

Stronger 241

Chapter 241: The Saintess Wants Me as Her Master? Emperor Xiaoo's Spirit Puppet Technique_2

"Ying'Er thanks Mr. Mu for his grace in saving me. Elder Hua and Qiing were disrespectful to you just now. Ying'Er apologizes to Mr. Mu on their behalf. I hope that you, sir, will be magnanimous and not hold a grudge against them!"

At this moment, Xiaoo Ying'Er, having realized the value of the treasure in Lin Xuankong's possession, unexpectedly apologized to him in front of numerous Martial Cultivators present,

which left the surrounding Martial Cultivators even more astonished.

That, after all, was the Celestial Sect Saintess and Third Princess of Great Xia! With her status, even the Little Yu King of Prince Yu's Mansion needed to treat her with courtesy and respect, yet she treated this Mu Shiba with such reverence and even apologized?!

Lin Xuankong was equally surprised by Xiaoo Ying'Er's humility. This Third Princess of Great Xia didn't even use the royal pronoun "This Palace" but referred to herself as "Ying'Er"...

However, after a moment's thought, he understood the reason for the Princess of Great Xia's courtesy towards him. It must be because of the Demon Prison Cage in his possession...

He cupped his hands slightly towards Xiaoo Ying'Er and said,

"Princess, there is no need for such humility. Mu Shiba feels rather embarrassed.

Now that the seventh-tier Great Demon has been captured, I wonder about the rewards promised by the princess?"

Upon hearing this, Xiaoo Ying'Er was momentarily stunned.

Mr. Mu Shiba obviously possesses such a powerful treasure. Why would he care about a mere three hundred thousand catties of Demon Flesh and a few Demon Pearls?

The treasure in his hand is far more precious than any Demon Pearl or three hundred thousand catties of Demon Flesh! With such a treasure, even the flesh of a seventh-tier Great Demon can be easily obtained!

What a peculiar man!

With these thoughts in mind, a gentle smile slowly appeared on her face. "Sir saved my life, so those supplies are naturally no problem!"

After saying that, she touched a spot near her slender waist, and a Silver Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch appeared in her hand.

"This Silver Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch has ten times the storage capacity of an ordinary Ghost Frog Pouch. Inside it are three hundred thousand catties of Demon Flesh, one Ghost Frog Demon Pearl, and three Demon Fox Demon Pearls. These supplies, along with this rather precious Silver Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch, are my tokens of gratitude! As for the position of Saint-Protector General..."

She reached into another Ghost Frog Pouch and took out a Jade Token inscribed with the characters "Saint-Protector," handing it to Lin Xuankong.

"Although this Saint Protection Jade Token is not as effective as the Holy Arrival Jade Token in terms of self-protection, it is made of Mid-grade Profound Truth Jade, which has twice the True Qi storage capacity of ordinary Profound Truth Jade, making it extremely rare! Moreover, seeing this token is akin to seeing me in person. Even the Celestial Sect Elders and those below must obey!"

Lin Xuankong accepted it without hesitation.

After probing it with his True Qi, he felt a surge of joy in his heart. Three hundred thousand catties of Demon Flesh!

Even with my current appetite, it would be enough to last over twenty days,

and it would be sufficient to replenish the storage of my Life Plate to its fullest again!

This Third Princess of Great Xia truly is a super, super little rich girl. She said three hundred thousand catties, and she really produced three hundred thousand catties of Demon Flesh immediately!

Furthermore, with four Demon Pearls in hand, my combat power will undoubtedly be significantly enhanced once more!

As for this Saint Protection Jade Token, with it in hand, I can even readily command Hua Yanluo in the future... It's truly wonderful!

This action has indeed yielded immense gains!

"Mu Shiba thanks you!" He put away the Jade Token and the Ghost Frog Pouch, cupped his hands in gratitude, and turned to leave.

This one-shot deal with the Third Princess was settled. It was definitely time to get away from this girl; her affairs ran too deep!

"Mr. Mu, please wait!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er hurriedly called out as she saw this.

The most important matter—the cage treasure—still hadn't been discussed!

Lin Xuankong looked at Xiaoo Ying'Er, somewhat disdainfully. "What else is there, Princess? Are you interested in this Demon Cage treasure? Unfortunately, I only have this one!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er, upon seeing the disdain on Lin Xuankong's face, was once again stunned. In all her years of life, it was the first time this Third Princess of Great Xia had seen such disdain in a man's eyes... She almost thought she was mistaken!

After collecting herself, she spoke somewhat dejectedly, "Mr. Mu, you only have one such Demon Cage treasure. Ying'Er certainly wouldn't dare to take what you love. However, could you tell Ying'Er where this Demon Cage treasure came from and how it was refined?"

Lin Xuankong said disdainfully, "The Demon Cage treasure is naturally something I personally refined!"

"What! Sir personally refined it? Are you capable of refining such a treasure?" The face of this Third Princess of Great Xia immediately showed a look of surprise and joy,

while Hua Yanluo and Qiing's faces displayed astonishment. They were both shrewd people and naturally understood the immense difference between merely possessing a powerful treasure and being able to refine powerful treasures!

Of the countless Artifact Refiners in Great Xia, none could refine such a formidable treasure!

If this person wasn't boasting, solely by virtue of this Artifact Refining Technique, he could become a highly sought-after figure in the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang or even within the Great Xia Dynasty!

While the two were in shock, the Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er furrowed her brow, deep in thought.

Lin Xuankong spoke, "The method for refining this type of Demon Cage isn't particularly difficult. Indeed, I personally refined it!"

Not far away, Liy Ruoqing, Liy Ruo Ying, and Zheng Yunrui could not help but secretly shake their heads upon hearing this,

especially Liy Ruoqing, who had studied Artifact Refining Techniques. He understood better than anyone present the immense difficulty in refining a Demon Prison Cage.

Chapter 242: The Saintess Wants Me as Her Master? Emperor Xiaoo's Spirit Puppet Technique_3

My second uncle spent a hundred years to refine just one... but Senior Mu Shiba here says the Refining Method isn't difficult? Sigh, perhaps for a monstrous genius like him, it's not hard! Liy Ruoqing sighed heavily, feeling his Heart Spirit severely struck.

Xiaoo Ying'Er pondered for a moment, then looked resolutely at Mu Shiba.

"Mr. Mu, if I were to apprentice under you and learn this Refining Method, what kind of price would it require?"

Before Lin Xuankong could speak, Hua Yanluo couldn't help but say, "Third Princess, you are the Saintess of our Celestial Sect... Mr. Mu may have powerful methods and astonishing Treasures, but how could someone of your status become his disciple!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er's expression was firm as she said, "In Martial Dao and Artifact Refining, those who excel are prioritized! Even my father had Martial Dao masters and Array Masters. How could I, Xiaoo Ying'Er, not be someone else's disciple?"

Upon hearing this, Hua Yanluo was instantly speechless, not daring to say anything further.

Lin Xuankong frowned, thinking silently to himself, This Third Princess is really troublesome. Does she have to involve herself with me?

The surrounding Martial Cultivators, seeing this scene, had just regained their composure, but now their expressions turned strange again. Who could have thought that the Third Princess of Great Xia, the Celestial Sect Saintess, would want to apprentice under Mu Shiba! Even more surprising was that Mu Shiba seemed very reluctant to accept Xiaoo Ying'Er as a disciple!

