

Stronger 261

Chapter 261: The Audacious Lin Xuankong, Princess Be My Guard!

CREAK CREAK.

Several large boulders, moved by the Shadow of the Black Soul, revealed the entrance to a mountain cave.

Riding atop the Tier Seven Corpse Scorpion, Lin Xuankong paused at the cave entrance and glanced to one side.

"Mr. Mu has come out of seclusion!" Celestial Sect Elder Hua Yanluo looked over. Upon seeing the Tier Seven Corpse Scorpion beneath Lin Xuankong's feet, her pupils contracted slightly.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er stared fixedly at Lin Xuankong, her eyes flickering. She watched until Lin Xuankong, standing on the Corpse Scorpion, moved beside her. Only then did the Third Princess's gaze shift, and she spoke, "Congratulations to Mr. Mu for refining two more powerful Spirit Puppets... A Late Stage Tier Seven Demon is quite formidable, and it's challenging to capture one intact. Even in our Great Xia Dynasty, there aren't many Late Stage Tier Seven Spirit Puppets!"

Hua Yanluo respectfully added, "Let alone three Late Stage Tier Seven Spirit Puppets, just one is enough for Mr. Mu to be unrivaled in the Great Marsh Prefecture! With three Late Stage Tier Seven Spirit Puppets, and two Late Stage Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions capable of affecting the Cultivation of Tier Eight Demons... Mr. Mu is definitely considered one of the top experts, even across the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang!"

Not far away, Zheng Yunrui, Liy Ruoqing, and Liy Ruo Ying all wore expressions filled with reverence.

Especially Liy Ruoqing, who looked at the Tier Seven Corpse Scorpion under Lin Xuankong's feet, his heart filled with emotion. Second Uncle obtained the Demon Capturing Array, but after a hundred years of effort, he only managed to refine a Demon Prison Cage that could suppress Tier Five Demons! Yet with his newly refined Tier Seven Demon Prison Cage, Mr. Mu easily obtained three Late Stage Tier Seven Spirit Puppets!

The same Refining Method for treasures, the same Secret Technique, yet in the hands of different people, the disparity is so immense!

Liy Ruo Ying, on the other hand, couldn't help but sigh... Every few days, when I see Elder Mu again, the gap between us feels like it has widened many times over. Is this what they call being left hopelessly behind?

As the Liy Family Brothers were lost in their thoughts, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, standing before everyone, spoke softly, "Mr. Mu, Ying'Er has been studying the Demon Capturing Array recently and has encountered many new points of confusion. Might I ask for your guidance?"

After a moment of thought, Lin Xuankong looked at Xiaoo Ying'Er. "Coincidentally, I also have an important matter I wish to consult the Third Princess about. How about we go to my mountain cave for a private, detailed discussion?"

A private discussion? Xiaoo Ying'Er's expression froze.

As a princess raised in the Imperial Palace, she had always adhered to strict decorum. Never before had she been alone with a man... Indeed, no man had ever dared invite her to a private meeting!

This was especially true after she awakened the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein and became the Celestial Sect Saintess. With titles like Celestial Sect Saintess, Third Princess of Great Xia, possessor of the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein, and peerless prodigy—adorned with such honors—how many men in the Great Xia Dynasty wouldn't feel abashed in her presence? How many Martial Cultivators would dare to be anything but respectful upon meeting her?

Now, hearing Lin Xuankong invite her for a private discussion in a cave, the Third Princess couldn't help but be stunned.

Hmm, the first time in her life a man had invited her to be alone with him...

Naturally, Lin Xuankong's invitation to Xiaoo Ying'Er held no untoward intentions.

Over the past eight days, his Yin Talisman Technique had continuously improved, reaching the Perfection Realm of Returning to the Essence, and his Transcendence Fifth Layer Cultivation had also reached the Perfection Realm. Therefore, he planned to ask Xiaoo Ying'Er if she possessed any Wood Spirit Object, or had any news regarding one!

It was just that recently, everyone present had been treating him as some supreme expert, assuming he had already reached Sixth-Layer Perfection. Lin Xuankong had been put on such a pedestal that he felt too embarrassed to tell them he was only at the Fifth Layer... What could he do? Even Lin Xuankong had a little bit of pride! That was why he planned to ask Xiaoo Ying'Er about the Wood Spirit Object privately.

