin Xuankong continued to inscribe the Profound Truth Jade Particles.

In these seven days, he had already processed two thousand eight hundred of the more than four thousand Profound Truth Jade Particles.

Inscribing the Dragon Capturing Array Inscriptions was indeed not as easy as he had initially imagined. After all, he was operating on such tiny particles, and the Inscriptions were extremely complex. Even the simplest characters required ten to twenty-odd strokes, while more complex Inscriptions contained hundreds, or even several hundreds, of strokes!

At the beginning, at least seven or eight hundred Jade Particles had issues during the Inscription process, either due to slight deviations in the strokes or minor variances in pressure.

However, as he processed more and more Jade Particles, his understanding deepened, his skills became more adept, and his success rate steadily increased!

He had now completed the inscription of two thousand eight hundred Jade Particles, with only the last two hundred left!

[Array: Demon-Catching Array: Initial Grade Array 2/100]

These days, personally inscribing Array Inscriptions and experiencing array operations firsthand had continually improved his array proficiency. With a sixtyfold enhancement, he had advanced his array cultivation to the Initial Grade the day before, becoming a genuine Array Master!

Although this realm was temporarily not comparable to that of the old leader of the Black Tiger Gang, who had studied arrays for a hundred years, the speed of his progress was frighteningly fast. Liy Ruoqing, who had intermittently studied arrays for twenty years, was already far inferior to Lin Xuankong's Array Realm. Indeed, if the old leader of the Black Tiger Gang knew that someone had become an Initial Grade Array Master in just over twenty days, he would probably stare in disbelief on the spot!

「A few hours later,」

Lin Xuankong finished processing the last Profound Truth Jade Particle and then took out the Demon Prison Cage. The Thunder Blade in his hand flashed continuously, his gaze fixed on the Jade Particles of the Demon Prison Cage. Removing the original Jade Particles from the Demon Prison Cage required extreme care; a slight oversight, and the Thunder Blade's power could destroy the numerous Inscriptions on the Profound Iron Guardrail, rendering the entire Demon Prison Cage useless.

In the distance, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying, who were silently grumbling to themselves about Lin Xuankong, frowned as they saw him preparing to dismantle the Demon Prison Cage.

Liy Ruoqing, standing afar, couldn't help but call out, "Elder Mu, are you really going to destroy the Demon Prison Cage? Although your strength is formidable and you aren't concerned about a Tier Five Demon, this Demon Prison Cage is, after all, a Treasure. It would be too great a loss to destroy it!"

Lin Xuankong, however, paid him no heed. As his Thunder Blade flashed, the Jade Particles on the Demon Prison Cage immediately began to shatter, turning into jade powder.

The Demon Prison Micro-Array was destroyed. The Tier Five Corpse Scorpion suppressed inside immediately sprang up, vast amounts of Demon Qi and toxins dispersing from its body. But before it could attack, a Shadow of the Black Soul had already reached through the cage door, grabbed the Corpse Scorpion, locked it tightly, and then retreated far into the distance with it!

Lin Xuankong continued to activate the Thunder Blade. One Jade Particle after another shattered with a crisp sound. Moments later, all three thousand Jade Particles had turned into jade powder!

Liy Ruoqing sighed inwardly, lamenting his second uncle's hundred years of effort! That Mu Shiba was really beyond words! If I weren't too weak to defeat him, and if I hadn't sworn an oath not to betray him, I'd love to claw this wasteful guy to death!

At that moment, Liy Ruoqing saw 'Mu Shiba' pick up a new Jade Particle and embed it into one of the holes on the Profound Iron Guardrail of the Demon Prison Cage. This Jade Particle was slightly larger than the original and didn't fit completely, but under 'Mu Shiba's' True Qi control, it still adhered firmly in place.

Liy Ruoqing observed closely, and his expression subtly shifted. Regardless of whether the Jade Particles 'Mu Shiba' processed were consistent in size, or whether the Array Inscriptions he carved on them were perfect, at least the order in which he embedded the Jade Particles was correct! Just as this thought surfaced, Liy Ruoqing saw 'Mu Shiba' embedding the Jade Particles one after another. The sequence of embedding was, astonishingly, completely identical to the order he remembered!