While the crowd was in shock, Lin Xuankong's eyes lit up. He suddenly remembered a rumor he had heard when he went to Prison Dragon City: that prosperous city had arranged a Grand Array to suppress a powerful Late Stage Tier Nine Flood Dragon Demon. Later, that Late Stage Tier Nine Flood Dragon was refined by Emperor Xiaoo into a Puppet and became one of the guardian Spirit Puppets of the Great Xia Capital!

This means that the Royal Family of the Great Xia Dynasty, the Xiaoo Family, possesses Secret Techniques for refining Demons into Puppets!

I've already captured a Late Stage Tier Seven Great Demon. This Demon was originally of the Human Race, so I could never bring myself to eat its flesh and blood. But if it could be refined into a Spiritual Puppet, my combat power would absolutely soar in an instant! Especially since this Late Stage Tier Seven Brown Bear Liao People possesses two extremely powerful Demon Techniques. Once refined into a Puppet, it should easily crush even Same Tier Late Stage Tier Seven Demons! If so, in this Ba Mountain Secret Realm Center, I could definitely go unchallenged. Even if I faced a Tier Eight Corpse Scorpion, I could take it on... Thus, heading towards the Secret Realm Center would be completely worry-free! Moreover, the Tier Seven Demon Prison Cage can only target Demons and has no effect on Martial Cultivators. However, a Late Stage Tier Seven Demon Puppet can fight both Demons and Martial Cultivators. If I could truly refine a Tier Seven Spirit Puppet, I would be absolutely secure in Great Marsh Prefecture! Even in the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang, there wouldn't be many who could suppress me! After all, that's a Late Stage Tier Seven Great Demon! I just don't know if Xiaoo Ying'Er knows that Puppet-refining Secret Technique of the Great Xia Xiao Family. Would she be willing to trade it for the Refining Method of the Demon Prison Cage?

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong immediately put on a more disdainful and unwilling expression and said,

"The Princess is of noble status. Mu Shiba is but a rustic Independent Practitioner. How could I dare to accept the Princess as an apprentice? It's even more impossible for you to call me Master!

As for the Refining Method of the Demon-Imprisoning Divine Cage... I obtained this Refining Method through great fortune and countless sacrifices. The senior who taught me this Refining Method repeatedly urged that it must not be easily passed on to others!

Sigh... But since even the Celestial Sect Saintess has asked, how could I refuse? If the Princess wishes to learn this Refining Method, what is she willing to offer in exchange?"

Chapter 243: The Helpless Saintess, Rakshasa Puppet Technique Dominates a Nation

Obtaining the Refining Method was due to an immense stroke of luck? Senior Mu Shiba paid an incalculable price?

Next to her, Zheng Yunrui couldn't help but glance at Lin Xuankong upon hearing this and then fell into silence.

Liy Ruoqing, upon hearing this, secretly admired. Senior Mu Shiba is indeed a man of great deeds. Such a grand lie could be spoken with a straight face in front of the three of us who know the truth! My second uncle often advises me not to fuss over minor details when aiming for big things, but I can never be as unabashed as Senior Mu Shiba, saying it so naturally while looking so unwilling! His thick skin is impressive.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er saw Lin Xuankong's disdainful expression and couldn't help but frown. However, having personally witnessed the miraculous Demon Prison Cage, how could she bear to give up?

"The Refining Method of this treasure is extremely important for Ying'Er! What price does Mr. Mu expect Ying'Er to pay in order to learn it from you? Another three Demon Fox Demon Pearls?" Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er asked.

Lin Xuankong slightly shook his head. "I already have plenty of Demon Fox Demon Pearls."

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned slightly. "Then how about one Demon Sparrow Demon Pearl? This Demon Pearl ranks high on the Great Xia Demon Pearl list and is extremely rare. Even a Martial Cultivator of the First or Second Layer can ride the Demon Sparrow to roam the void!"

Lin Xuankong's heart stirred. He had to admit that the Third Princess was indeed very enticing... no, what the Third Princess offered, this Demon Sparrow Demon Pearl, was very tempting!

However, given his current state, a Demon Sparrow Demon Pearl wouldn't significantly enhance his combat abilities.

As for flying, now that he was already at the Mid-grade Fifth Layer, how far could the Sixth Layer be? And once he reached the Sixth Layer, floating in the void at the Seventh Layer wouldn't be far off either.

For other Martial Cultivators, reaching the Seventh Realm might be impossible in their lifetime, but for him, it might only take half a year.

Resist the temptation! Continue putting pressure on this girl!

Lin Xuankong shook his head again.

A hint of helplessness appeared on Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's pretty face.

"How about the Wood Treasure Pill? Even if Mr. Mu has immense strength and doesn't need the Wood Treasure Pill, surely you have friends or relatives who do! The Wood Treasure Pill in my possession is more precious than the Treasure Elixir refined from Heavy Water Spiritual Objects. It can increase a Martial Cultivator's Cultivation Speed by seventy percent after entering the Sixth Layer!"

Lin Xuankong immediately shook his head.

The Wood Treasure Pill sounded tempting, but when he intended to advance to the Sixth Layer in the future, he would surely choose a Wood Spirit Object, not the Great Xia Dynasty's Wood Treasure Pill!

Seeing Lin Xuankong refuse repeatedly, even the usually calm Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er felt somewhat frustrated and helpless.

Hua Yanluo, the maid Qiing, and others nearby had long since grown numb from listening!

Hua Yanluo secretly thought: It's understandable if he didn't care about three Demon Fox Demon Pearls since Mu Shiba just obtained three of them. Too many Demon Pearls could be useless to a Martial Cultivator. After all, the True Qi of Martial Cultivators is limited. They generally keep only one or two, at most three Demon Pearls on hand. Having more would deplete their True Qi just activating them, leaving no energy to fight the enemy. But the Demon Sparrow Demon Pearl is one of the top-ranking Demon Pearls in Great Xia, with a single one worth ten Demon Fox Demon Pearls. A Demon Pearl of such immense value made even her heart pound upon hearing of it. Yet Mu Shiba still disagreed? And the Wood Treasure Pill... a prized Treasure that even Sixth-Layer Perfection Martial Cultivators yearn for! Yet Mu Shiba still disagreed?

The several hundred Martial Cultivators around listened to their conversation in secret, feeling as if they were about to exhaust their lifetime's supply of shocked expressions!

Any of these Treasures, if placed before them, would be enough to drive them mad.

These were Treasures they could never obtain in their lifetime... yet Mu Shiba still disagreed?

What exactly does he want?

He couldn't possibly want all of them, could he? someone wondered.

At that moment, the sound of something tearing through the air suddenly came from a distance, followed by the appearance of a huge flying Demon.

It was the Little Yu King, who had previously fled in panic, using the Giant Tiger Demon Pearl to escape.

He flew to a point over three kilometers away from the numerous Martial Cultivators, then recalled his Demon and landed on the ground.

The four Golden Armor Guards, who had recovered from their injuries using Marsh Python Gall, quickly ran to Little Yu King's side. Among them, the Guard Captain with the Golden Armor and Golden Saber leaned close to Little Yu King's ear and whispered something.

After listening to his Guard Captain's whisper, Little Yu King's expression flickered, his face alternating between pale and flushed. He then frowned and looked towards Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er. He sighed heavily and led his Golden Armor Guards toward them. When they were over thirty meters from the palanquin, he and his guards bowed to Xiao Ying'Er in unison and said, "The situation was urgent, and Change had no choice but to flee. Please don't blame me, Third Princess!"

Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er was already vexed by Lin Xuankong's repeated refusals. Seeing the even more annoying Little Yu King approach, her frown deepened.

However... despite Little Yu King's questionable methods, he had ultimately fought a battle to protect her and sacrificed two Late Stage Fifth-Layer Golden Armor Guards!

Moreover, whether he did it willingly or was persuaded by the Golden Armor Guard, he had bowed and admitted his mistake in front of hundreds of Martial Cultivators!

The usually even-tempered Xiaoo Ying'Er sighed softly and said, "Fighting a seventh-tier Demon, sacrificing two elite guards of Prince Yu's Mansion, and narrowly escaping the Demon's clutches—this battle involved great hardship, even if it lacked merit. How could I blame you!"

Chapter 244: The Helpless Saintess, Rakshasa Puppet Technique Dominates a Nation_2

When Little Yu King heard this, a trace of guilt appeared in his eyes. After standing silently to one side, he looked at Lin Xuankong with some astonishment. Although Little Yu King had escaped to a distance, he had still witnessed Lin Xuankong suppress the Seventh-stage Brown Bear Demon People with a single palm!

At this moment, looking at the Demon Prison Cage in Lin Xuankong's hand, he couldn't help but recall the first time he met Mr. Mu. A Seventh-stage Great Demon hadn't even been a match for him! To think he had underestimated him so much back then... The guilt in Little Yu King's eyes became even more pronounced.

He took out a dozen drops of Heavy Water Spiritual Object from his robes and walked over to Lin Xuankong.

"Mr. Mu, earlier I was too reckless! I never imagined your strength would be so formidable, far beyond what I could compare to. Thinking back to that time, I'm truly ashamed!"

Lin Xuankong was also somewhat surprised by these words and couldn't help but look at Little Yu King.

It's not without reason that Prince Yu's Mansion can dominate the Southern Border, he thought to himself. This Little Yu King was previously very arrogant, acting as if he looked down on everyone. But now that he sees I'm stronger than him, he accepts defeat readily! This Little Yu King isn't an unreasonable person, nor is he the petty type to hold grudges over small matters. He certainly has some magnanimity!

With these thoughts in mind, he didn't stand on ceremony. He accepted the Heavy Water Spiritual Object and said, "This Heavy Water Spiritual Object was originally mine, so I won't be courteous. However, Little Yu King, your magnanimity is truly rare. I admire it. If it were me, I might still be concerned about my reputation and wouldn't yield so easily to others!"

Little Yu King heard this and smiled. "To receive Mr. Mu's praise, I feel a bit proud again!"

Lin Xuankong couldn't help but smile gently, thinking to himself: This Little Yu King isn't too annoying after all.

At this moment, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked at Lin Xuankong and sighed. "Mr. Mu, what kind of Treasure do you want in exchange for your Refining Method? Why don't you just say it? Ying'Er understands that the Refining Technique's value is immeasurable... As long as you say it, I will agree to any condition!"

Lin Xuankong, seeing that the timing was about right, recounted the matter of the Flood Dragon Puppet in Prison Dragon City. Then he said, "I am very interested in this puppet Refining Secret Technique. If possible, we could make an exchange!"

"Mr. Mu wants to learn the Spirit Puppet Technique?" Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's expression changed.

"He wants to learn the Spirit Puppet Technique?" Little Yu King's expression also changed beside her.

Lin Xuankong saw their reactions and couldn't help but frown.

Why do the Third Princess and Little Yu King have such expressions? he wondered. The Spirit Puppet Technique, capable of refining even a Late Ninth Tier Flood Dragon demon into a puppet, must be extremely precious. Perhaps it's an absolutely non-transmissible Secret Technique of the Great Xia Xiao Family?

While Lin Xuankong was pondering this, Little Yu King couldn't help but speak up. "The Spirit Puppet Technique is easy to learn but hard to master. It's an extremely special Secret Technique. If an ordinary Martial Cultivator uses this Secret Technique, problems are very likely to arise.

My father once learned the Spirit Puppet Technique from Emperor Xiao of Great Xia and even taught this Secret Technique to several of my uncles! Consequently, of my four uncles who were at the Seventh Layer of Cultivation, two died because they used this Secret Technique!

Mr. Mu, although your strength is great... this Secret Technique is extremely dangerous. If it's not absolutely necessary, even if one learns it, few would dare to use it casually!"

Lin Xuankong was somewhat surprised. "This Secret Technique can even backfire on the practitioner?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er added, "It does indeed backfire on the practitioner. Back when my grandfather set up the Grand Array in Prison Dragon City to refine that Tier Nine Flood Dragon, a Mid-Ninth Layer powerhouse perished in the process! Later, it was my grandfather who had to risk performing the Spirit Puppet Technique himself to finally succeed in the Refining!"

A Mid-Ninth Layer powerhouse perished just from using the Spirit Puppet Technique?

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

There aren't many Ninth Layer powerhouses in the entire Great Xia Dynasty. A casual blow from such an expert would probably obliterate me, turning me into Lin Sikong! Even such terrifying powerhouses can't withstand the backlash from the Spirit Puppet Technique?

Xiaoo Ying'Er continued, "This Secret Technique was passed down from the Formless Buddhism Sect of the Rakshasa Kingdom. My ancestor learned it after becoming a Lay Disciple of the Formless Buddhism Sect during his travels in the Rakshasa Kingdom.

This Third Spirit Puppet Technique is the only one among the Formless Buddhism Sect's eight Puppet Techniques that a Lay Disciple can cultivate. It's not a core Secret Technique of the Sect, so it has the drawback of backfiring on the practitioner. If it were one of the Formless Buddhism Sect's core Puppet Techniques, that wouldn't happen!"

Speaking with some emotion, she continued, "The Formless Buddhism Sect of the Rakshasa Kingdom, relying on Buddhist Puppetry, refined a full eighty-one Late Ninth Tier Flood Dragon demons, known as the Eighty-One Celestial Dragon Guardians.

Setting aside the other powerhouses of the Formless Buddhism Sect, these Eighty-One Celestial Dragon Guardians alone established the Formless Buddhism Sect as the unparalleled number one Sect in the Rakshasa Kingdom, one that no one could oppose!

Even the Six Great Demon Sects of the Rakshasa Kingdom couldn't contend with the Formless Buddhism Sect and were forced to unite just to secure a precarious foothold!

Furthermore, even the Rakshasa Monarch must obey the commands of the Formless Buddhism Sect's Buddha Son, not daring to defy them!

The Formless Buddhism Sect's Buddhist Puppetry is hailed as the foremost Secret Technique in the Rakshasa Kingdom. However, my ancestor was unwilling to become a monk. As a Lay Disciple, he could only learn the Third Spirit Puppet Technique. This particular technique doesn't imbue the puppets with Buddhist Technique blessings and, crucially, carries the risk of backlash!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but be filled with yearning.

The Formless Buddhism Sect, using the Spirit Puppet Technique, refined eighty-one Late Ninth Tier Flood Dragon Puppets! Known as the Eighty-One Celestial Dragon Guardians, they suppressed the Rakshasa Kingdom's Six Great Demon Sects, and even the Rakshasa Monarch, ruler of a kingdom stronger than Great Xia, had to obey their commands... So incredibly strong!