How could the others possibly know Lin Xuankong's thoughts? Hearing that he actually wanted to invite the Third Princess into the cave alone, everyone's expressions became incredibly expressive!

Liy Ruoqing was filled with awe. Elder Mu is truly audacious! If it were me, even if my courage were magnified a hundredfold, I would never dare to invite the Third Princess to be alone... Are you kidding? Alone with the Third Princess in the same place?

Zheng Yunrui, with her hair buns, looked at Lin Xuankong, her expression brimming with gossip, and secretly gave him a thumbs up.

The girl with hair buns had long admired 'Mu Shiba' immensely. In her mind, if the Third Princess of Great Xia were to end up with anyone, 'Mu Shiba' would undoubtedly be the foremost candidate!

At this moment, Zheng Yunrui was already imagining what might happen between the Princess and Elder Mu in the cave, what might transpire after they left the Secret Realm, what their children should be named, and what she should give as a full-month celebration gift for their child...

In the crowd, Celestial Sect Elder Hua Yanluo frowned deeply.

Though she was quite wary of 'Mu Shiba,' in Hua Yanluo's heart, the status of the Celestial Sect Saintess was paramount. No matter how strong Mu Shiba was, he was neither an Immortal Sect Saint Son nor an Immortal Sect Leader's True Inheritance! The disparity in their statuses was as vast as that between the clouds and mud! This fellow, how dare he invite the Third Princess to accompany him alone into the mountain cave?

Of course, Hua Yanluo, being old and cunning, wouldn't risk offending either the Princess or 'Mu Shiba.' In her anxiety, she could only repeatedly shoot meaningful glances at her attendant, Qiing.

The attendant Qiing had been itching to speak for a while. Seeing Elder Hua's signal, she immediately piped up, "M-Mr. Mu, the Princess is of such noble status, how could she possibly be alone with a man? You—you are being far too disrespectful to the Princess, and far too arrogant and audacious!"

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Lin Xuankong frowned. He wanted to go into the cave alone because there were things he didn't want to say in public. What was wrong with that?

But before he could speak, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er had already furrowed her brows and glared at Qiing. "Nonsense! I want to ask Mr. Mu about the Demon Capturing Array without being disturbed. Is there a problem with that? Elder Hua, when I enter the cave, make this girl kneel at the entrance. She cannot get up until I come out. This time, she must learn her lesson!"

After speaking, she turned and walked towards Lin Xuankong's cave. Lin Xuankong shook his head slightly and followed.

「Outside the cave」

The maid Qiing, Hua Yanluo, and the others all looked bitter, inwardly complaining about Mu Shiba. However, no one dared to say anything more.

「A moment later」

They were already deep inside the cave.

Lin Xuankong took out an oil lamp from his Ghost Frog Pouch and lit it. "Third Princess, what doubts do you have about the Dragon Capturing Array?"

At this moment, the light in the cave was dim. As the oil lamp flickered, Xiaoo Ying'Er's originally ethereal and otherworldly appearance took on a different kind of charm. She looked up at Lin Xuankong

and began to ask in detail about the various doubts she had encountered while studying the Demon Capturing Array these past few days.

Her tone was calm and direct, and she showed no awkwardness despite being alone with him.

However, Xiaoo Ying'Er, who had never been alone with a man before, maintained a calm exterior. Inwardly, she felt a sense of novelty, and her heart couldn't help but beat a few beats faster.

More than two hours later, Lin Xuankong had explained all his insights into the Dragon Capturing Array to Xiaoo Ying'Er. Sitting on a white carpet, Xiaoo Ying'Er listened attentively, nodding from time to time.

After Lin Xuankong finished speaking, a look of surprise appeared in her eyes, and she couldn't help but say, "After listening to your explanation, Ying'Er has gained a great deal. For you to have studied the Demon Capturing Array to such a profound level, you must have researched it for at least a decade!"

A decade? More like a few dozen days!

Lin Xuankong said, "Since your doubts are resolved, Third Princess, Mu Shiba has a few things he would like to ask you."