Chapter 245: The Helpless Saintess, Rakshasa Puppet Technique Dominates a Nation_3

However, the effect of this backlash is truly unsettling!

Xiaoo Ying'Er looked at Lin Xuankong. "Mr. Mu, this Third Spirit Puppet Technique of the Formless Buddhism can indeed be passed to you; we can use it for an exchange. Are you sure you want to trade?"

Lin Xuankong frowned and pondered. A moment later, he looked at Xiaoo Ying'Er.

"Is the backlash from the Eighth Spirit Puppet Technique due to the Cultivator's Realm not being high enough, or is it because of other reasons?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er said, "The Cultivation Realm required for the Spirit Puppet Technique is one aspect. The main issue is that the Divine Soul Strength of a Demon cannot be tested using Profound Phoenix Jade. Therefore, when a Cultivator performs the Spirit Puppet Technique, they can only rely on luck! If their Heart Thought Grade is higher than the opponent's, the Spirit Puppet Technique can surely be successfully performed. But once their Heart Thought strength is lower than the opponent's and they are attacked by the Demon's remnant Divine Soul, in mild cases, their Heart Thought gets damaged,

turning the Cultivator into a fool. In severe cases, their Divine Soul collapses, turning them into a walking corpse on the spot!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong's initially hesitant expression revealed a hint of hope.

So, the success or backlash of performing the Spirit Puppet Technique is due to the Heart Thought Grade!

Xiaoo Ying'Er said, "Indeed, it is so!"

Seeing her certainty, the hope in Lin Xuankong's eyes transformed into delight.

My Life Plate can display my Heart Thought strength and Grade! Moreover, I can use the Eight Gates Celestial Eye to determine if an opponent's Heart Thought Grade is higher than my own... With these advantages, why would I need to worry about the backlash from the Spirit Puppet Technique?!

Thinking this through, he immediately walked towards the distance. "Third Princess, please wait a moment!"

After walking to a secluded place, the Double Pupils in his eyes suddenly appeared. His gaze then fell on the seventh-grade Brown Bear Liao People in the Demon Prison Cage.

Whether my Heart Thought Grade is higher than this seventh-grade Brown Bear Liao People will depend on whether the Eight Gates Celestial Eye can make it enter an illusion!

「Inside the Demon Prison Cage」

The seventh-grade Brown Bear Liao People was suppressed and unable to move; even its small tail could not twitch, nor could it so much as lift a paw. After being targeted by Lin Xuankong's Eight Gates Celestial Eye Illusion, the seventh-grade Brown Bear Liao People still couldn't move. However, its pair of glossy black eyes suddenly darted, clearly showing a hint of fear.

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong immediately eased some of the Demon Prison Cage's suppression.

Instantly, the seventh-grade Brown Bear Liao People, which had transformed into a small bear, began to tremble all over. It curled up in a corner, Demon Qi slowly emanating from its body as if it were trying to resist the Thunder God in the illusion...

Lin Xuankong observed carefully, a hint of joy appearing in his eyes.

This seventh-grade Brown Bear Liao People before me clearly has a high Heart Thought Grade. After I induced an illusion in it, it managed to hold on, wasn't scared into losing control of itself on the spot, and could even muster a slight will to resist... This level of Heart Thought is far stronger than that of Liy Ruofeng and the others back then! However, as long as it can be made to enter an illusion, it means its Heart Thought strength is inferior to my own! This also means that once I master the Spirit Puppet Technique, I can definitely refine this ferocious seventh-grade Brown Bear Liao People into a powerful Spirit Puppet!

Overjoyed, Lin Xuankong once again activated the Demon Prison Cage, suppressing the small bear until it couldn't move. Then, he quickly walked back to the vicinity of the small sedan. "Third Princess, I've decided! I will trade the Secret Manual for Refining the Demon Prison Cage for your Eighth Spirit Puppet Technique!"

"Mr. Mu, have you really made up your mind?" Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's spirits suddenly lifted with clear delight.

Chapter 246: He's Worthy of the Saintess? A Surge in Strength Like a Tiger Growing Wings

A short while later, the group had found a nearby small hill and began to rest.

Little Yu King, standing beside Lin Xuankong and Xiaoo Ying'Er, cupped his hands and said, "Third Princess, Mr. Mu, my uncle has taken a Tier Eight Powerhouse from Prince Yu's Mansion and has already gone to the Secret Realm Center to see if there's a chance to approach the Celestial Demon Bone! Now that the Princess's crisis is resolved, I also plan to go to the Secret Realm Center to see if I can find my uncle and the others!"

Upon hearing this, Xiaoo Ying'Er couldn't help but furrow her brow slightly. "The Celestial Demon Bone in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm... there's a Ninth-Layer Perfection Corpse Scorpion corpse nearby, so a potent toxin permeates the area. Even Tier Nine Powerhouses find it difficult to resist. They could lose

their True Qi, and their Cultivation could drastically decrease at any moment, leading to their eventual demise there!

"Due to this Celestial Demon Bone, the Celestial Sect has already lost two Late Eighth Layer powerhouses, and Prince Yu's Mansion has also lost two Late Eighth Layer powerhouses. If these powerhouses had not perished, perhaps two or three Tier Nine Powerhouses would have emerged in the future! Moreover, if those four had not fallen, the demon scourge in the Great Xia Realm wouldn't have intensified. After all, Late Eighth Layer powerhouses, even if unable to slay Ninth-Layer Great Demons, can repel them by joining forces and utilizing various Treasures and techniques! I hope your Prince Yu's Mansion doesn't suffer too great a loss this time! The Celestial Demon Bone is extremely precious, a treasure of the world, but powerhouses who can cultivate to the Late Eighth Layer are also treasures of the Great Xia Dynasty!"

Little Yu King's brow furrowed. "This time, my uncle brought many powerhouses, so there should be some chance of refining the Celestial Demon Bone. If we can refine the Celestial Demon Bone... by obtaining this Celestial Demon Bone from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm and nurturing it for a few years, the demon scourge in the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang will be much easier to resolve!"

Xiao Ying'Er observed Little Yu King carefully and suddenly frowned. "Prince Yu's Mansion already possesses one Celestial Demon Bone. If one or two more Tier Eight Powerhouses were to perish for this Celestial Demon Bone, the situation in the Southern Border would become even more difficult to manage! King Yu already has a Celestial Demon Bone, sufficient to establish a family that could endure for thousands, even tens of thousands of years. Why is he so fixated on acquiring another? Does King Yu feel some sense of impending crisis? My father once told me he has always regarded King Yu as his own brother. He hopes that even decades, or one or two hundred years from now, this fraternal bond will remain unchanged!"

Little Yu King's expression shifted slightly upon hearing this. He immediately cupped his hands and said, "Third Princess, my father has always regarded Emperor Xiao as both a father and an elder brother. His desire to obtain this Celestial Demon Bone from Ba Mountain... is also because possessing a second Celestial Demon Bone would make dealing with Ninth-Layer Great Demons much easier. My father has no other intentions!"

Xiao Ying'Er sighed, her eyebrows arching slightly. "Naturally, I trust you! Very well, if you plan to go near the Secret Realm Center, then you should set off. However, the Secret Realm Center is permeated by a highly poisonous fog; you must be extremely cautious! In the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang, Martial Cultivators with Talent like yours are far too rare. Cultivating the Martial Dao is the most important pursuit for us Cultivators. No matter how strong the Celestial Demon Bone is, it is ultimately an external object!"

Little Yu King cupped his hands. "Change understands. If I encounter any danger while heading to the Secret Realm Center this time, I will naturally retreat!"

With that, he departed from the small hilltop with the four Golden Armor Guards.

Xiao Ying'Er watched their retreating figures and sighed softly. "Too many powerhouses have perished in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm Center! The temptation of the Celestial Demon Bone is truly too great. A single Celestial Demon Bone can establish a family that could endure for countless years... but such a treasure of the world is not easily obtained!"

Lin Xuankong frowned as he gazed at the Poisonous Fog in the Secret Realm Center, thinking to himself:

Once I've learned the Spirit Puppet Technique from the Third Princess and refined that Seventh-Layer Brown Bear Demon People, I should also head to the Secret Realm Center! To think Prince Yu's Mansion actually dispatched a Tier Eight Powerhouse to the Secret Realm Center! Even if I have the Liy Family's Grand Array for refining the Celestial Demon Bone, obtaining it will likely not be an easy task. After all, the powerhouses of Prince Yu's Mansion would never simply hand over such a treasure of the world to me! Whether I can obtain the Celestial Demon Bone... I can only take it one step at a time! However, I possess Immortal Tier Poison Resistance, giving me an absolute environmental advantage in the Secret Realm Center. If I could refine a Late Stage Seventh-Layer Great Demon into a Spirit Puppet... combining this advantage, the Seventh-Layer Great Demon, and my various other methods, I might actually have a chance!

After Little Yu King departed, Xiao Ying'Er instructed several maids to distribute the Demon Flesh from her other Silver Patterned Ghost Child Pouch to the Martial Cultivators who had previously guarded her.

Soon, the Martial Cultivators who had received generous rewards bid farewell to Xiao Ying'Er and Celestial Sect Elder Hua Yanluo. Now that the danger had passed, they couldn't remain by the Third Princess's side indefinitely. They had come to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm for the Heavy Water Spiritual Object!

More than an hour later, only Liy Ruoqing, Liy Ruo Ying, Zheng Yunrui, Hua Yanluo, and a few others remained on the small hill.

Only then did Lin Xuankong reach into his Ghost Frog Pouch, retrieve the Secret Manual for the Demon-Catching Array that Liy Ruoqing had given him, and hand it to Xiaoo Ying'Er.

"Third Princess, this is the refining method. To create such a Demon Prison Cage, you must first study the method for setting up the Demon-Catching Array. Please review it first. If there's anything you don't understand, feel free to ask me at any time!"

A hint of joy appeared on Xiaoo Ying'Er's lovely face. After accepting the Secret Manual, she handed a Jade Token to Lin Xuankong.

"Mr. Mu, this Transmission Jade Butterfly contains the Spirit Puppet Technique. If there's anything you don't understand, you can ask Ying'Er at any time!"

Chapter 247: He's Worthy of the Saintess? His Strength Has Greatly Increased, Adding Wings to a Tiger_2

The two of them courteously exchanged items. From a distance, Zheng Yunrui, who was watching, couldn't help but develop a strange expression. She rubbed her hair bun and thought to herself, How strange! They're clearly exchanging Secret Manuals, but why does it look like they're exchanging tokens of affection?

Zheng Yunrui wore a peculiar expression. Beside her, Liy Ruoqing muttered softly, "Mr. Mu, in his green robe, possesses an elegant figure and handsome features, far beyond ordinary men! The Third Princess is a national beauty, ethereal and refined. Looking at them together, they do seem to..."

At this point, Liy Ruoqing suddenly noticed that Celestial Sect Elder Hua Yanluo seemed to have overheard his murmuring and was looking over. He quickly shut his mouth, gave a sheepish smile, and dared not continue.

That's the Third Princess of Great Xia, Celestial Sect Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er! Have I lost my mind recently? How dare I gossip about her like this!

Liy Ruoqing didn't dare to speak further, but Zheng Yunrui, as if inspired, patted her hair bun and whispered, "A perfect match of talent and beauty! No wonder when I saw that Jade Token, I thought it was a token of affection!"

Hearing this, Liy Ruoqing was stunned. His eyes widened in disbelief as he stared at Zheng Yunrui.

Damn! This tigress really dares to speak her mind! Isn't she afraid the Celestial Sect Elder will strike her dead on the spot? Even I, the Black Tiger Hall Master, don't dare to say more!

"You're Miss Zheng of the Zheng Family, correct? What did you just say about a token of affection?"

A spectral figure tore through the air, landing beside Zheng Yunrui in an instant. It was Hua Yanluo, her expression extremely hostile.

Zheng Yunrui stiffened, immediately clamping her mouth shut, not daring to utter another word. Even the hair bun on her head trembled with fear.

Hua Yanluo snorted softly, then turned her head to look into the distance. In that direction, 'Mu Shiba' and Xiaoo Ying'Er were sitting together on a white carpet.

Hua Yanluo said softly, "The Celestial Sect Saintess and Princess of Great Xia are so noble. With the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein and the Appearance of an Exiled Immortal, she can cultivate the Blood Bath Divine Skill. This is a world-shaking Talent, rarely seen among millions, unmatched in the entire Great Xia Dynasty! Even in the Rakshasa Divine Kingdom and Central Divine Dynasty, perhaps only a few Buddha Sons from the Buddhist Sect or Saint Heirs from the Immortal Sect can compare to our Saintess. Which ordinary Martial Cultivator in Great Xia could possibly be worthy of her?"

Her voice lowered even more. "Although this Mr. Mu possesses an Abnormal Technique and great strength, he is ultimately far inferior to those Saint Heirs from the Immortal Sects in the Central Divine Dynasty. He is absolutely unworthy of our Saintess. All of you, stop spouting nonsense!"

"Yes, yes, yes! Elder is right!"

"Right, right, right! Elder speaks the truth!"

Liy Ruoqing, Liy Ruo Ying, and Zheng Yunrui nodded repeatedly in fear, expressing their agreement.

Not far away, Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er seemed to have heard something. She frowned, glanced in their direction, and then continued reading the Secret Manual. Meanwhile, Lin Xuankong placed the Jade Token on his forehead, quickly absorbing the information constantly being transmitted into his Brain Mansion from it.

After Half a Cup of Tea Time, Lin Xuankong finally put down the Jade Token, a hint of understanding in his eyes. So, this Spirit Puppet Technique, similar to the Eight Gates Celestial Eye, is an Abnormal Technique activated by Heart Thought. The difference is that the Eight Gates Celestial Eye is passed down from the Demon Sects of the Rakshasa Kingdom. It requires Strange Veins like Zhao Yufei's to activate, and it is used on living beings. The Spirit Puppet Technique, however, is a Buddhist Secret Technique from the Rakshasa Kingdom. It only has requirements for the strength and Grade of Heart Thought, and it acts on beings that have been dead for no more than seven days! The Spirit Puppet Technique converts the Cultivator's Heart Thought into a condensed substance similar to True Qi. This substance infiltrates the target's body, refines the target's remaining Divine Soul, and leaves behind a control imprint. It's akin to the Cultivator gaining a Puppet avatar! Unlike activating the Demon Pearl or the Black Soul Wondrous Jade, the Demons and Shadows of the Black Soul summoned by them are formed by the Martial Cultivator's Qi Blood, matching the Cultivator in Same Tier and Cultivation. However, the Puppet avatar controlled by the Spirit Puppet Technique already possesses a body and Demon Technique. Its power is related only to the Demon's own Realm and is unrelated to the Cultivator. This gives the Cultivator the opportunity to control a powerful Demon Puppet much stronger than themselves! For example, consider the late-stage Tier Nine Flood Dragon Puppet guarding Kyoto. Once its Divine Soul is refined, as long as its refiner, Emperor Xiaoo, allows it, even a Tier One Martial Cultivator could control the late-stage Tier Nine Flood Dragon Puppet in battle! A Tier One Martial Cultivator possessing a Tier Nine Puppet could naturally battle a Tier Nine Powerhouse... This Spirit Puppet Technique truly transforms the mundane into the miraculous!