Xiaoo Ying'Er smiled. "Mr. Mu, you are exceptionally talented; please don't use the words 'ask for advice.' You personally taught me the secrets of the Demon Capturing Array and have saved Ying'Er's life multiple times... From now on, please don't address me formally as Third Princess. Just call me Ying'Er! If you have any questions, Mr. Mu, please feel free to ask."

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong no longer stood on ceremony. "Ying'Er, I wanted to ask about matters concerning Wood Spirit Objects."

However, after addressing her as Ying'Er, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but shake his head slightly. Calling this Saintess 'Third Princess' felt natural enough, but now, calling her 'Ying'Er' directly felt somewhat overly intimate!

Xiao Ying'Er looked at Lin Xuankong with her bright eyes. "It seems Mr. Mu is indeed, as I guessed, at the Perfection Realm of the Fifth Layer!"

Lin Xuankong was somewhat surprised. "These past few days, I have hardly acted personally, either activating the Demon Prison Cage or controlling the Spirit Puppet. How did you discern my realm?"

Xiao Ying'Er raised an eyebrow slightly and smiled. "Mr. Mu, you have never told Ying'Er your origins. Naturally, Ying'Er has her own secrets as well."

Lin Xuankong was momentarily speechless. Meanwhile, Xiao Ying'Er thought to herself: The Blood Bath Divine Skill has many wondrous uses, including an extremely keen perception of True Qi. Although Mr. Mu rarely acts, how could he possibly hide his realm from me! However, her respect and admiration for Mr. Mu stemmed not from his Cultivation Realm but from his talent... So what if he was at the Perfection Realm of the Fifth Layer? With his mastery of the Demon Capturing Array, he was destined to become the unique Artifact Refining Grandmaster revered by millions in the Great Xia Dynasty!

Thinking of this, Xiao Ying'Er said, "Mr. Mu, are you asking about Spiritual Objects because you plan to open your Wood Vein and advance to the Sixth Layer? If so, taking a Wood Treasure Pill would actually be better, offering a greater chance of advancing your realm! If you use Wood Spirit Objects, and your luck is good, thirty or forty might be enough to advance. If your luck is poor, even a hundred might not suffice! Besides, Wood Spirit Objects are extremely rare, far more difficult to find than Heavy Water Spiritual Objects or Sunflower Water Spiritual Objects. In the Kyoto auction houses, even the most common Wood Spirit Objects command prices several times higher than those of Heavy Water Spiritual Objects, and for the most part, they are unavailable even if one has the funds!"

After speaking, Xiao Ying'Er touched her waist and took out three green pills exuding a spiritual aura.

"I happen to have three Wood Treasure Pills with me. At the Sixth Layer, after opening the Wood Vein, a Martial Cultivator's True Qi reserves and power not only multiply, but their Lifespan also increases considerably! Unfortunately, so many Martial Cultivators remain stuck at the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer for their entire lives, unable to advance to Perfection. They end up wasting a hundred years of their Lifespan and die in regret! If you have already broken through the bottleneck of the Late Stage of the Fifth Layer, Mr. Mu, that is indeed worth celebrating. Consider these three Wood Treasure Pills as Ying'Er's celebratory gift!"

Lin Xuankong looked at the Wood Treasure Pills in Xiao Ying'Er's hand and resolutely shook his head. "I still want to try with Spiritual Objects. My luck has always been decent; perhaps using Spiritual Objects

will allow me to advance! You just need to tell me where I can find Wood Spirit Objects after we leave the Ba Mountain Secret Realm."

Hearing this, Xiao Ying'Er couldn't help but frown slightly. After pondering for a long moment, she said, "Actually, I happen to have eighteen Wood Spirit Objects with me; they are called Precious Transforming Grass Spiritual Objects. However, these Precious Transforming Grass Spiritual Objects can only produce two seeds in their entire lifetime. I have already used them once. If they are used one more time, these Precious Transforming Grass Spiritual Objects will become completely useless!"

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A Rare Wood Spirit Object? As expected of the Third Princess of Great Xia, to be carrying such a precious treasure with her!

Lin Xuankong's eyes gleamed. "This rare Transforming Grass Spiritual Object... can it also increase Cultivation Speed like the rare Heavy Water Spiritual Object does?"