"Mr. Mu, have you memorized the Spirit Puppet Technique?" Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er asked when she saw Lin Xuankong put down the Jade Token.

Lin Xuankong nodded and said, "This Spirit Puppet Technique is indeed wondrous. Without experiencing it personally, it's hard to imagine such a Miracle Technique exists in this world! With such a Miracle Technique, doesn't it mean that if one refined dozens of Tier Seven Puppets, even a group of Tier One Martial Cultivators could easily face a host of Tier Seven Martial Cultivators?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er shook her head slightly. "Refining such Spirit Puppets requires the slain Demon to be completely intact, its body without major damage. Otherwise, once the Spirit Puppet is refined, being a dead object, it cannot recover from injuries, and its combat power will naturally be greatly reduced.

"High-Tier Demons are rare to begin with. Furthermore, subduing a Demon of Tier Seven or higher definitely involves a fierce battle, making it very easy to damage their bodies.

"Others don't have a Demon Prison Cage like yours. Obtaining an intact Demon corpse isn't that easy!"

Chapter 248: Is He Worthy of the Saintess? Strengthening as Mightily as a Tiger Grows Wings_3

Lin Xuankong smiled and said, "So it seems the Demon Prison Cage that can suppress Demons and the Spirit Puppet Technique are quite a complementary pair of Abnormal Techniques!"

"A complementary pair of Abnormal Techniques?" A trace of confusion flickered in Xiaoo Ying'Er's bright eyes.

Another Otherworld naïve girl who can't catch my drift!

Lin Xuankong sighed softly. "Princess, you should focus on the Secret Manual for the Demon Prison Cage. I'll be cultivating the Spirit Puppet Technique here for the next few days. After that, we might not have much time to exchange insights!"

After speaking, he looked at his Life Plate.

[Third Spirit Puppet Technique: Entry Level 1/900]

In the next moment, the four words "Vigorous in Old Age" shimmered with a faint purple-golden glow.

[Third Spirit Puppet Technique: Entry Level 1/15]

...

「In the blink of an eye,」

Twenty-odd days had passed.

On this particular day, Lin Xuankong, having just finished his Cultivation in a cave on the hillside, sensed that the Runes within the Rune Thunder in his body had become even more intricate. He couldn't help but look at his Life Plate.

[Realm: Transcendence Fifth Layer Late Stage]

[Yin Talisman Technique: Returning to the Essence 302/450]

[Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Attained Minor Success 388/500]

[Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique: Attained Minor Success 301/450]

[Eight Gates Celestial Eye: Fifth Layer 190/200]

[True Qi: 448,989/500,000]

[Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique: Attained Minor Success 172/240]

[Blood Eating Technique: Attained Minor Success 210/240]

[Blood-Burning Secret Technique: Attained Minor Success 119/240]

[Divine Protection Elixir: Top-grade Pill Technique 82/160]

[Heart Thought: Mortal Tier Seventh Grade 1/160]

[Third Spirit Puppet Technique: Entering the Hall 2/160]

A sense of satisfaction welled up in his heart. After twenty-odd days of Cultivation, all his Cultivation Techniques had progressed by leaps and bounds. His Martial Arts Realm had advanced from the Mid-grade of the Fifth Layer to the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer. In another twenty-odd days, he estimated he would reach the Perfection of the Fifth Layer.

Now, his Martial Arts Realm was only two small steps behind Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er! If this peerless prodigy knew his Cultivation Speed, she would probably be stunned speechless on the spot!

The Pine Crane Longevity Technique was also nearing the Returning to the Essence Realm. In another ten-odd days, it should break through. At that time, he wondered how much his lifespan would increase—twenty years, perhaps thirty?

Besides that, the Young Lady's Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique had already advanced to the Late Stage, and its Explosive Power bonus had become a terrifying ninefold!

Presumably, the Young Lady's realm has also reached the Late Stage of the Fourth Layer by now... However, this Young Lady of his would certainly never admit her realm was lower than his, haha!

The Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique and the Blood-Burning Secret Technique were both nearing the next realm. Once they broke through, the Explosive Power bonus would be even more ferocious!

Additionally, with the help of the Young Lady's Mid-grade Divine Protection Pill, his Heart Thought strength had risen to Mortal Tier Seventh Grade. This realm was already extremely high; he wondered how many tens of thousands of Nourishing Spirit Pills and Divine Protection Elixirs other Martial Cultivators would need to consume to reach this level!

And the Third Spirit Puppet Technique he had just learned recently had already rapidly advanced to the Entering the Hall realm.

With this realm, combined with a seventh-grade Heart Thought, dealing with a seventh-tier Brown Bear Liao People would be absolutely easy!

In other words, he was about to possess a Spirit Puppet! And a seventh-tier Spirit Puppet at that! This would undoubtedly be like adding wings to a tiger, increasing his combat power tens of times, instantly transforming him into a powerful Cultivator capable of easily contending with a Late Stage Seventh Layer Cultivator!

Thinking of this, he looked outside the cave.

Inside the Demon Prison Cage over there, the small bear—the transformed seventh-tier Brown Bear Liao People—had completely lost all signs of life.

To avoid damaging its body when killing it, Lin Xuankong had deliberately suppressed his realm and mobilized a Tier Four Demon Fox to gradually wear down the little bear's Demon Qi each day. Over these past twenty-odd days, he had finally managed to completely exhaust the Brown Bear Liao People's incredibly condensed Demon Qi, and only today had he taken its life.

With anticipation in his eyes, Lin Xuankong rose to his full height, walked towards the Demon Prison Cage, and stared intently at the small bear.

From the cave entrance, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's somewhat puzzled voice was heard,

"Has the seventh-tier Brown Bear Liao People been killed already? Mr. Mu, are you planning to activate the Spirit Puppet Technique? When activating the Spirit Puppet Technique, the lower one's realm, the longer it takes to refine the Puppet! But to even begin refining, one must at least reach the Initial Glimpse level... It's only been twenty-odd days. Could Mr. Mu have already cultivated the Spirit Puppet Technique to the Entry Level?"

"Impossible!" Hua Yanluo, standing beside Xiaoo Ying'Er, looked at Mr. Mu with a doubtful expression. "I recall that when the Saintess cultivated the Spirit Puppet Technique, she was the fastest in the entire Royal Family and Celestial Sect. Yet, even she took over fifty days to reach the Entry Level of the Spirit Puppet Technique!"