Xiao Ying'Er frowned. "Among Wood Spirit Objects, there isn't one that increases Cultivation Speed like the Heavy Water Spiritual Object. The rare Transforming Grass Spiritual Object has two effects: firstly, a Demon can transform into human form after consuming it. Secondly, it allows a Martial Cultivator's Transformation Vein to store True Qi more effectively, nearly doubling its capacity!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong's eyes sparkled even more.

A storage capacity twice that of a normal Sixth Layer practitioner? Such a powerful Spiritual Object indeed! "If I were to buy one from you, how much Demon Flesh would it cost?"

Xiao Ying'Er shook her head slightly.

"A common Wood Spirit Object can be exchanged for hundreds of thousands of catties of Tier Three Demon Flesh. Rare Wood Spirit Objects? Their value can't be measured by Demon Flesh! Such a treasure is considered a Sect's most sacred artifact and definitely cannot be sold!"

Cannot be sold!?

Lin Xuankong fell silent.

Seeing Lin Xuankong's silence, Xiaoo Ying'Er suddenly revealed a mischievous smile.

"Although this Sect treasure cannot be sold, I can gift you eighteen of them, Sir!"

Lin Xuankong was slightly taken aback. Gift them to me? The value of Heavy Water Spiritual Objects is already inestimable. The value of Wood Spirit Objects that can allow one to advance from the Fifth Layer to the Sixth Layer must be even more precious!

With these thoughts in mind, Lin Xuankong carefully looked at Xiaoo Ying'Er, only to see her nodding slightly, a smile on her lips.

Lin Xuankong said, "Wood Spirit Objects are extremely valuable, and Rare Wood Spirit Objects even more so. I certainly can't accept them for free! How about an exchange? I'll give you anything I have, even a Tier Seven Spirit Puppet once we're out of this Secret Realm!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er smiled and shook her head. "No need for a Spirit Puppet or any other items. If you insist on an exchange, Sir, then simply help me refine three thousand Profound Truth Jade Particles and engrave inscriptions on them!"

Lin Xuankong paused. Just that? Refining three thousand Profound Truth Jade Particles would only take a few days! This Third Princess is truly generous...

He immediately nodded. "No problem! Three thousand Jade Particles it is. Besides, I only need two Wood Spirit Objects!"

Upon hearing this, Xiaoo Ying'Er said with some surprise, "With two Rare Wood Spirit Objects, the combined probability of aiding an advancement still won't exceed four percent!"

Lin Xuankong smiled. "My luck has always been quite good!"

A moment later, Lin Xuankong took the Transforming Grass from Xiao Ying'Er. After learning how to use this Transforming Grass, he couldn't help but feel a wave of emotion.

He had thought that to advance to the Sixth Layer Realm, he would have to search through various secret realms, much like his current trip to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm. He never expected this Third Princess of Great Xia to actually carry Wood Spirit Objects with her! He had obtained such a priceless treasure after just a few words with her and agreeing to refine three thousand Jade Particles! Whether this Third Princess was trying to win him over or had taken a liking to him, this girl... she seemed like a good person!

"I will now go into seclusion to cultivate and attempt to break through to the Sixth Layer!"

Lin Xuankong immediately took out a large amount of Demon Flesh and began nurturing the Spirit Grass.

Xiao Ying'Er frowned slightly upon hearing this. "Although Transforming Grass is a Rare Spiritual Object, the chance of it helping a Martial Cultivator advance is only one or two percent. With just two Spirit Grasses, Sir, your chances of advancing will be very slim. Do you really not need more?"

Lin Xuankong waved his hand. "I'm lucky. Perhaps a single Spiritual Object will be enough for me to advance!"

Seeing Lin Xuankong's insistence, Xiao Ying'Er fell silent for a moment before walking towards the cave entrance. "Two Spiritual Objects offer a very low chance, but there's still a sliver of hope. If you do manage to advance, Sir, you'll need to cultivate for at least ten or so hours! If you insist on using them now, then Ying'Er will guard the cave entrance and protect you during your cultivation!"

Lin Xuankong turned to look. The Third Princess of Great Xia was standing at a bend in the cave. She had already summoned a Demon Sparrow and two Ghost Frog King Demons. Then, she spread out a white carpet and stood upon it, attentively watching the outside, clearly taking on the role of a guard to protect him wholeheartedly!