Hua Yanluo considered for a moment, then said, "Or perhaps, Mr. Mu killed the seventh-tier Brown Bear Liao People and intends to store its corpse in the Ghost Frog Pouch for later use? After all, constantly activating that Demon Prison Cage also consumes a great deal of Qi Blood!"

Chapter 249: The Admiration of the Celestial Sect Saintess, The Plea of a 7th Layer Expert

At this moment, the Celestial Sect Elder Hua Yanluo clearly believed that it was impossible for Lin Xuankong to have mastered the Spirit Puppet Technique to the Entry Level in such a short time!

In her view, the talent of Celestial Sect Saintess, Third Princess Xiao Ying'er, was exceptionally strong. She was the foremost prodigy among the billions in the Great Xia Dynasty. Even compared to the Buddha Son with the innate Buddha Heart from Rakshasa Kingdom, the top disciple of the Demon Sect, or the Saint Sons and Saintesses of the Immortal Sect from the Central Divine Dynasty, Xiao Ying'er was not much inferior!

Even Third Princess Xiao Ying'er needed more than fifty days to reach the Entry Level of the Spirit Puppet Technique. No matter how strong Mu Shiba's talent was, it would probably take him several months to half a year to reach Entry Level!

Lin Xuankong then picked up the Demon Prison Cage and looked at Xiao Ying'er. "Your Highness," he said, "I indeed plan to try to activate the Spirit Puppet Technique. I might need to seclude myself in the cave for the next few days!"

Xiao Ying'er's bright eyes showed a look of surprise. "Could it be that Mr. Mu's Spirit Puppet Technique has already reached Entry Level?"

Entry Level? It was far from that; it had already reached the Entering the Hall Realm! Lin Xuankong slightly shook his head. "Entry Level? Something like that!"

Such astonishing cultivation speed, he naturally wouldn't let others know to avoid shocking the world!

Upon hearing this, Xiao Ying'er's eyes brightened. "Mr. Mu truly is a marvel. My Xiao Family has cultivated the Third Spirit Puppet Technique, and there are about a thousand people. Adding the disciples and elders of the Celestial Sect, the total is around several thousand. Including myself, none have managed to cultivate the Third Spirit Puppet Technique to the Entry Level in such a short time!"

Lin Xuankong walked towards the cave and said, "Perhaps my talent is better suited for cultivating the Spirit Puppet Technique!" After speaking, his eyes moved. He suddenly recalled using this same excuse to fool the young lady when his cultivation of the Pine Crane Longevity Technique had been so fast he had to make excuses! Thinking of that charming little foodie at home, he couldn't help but smile.

At this moment, Hua Yanluo couldn't help but say, "Mr. Mu, are you really certain you've reached Entry Level? Upon reaching the Entry Level of the Spirit Puppet Technique, one can refine the Divine Soul to condense a Mind Illusion. Relying on this Mind Illusion, you can invade the target's body, suppress their remaining Divine Soul, and leave a Divine Soul Mark. If you haven't reached Entry Level and forcefully activate the Spirit Puppet Technique, it will cause the Cultivation Technique to backlash, damaging your Heart Thought!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong, who had already entered the cave, paused. "I am naturally aware of this!"

The next moment, several giant rocks at the cave entrance moved with a roar, sealing it off!

Outside the cave, Hua Yanluo and the others exchanged glances. "He really intends to refine the Spirit Puppet! It's a pity I haven't fully learned the refining method for the Demon Prison Cage; there are still many unclear aspects. I was planning to seek advice from Mr. Mu. It seems I'll have to wait here for over twenty days until Mr. Mu finishes refining before I can continue to seek his counsel!"

Xiao Ying'er sighed slightly, sitting on a white carpet at another cave entrance, continuing to read the Demon-Capturing Array Secret Manual.

Beside her, the maid Xiao Qing took out some fresh fruits from the Ghost Frog Pouch, washed them with some fresh water, and cleaned them with a white handkerchief before placing them on a jade plate. She brought it near Third Princess Xiao Ying'er. "Princess, these Cloud Mist Fruits are chilled with ice and very refreshing."

Xiao Ying'er nodded slightly, casually picking up a Cloud Mist Fruit. The maid Xiao Qing blinked and asked, "Third Princess, will Mr. Mu succeed in refining the Spirit Puppet? Will he suffer backlash?"

Xiao Ying'er glanced at her. "Mr. Mu can even refine treasures like the Demon Prison Cage. His talent is exceptionally strong. If he wasn't confident, how could he risk his life to refine a late-stage seventh-tier demon?"

The maid Xiao Qing said, "The Third Princess seems to respect Mr. Mu more and more!"

Xiao Ying'er closed the Demon Capturing Manual in her hand and sighed. "I have been studying this Demon Capturing Manual, the Demon Capturing Array, and the refining method for the Demon Prison Cage for over twenty days! As I grasp more of the manual's content, I increasingly feel the difficulty of this Demon Capturing Array!

"Not to mention anything else, just the incredibly intricate runes, the various precautions for drawing them, their sequence, the importance of each stroke's weight and speed, and so on—memorizing everything is an extremely taxing task. It would likely require several years of diligent study and practice to remember it all!

"When you add in refining the Profound Truth Jade Particles for the Demon Prison Cage, inscribing the Profound Truth Jade Inscriptions, and inscribing the Inscriptions on the Profound Iron Cage... it's simply beyond human capability!

"Even if I master the refining method for the Demon Prison Cage... to refine a seventh-tier Demon Prison Cage, I'd probably need to travel to the Central Divine Dynasty and request help from the Artifact Refiners and Array Masters there!

"Yet Mr. Mu can independently refine such a seventh-tier Demon Prison Cage. How could I not revere, how could I not admire such a unique genius!

"Mr. Mu's talent in Artifact Refining and Arrays truly makes him the unparalleled number one among the countless Artifact Refiners of the Great Xia Dynasty, far superior to me, the so-called foremost prodigy!"

Speaking, the Celestial Sect Saintess's eyes held much emotion. She had always been extremely confident about her talents in various aspects.

From childhood to adulthood, whether in music, chess, calligraphy, painting, Martial Dao cultivation, or Alchemy, Artifact Refining, Spirit Puppet techniques, Beast Taming, and so on, she had never seen anyone around her with talents surpassing her own!

As the Third Princess and Celestial Sect Saintess, she had interacted with all the 'top talents' of the Great Xia Dynasty. Each was a genius among geniuses, an extraordinary talent among extraordinary talents. Yet, even so, she had never met anyone whose talents exceeded her own!

Chapter 250: The Admiration of the Celestial Sect Saintess, Assistance from a Seventh-Level Expert_2

However, during this trip to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, she happened to meet one! The only one who surpassed herself. Xiaoo Ying'Er smiled slightly.

Hua Yanluo and Qiing, upon hearing this, couldn't help but change their expressions.

Hua Yanluo sighed, "What a status the Saintess has, and yet she praises Mr. Mu so highly. If the Saintess's words were to spread outside, this Mr. Mu would immediately become the most sought-after Artifact Refiner in the Great Xia Dynasty! But your talent lies primarily in Martial Dao cultivation; your Profound Phoenix Strange Vein is unique in the world, incomparable to artifact refining talent!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er shook her head slightly. "Martial Dao cultivation strengthens oneself, but artifact refining talent can benefit the entire world. I am not as good as Mr. Mu!"

Not far away, Liy Ruoqing, standing guard at the entrance of Lin Xuankong's cave, felt a surge of satisfaction upon hearing the Third Princess's words.

Even though the Third Princess's words were not praising Liy Ruoqing directly, these past days, the terrifying array and artifact refining talent of 'Mu Shiba' had thoroughly crushed him, leaving him on the verge of Dao Heart collapse. Now, seeing that even the number one genius of Great Xia, Xiaoo Ying'Er, couldn't match 'Mu Shiba', Liy Ruoqing's mood lifted significantly.

Even the Celestial Sect Saintess and the top genius couldn't compare to 'Mu Shiba', so it was perfectly normal for me to be outmatched!

The Celestial Sect Saintess and I were both defeated by Elder Mu, which means the Saintess and I are on the same level? Liy Ruoqing comforted himself secretly.

At this moment, the attendant Qiing smiled and said, "Saintess, since you praise Mr. Mu so highly, can you guess how long it will take him to refine that Spirit Puppet?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er shook her head. "You silly girl, what's there to guess! The refinement time for a Spirit Puppet depends on one's realm in the Third Spirit Puppet Technique. The condensed wisp of Divine Soul will vary greatly, and so will the time needed.

"The Entry Level of the Third Spirit Puppet Technique requires at least twenty-four days to refine a puppet, as the wisp of Divine Soul condensed is not sufficiently solidified.

"The Realm of Integration in the Third Spirit Puppet Technique, where the Divine Soul is more condensed, requires fifteen days.

"The Entering the Hall Realm requires only seven days.

"However, even after practicing the Spirit Puppet Technique for four or five years, I am still only at the Entering the Hall Realm. Since Mr. Mu is at the Entry Level, he will certainly need twenty-four days!"

"Twenty-four days?" Qiing furrowed her brows. "Doesn't that mean that by the time Mr. Mu finishes, the exit to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm will be about to open? Third Princess, are you planning to wait here for Mr. Mu?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er smiled. "Of course, I will wait!"

After speaking, a look of anticipation flashed in her eyes. "I also plan to ask Mr. Mu to help me refine some Profound Truth Jade Particles! I'm very curious about how Mr. Mu does it."

「...」

In the cave, the flickering candlelight dispelled some of the darkness. Lin Xuankong, sitting cross-legged before the Demon Prison Cage, held his breath and concentrated, invoking the Third Spirit Puppet Technique.

In the next instant, a faint light flashed between his brows, and a vague, illusory miniature figure emerged. This tiny figure also maintained a cross-legged posture. Although too indistinct to discern its features, its body and limbs were identical to Lin Xuankong's. The three-inch figure sitting before his brow emanated Buddha's Light, and profound, obscure Buddhist chants echoed around it.

This Third Spirit Puppet Technique, passed down from the Rakshasa Kingdom's Formless Buddhism, was truly mystical, allowing Lin Xuankong to actually condense a trace of a Divine Soul Mark!

Immediately, the three-inch figure vanished. When it reappeared, it was hovering above the small bear's corpse inside the Demon Prison Cage.

Under the illumination of the Buddha's Light from the three-inch figure, the heart of the Tier Seven small bear demon, originally dead, gradually began to beat. Its previously dried-up blood started to flow again, and even its withering fur began to regain its luster.

Once the Tier Seven small bear's corpse had fully revived, the three-inch figure flickered once more and merged into it.

At this moment, Lin Xuankong's brows suddenly furrowed, as if he had encountered an obstacle.

「...」

「Time flew by, and seven days had passed.」

At the entrance of the nameless small mountain's cave, Liy Ruoqing, Liy Ruo Ying, and Zheng Yunrui each sat cross-legged on a large rock, cultivating while silently guarding the cave. Although Lin Xuankong hadn't specifically instructed the three to guard him before he entered, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying had both sworn solemn oaths. They wouldn't dare leave this place easily, much less betray Lin Xuankong. As for Zheng Yunrui, she had received several Heavy Water Spiritual Objects by following Lin Xuankong. Having tasted such benefits, she was naturally unwilling to leave.

Nearby, at the entrance of another cave, Xiaoo Ying'Er sat upright on a broad white carpet, quietly flipping through the Dragon Capturing Manual. This Third Princess indeed possessed a serene disposition, immersing herself in the tedious Array Manual without the slightest hint of impatience.

At this moment, Hua Yanluo, who was guarding near Xiaoo Ying'Er, suddenly exclaimed in a low voice, "Saintess, something seems to have happened in the direction of the Secret Realm Center! That flying over there... is that Little Yu King's Giant Tiger Demon?"

Upon hearing this, Xiao Ying'Er raised her eyes, her beautiful face instantly tightening. She saw a giant white tiger flying swiftly through the air amidst clusters of Poisonous Fog, coming from the direction of the Secret Realm Center. Atop the tiger's back sat five Golden Armor Martial Cultivators. Beside the tiger, another Martial Cultivator flew with a blaze of fire beneath his feet; the flames burned intensely but did not harm him.

After emerging from the Poisonous Fog, these six individuals flew straight towards the small mountain, crossing a distance of over ten miles in the blink of an eye and landing upon it.

Little Yu King leaped down from the Giant Tiger Demon, leading his five companions quickly to Xiao Ying'Er's white carpet. He cupped his hands and said, "Changge pays respects to the Third Princess!"

Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er nodded slightly, her gaze sweeping over the group before finally resting on the Martial Cultivator controlling the blaze. Her eyebrows rose slightly as she spoke, "Yu Shier? I heard from Changge that you accompanied his uncle to the Secret Realm Center. Why are you here with Changge now?"

The Martial Cultivator named Yu Shier, a man in his forties with leopard-like eyes and a bushy beard, had a crimson long saber hanging from his waist and appeared quite imposing.

He retracted the blaze beneath his feet and cupped his hands, saying, "Third Princess, I was indeed at the Secret Realm Center. However, I encountered His Highness Little Yu King while setting up the Demon Refining Array. I initially intended to take His Highness Little Yu King to see General Yu, but we unexpectedly encountered three powerful Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions. This forced us to leave the Secret Realm Center together!"

Upon hearing this, Xiao Ying'Er said in surprise, "Three Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions? Most of the Corpse Scorpions at the Ba Mountain Secret Realm Center are Tier Six. But now, Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions have appeared, and three of them at that? No wonder even a late-stage Tier Seven powerhouse like you was forced to retreat from the Secret Realm Center!"

She turned her head to look towards the Secret Realm Center. "The Ba Mountain Secret Realm is indeed fraught with danger! If three Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions are involved, the deployment of General Yu's Demon Refining Array will be severely impacted. Battling such powerful demons in the Secret Realm Center, even Tier Eight Powerhouses must be extremely cautious to avoid perishing!"

Yu Shier's leopard-like eyes flashed with urgency as he cupped his hands, "Indeed. Those three late-stage Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions are immune to Poisonous Fog and carry potent corpse venom. If they disrupt our efforts, not only will the deployment of the Demon Refining Array be delayed, but both General Yu and the Tier Eight Powerhouse Wang Linghui will be in grave danger!"

After speaking, he glanced around, frowned, and said, "I heard from His Highness Little Yu King that there is an extraordinary individual with the Third Princess, possessing a Demon-Catching Treasure capable of easily subduing Tier Seven Demons! If we could obtain that Demon-Catching Treasure, we might have a chance against those three late-stage Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions! Where is this Mr. Mu now?"