The Third Princess of Great Xia, the Celestial Sect Saintess, gifting him invaluable Spiritual Objects and now personally standing guard for him? How many people in the entire Great Xia Dynasty could enjoy such a privilege! If Hua Yanluo, the maid Qing, Zheng Yunrui, and the others outside were to find out,

what would they think? If the Celestial Sect Leader or Emperor Xiaoo of the Great Xia Dynasty were to find out, what would they think? It seems this Third Princess is determined to win me over... However, until he attained greater strength, he would certainly not get involved in the complicated affairs surrounding the Third Princess. Once outside the Secret Realm, he would, at most, covertly assist her using the identity of Mu Shiba. He would definitely not approach her as Lin Xuankong!

Lin Xuankong looked at Xiaoo Ying'Er for a few moments, his mind made up.

Then, he looked at the two Spirit Grasses currently absorbing the Demon Flesh. By now, the two Spirit Grasses had consumed several thousand catties of Demon Flesh. After a flash of light, they each produced a seed.

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These two grass seeds were full, emerald green, and lustrous. They exuded an aura similar to that of the Heavy Water Spiritual Object, yet possessed an even more vibrant sense of life!

Lin Xuankong carefully sensed them for a moment. With no more doubt in his heart, he placed one of the grass seeds into his mouth.

Instantly, the grass seed transformed into a cool liquid that slid down his throat. From his abdomen, a concentrated life energy arose!

Lin Xuankong immediately held his breath, focused his mind, and began cultivating.

「After the time it took to drink three cups of tea」

Lin Xuankong's half-closed eyes opened, a flash of joy appearing within them.

At this moment, within his Dantian, besides the original ring-like Sunflower Water Vein formed from the Heavy Water Spiritual Object, there was an additional green, ring-like Wood Vein. This new Spirit Vein, though newly condensed, was even more profound and bright compared to the Sunflower Water Vein!

Additionally, for the Twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots coiled around the Wood Vein, the number of profound runes associated with each Divine Thunder had more than doubled, and their power had become several times stronger!

Lin Xuankong: Remaining Lifespan 148 years and 300 days.

Life Plate: [Vigorous in Old Age]

First Life Plate Talent: [Old and Wise] Enhances Cultivation Speed based on age; at his current age of sixty, Cultivation Speed increases by sixty times.

Second Life Plate Talent: [Wives, Children, Elders, and Youngsters] Can continuously acquire the Cultivation Techniques and skills of wives and children...

[True Qi: 499,999/1,500,000]

[Realm: Early Stage of Transcendence Sixth Layer]

[Yin Talisman Technique: Great Success in Micro Mastery 1/1000]

[Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Attained Minor Success 418/500]

[Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique: Attained Minor Success 352/450]

[Eight Gates Celestial Eye: Fifth Layer 16/500]

[Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique: Returning to the Essence 2/500]

[Blood Eating Technique: Returning to the Essence 80/500]

[Blood-Burning Secret Technique: Attained Minor Success 162/240]

[Divine Protection Elixir: Top-grade Pill Technique 121/160]

[Heart Thought: Mortal Tier Seventh Grade 2/160]

[Third Spirit Puppet Technique: Entering the Hall 42/160]

Sensing the various changes in his body and Life Plate, the joy in Lin Xuankong's eyes grew more pronounced.

After advancing to the Sixth Layer, his Lifespan had unexpectedly increased by several decades. His remaining Lifespan now reached more than 148 years.

If he added the sixty years of his current body's age, it meant the lifespan limit of this body reached over two hundred years!

Over two hundred years! In my past life, that would have been enough to witness the rise and fall of a dynasty!

Even in this Martial Arts World, his Lifespan far surpassed all Martial Cultivators below the Sixth Layer. In terms of Lifespan, Sixth Layer Martial Cultivators and those below were almost different species!

No wonder an expert like Elder Ruhua always carried a faint pride when facing Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators... It's not just a suppression of power, but also a suppression from the level of life itself!

Additionally, after these recent days of cultivation, both the Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique and Blood Eating Technique had advanced to the Returning to the Essence Realm.

When the Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique was unleashed, he could instantaneously expand to nearly three zhang in height, and his explosive power could reach over seven times, approaching eight times, its normal strength!

The Blood Eating Technique was even more miraculous. Now, even if he consumed ordinary plants, he could convert them into a significant amount of Qi and Blood. Consuming Tier Three Demon Flesh, he could digest it completely. He could eat four or five thousand jin of Demon Flesh in one meal, and twenty thousand jin in a day, and his stomach would remain light, with no signs of acidity, bloating, or cramps...

It's hard to imagine to what extent I'll be able to eat when I reach the Great Success Realm of the Blood Eating Technique.

Over ten thousand jin in a single meal? Consuming forty to fifty thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh in a day?

With such an appetite, even marrying someone like Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er would likely deplete the wealth of the Great Xia Xiao Family...

The most delightful thing was that after using the Transforming Grass, this Rare Wood Spirit Object, his Life Plate's Qi and Blood Reserves had indeed greatly increased.

Normally, after forming an ordinary Wood Vein, the increase in True Qi reserves was about double. But because he had consumed the Rare Wood Spirit Object, the Transforming Grass, his True Qi reserves had astonishingly tripled, reaching an incredible 1,500,000!

Such True Qi reserves could probably rival the total True Qi of ten thousand ordinary Sixth Layer experts who possessed Wood Veins!

If I can fully store such terrifying True Qi reserves, then even when facing Demon Qi consumption nearing that of a Celestial Demon Bone, I wouldn't have to worry at all!

"Oh, Mr. Mu, have you finished cultivating?" Xiaoo Ying'Er's voice suddenly sounded.

The Third Princess, dressed in a white gown, gracefully approached and stood next to Lin Xuankong. Her eyes widened in astonishment. "This... Sir, the aura you're emanating is entirely different from before!

Have you advanced to the Sixth Layer? But... but Sir, you only spent the time it takes to drink three cups of tea?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er looked Lin Xuankong up and down, as if she had seen something extraordinary. She was filled with amazement. When I, with my Profound Phoenix Strange Vein, advanced to the Sixth Layer, it took me over ten hours... Yet Mr. Mu only took the time of a few cups of tea?

Moreover, Mr. Mu only used two Wood Spirit Objects to advance to the Sixth Layer, while I used eighteen spirit objects to do the same!

Lin Xuankong looked at the astonished Xiaoo Ying'Er before him. Smiling, he spread his palm, revealing a Transforming Grass seed glowing with green light.

"Third Princess, you are mistaken. I only used one Wood Spirit Object! As I've said, my luck has always been quite good!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, already astonished, was stunned once more upon seeing the Transforming Grass seed in his hand.

Lin Xuankong smiled and said, "Thank you, Ying'Er, for guarding me. Rest assured, in the next few days, I will surely carve three thousand Jade Particles for you. Hmm, carving a few thousand more wouldn't be a problem either!"

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Xiaoo Ying'Er nodded blankly. She suddenly realized one thing: Mu Shiba, standing before her, was the only person whose cultivation speed surpassed her own! She had long been recognized throughout the Celestial Sect as the foremost prodigy of the Great Xia, the hope for the prosperity of the Great Xia and the flourishing of the Celestial Sect. If the Celestial Sect Leader and her father knew that someone possessed a cultivation speed faster than hers, who knows how shocked they would be! Fortunately, from the moment I first met Mr. Mu, I never underestimated him. I even used the position of Saint-Protector General and the Holy Arrival Jade Token to thoroughly win him over. However, I must intensify my efforts now! Such an astonishing talent must be recruited into my Princess's Mansion, no matter the cost! A determined gleam suddenly shone in Xiaoo Ying'Er's eyes.

「A moment later,」

The two of them walked out of the cave and stood before the assembled crowd. Xiao Ying'Er glanced at the maidservant Qing, who was kneeling at the cave entrance, and couldn't help but furrow her brows. "Do you realize your mistake?"

The maidservant Qing wore a bitter expression. "Qing realizes her mistake. I should not have been disrespectful to Mr. Mu!"

When Xiao Ying'Er heard this, her expression softened slightly. She then looked at Lin Xuankong and said, "Mr. Mu, please forgive my poor management. If you wish to punish Qing, don't consider my feelings! Just say the word, and I'll send this girl to the Celestial Prison!"

Hearing these words, everyone present revealed puzzled expressions. Celestial Sect Elder Hua Yanluo, in particular, looked at the Third Princess and Lin Xuankong with a face full of surprise and suspicion. Something isn't right! Something is very wrong! What happened between the two of them in the cave? Previously, although the Third Princess greatly respected Mu Shiba, it was nothing like this. And now, the Third Princess's tone seemed to carry a hint of... fawning? Having followed the Third Princess for years, I've never seen her so respectful to anyone! What on earth happened in that cave?

While everyone was puzzled and speculating, Lin Xuankong glanced at the kneeling maidservant Qing. "There's no need, Third Princess. Although this maidservant was a bit blunt, she ultimately acted for your own good!"

Seeing him say this, Xiao Ying'Er secretly breathed a sigh of relief. I'm already determined to win over Mr. Mu. If he had truly wanted to punish this maidservant, who grew up with me, I would have had to protect Mr. Mu's dignity, even if I was reluctant! Fortunately, Mr. Mu is indeed upright and broad-minded!

Lin Xuankong, however, paid no mind to the disrespect from a young maidservant. He shifted his gaze from Qing and looked towards the Secret Realm Center. Now, I have refined three late-stage Tier Seven Spirit Puppets, and my realm has advanced to the Sixth Layer of Transcendence. My strength has increased severalfold. After reaching the Sixth Layer, not only has the power of the Thunder Technique from the Yin Talisman Technique improved, but if I summon a large number of demons and the four Shadows of the Black Soul, they will all be formidable Tier Six demons and Shadows of the Black Soul! These numerous demons and Shadows of the Black Soul can all be enhanced by my Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique, Blood-Burning Secret Technique, Kui Ox Drum, and Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique. Any single one of them, when singled out, would have a chance to battle a Tier Seven

powerhouse. With so many demons and shadows, plus three late-stage Tier Seven puppets, I can definitely handle even early to mid-grade Tier Eight demons with ease! With these strengths and abilities, I can contend even with the Tier Eight powerhouses from Prince Yu's Mansion at the Secret Realm Center! The Grand Array of Prince Yu's Mansion has already begun operating. In another day or two, the Demon Qi of the Celestial Demon Bone will be suppressed to a hundred-unit diameter... If I want the Celestial Demon Bone, I must set off immediately!

At this thought, determination and confidence shone in Lin Xuankong's eyes. He looked at the people around him and announced, "Third Princess, Elder Hua, Yun Rui, you two Hall Masters, I have finished discussing insights on the Demon Capturing Array with the Third Princess. I am now preparing to head to the Secret Realm Center, so I shall bid you all farewell here!"

Upon hearing this, everyone's expression froze. Liy Ruoqing, Liy Ruo Ying, and Zheng Yunrui showed expressions that said, 'as expected.' The three of them had long known that Mu Shiba had designs on the Celestial Demon Bone, so they were not surprised.

However, Elder Hua Yanluo, the maidservant Qiing, and others accompanying the Third Princess revealed expressions of surprise. Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er herself furrowed her brows. "Mr. Mu, you're also going to the Secret Realm Center? Do you also have plans for the Celestial Demon Bone?"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly.

A trace of worry appeared in Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's eyes. "The Poisonous Fog at the Secret Realm Center is terribly toxic; Cultivators can hardly resist it. Even late-stage Ninth Layer powerhouses will have their cultivation affected if they are contaminated! Mr. Mu, you are powerful and possess three late-stage Tier Seven Spirit Puppets, so you can naturally handle other crises with ease. But the Poisonous Fog at the Secret Realm Center... More than ten Tier Seven powerhouses have perished there, many Tier Eight powerhouses have fallen too, and even a Great Demon at Ninth-Layer Perfection has died within it! Mr. Mu, with talent such as yours, your future will surely be limitless if you just focus on cultivation. Why risk going to the extremely dangerous and highly toxic Ba Mountain Secret Realm Center?"

Seeing the Third Princess attempt to dissuade him, Elder Hua Yanluo also couldn't help but clasp her hands and add her plea, "Mr. Mu, at this moment, the Secret Realm Center likely contains not only powerhouses from Prince Yu's Mansion but possibly also experts from the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang and other State Mansions, along with Great Demons. Once Prince Yu's Mansion's Refining Array suppresses the Demon Qi of the Celestial Demon Bone, a massive battle is likely to erupt! In a battle of that magnitude, who knows how much of the Poisonous Fog will be stirred up... If it touches you, even

Tier Seven powerhouses might not survive. With your unparalleled talent, why place yourself in such peril?"

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At this moment, despite everyone's earnest persuasion, Lin Xuankong, who was gazing toward the Secret Realm Center, remained unmoved. His expression resolute, he declared, "Success or failure, I must try. My mind is made up; neither the Princess nor Elder Hua need persuade me further!"

Having said that, he leaped lightly and landed on the back of a Tier Seven Corpse Scorpion.

Upon seeing this, a series of emotions flickered across Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's delicate face before she suddenly spoke, "Mr. Mu, if you are determined to go to the Secret Realm Center, Ying'Er is willing to accompany you."

When Hua Yanluo and the maid Qiing heard this, their expressions changed dramatically. However, before they could voice their objections, Xiaoo Ying'Er had already turned to them, her expression solemn as she said, "There's no need to dissuade me. This is my decision and is not open to debate!"

Seeing the Third Princess's grave demeanor, neither the maid Qiing nor Hua Yanluo dared to utter another word. They could only look on with anxious faces, gazing at the Third Princess.

Lin Xuankong frowned at Xiaoo Ying'Er. "Since the Secret Realm Center is so dangerous, why must you, Third Princess, insist on taking such a risk?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er arched an eyebrow. "Is Mr. Mu afraid Ying'Er will be a burden? Rest assured, Ying'Er will not be entirely useless on this trip! With Ying'Er present, neither General Yu from Prince Yu's Mansion nor General Wang Linghui would dare to defy my orders, even if they are displeased! In this way, as long as you, Mr. Mu, can pass through the Poisonous Fog and reach the vicinity of the Celestial Demon Bone, no one will dare stop you from approaching it. Then, the only remaining obstacle will be the trial of the Celestial Demon Bone's Demon Qi! Wouldn't that save you the trouble of making enemies of the powerhouses from Prince Yu's Mansion?"

Hearing her explanation, Lin Xuankong pondered for a moment before nodding slightly. If Xiaoo Ying'Er could indeed help him avoid a major conflict with the experts from Prince Yu's Mansion, that wouldn't be bad at all!

However, the thought of the Celestial Demon Bone still troubled him, and a flicker of doubt crossed his mind. He couldn't help but ask, "Does the Princess not want to obtain the Celestial Demon Bone?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er took out the Demon Sparrow Demon Pearl, summoned a huge Demon Sparrow, and then leaped onto its back.

"With my Sixth-Layer Cultivation, how could I possibly withstand the annihilation of my True Qi by the Celestial Demon Bone's Demon Qi! However, Mr. Mu, seeing your determination, Ying'Er is rather curious about what methods you intend to use to approach the Celestial Demon Bone! Therefore, this time, whether it's to prevent you, Mr. Mu, from clashing with Prince Yu's Mansion and causing needless casualties, or simply to satisfy my own curiosity, Ying'Er must go!"

...

「A hundred breaths later.」

They had all drawn near the countless wisps of Poisonous Fog at the heart of the Secret Realm Center.

Lin Xuankong stood on the back of the Tier Seven Corpse Scorpion, flying at the head of the group. Xiaoo Ying'Er, Hua Yanluo, Qiing, and the other attendants followed closely behind on the Demon Sparrow.

Xiaoo Ying'Er patted the Demon Sparrow. It immediately slowed, preparing to navigate the gaps in the Poisonous Fog.

Nearby, however, Hua Yanluo suddenly frowned and exclaimed, "Wait, something's wrong! Ahead of us, Mr. Mu is heading straight into the Poisonous Fog! That fog is emitted from the corpses of Tier Nine Perfect Corpse Scorpions! If he touches even a wisp of it, his Cultivation Realm will plummet to the First Layer, Early Stage!"

The maid Qiing and the other attendants on the Demon Sparrow's back looked up. They saw 'Mu Shiba' flying directly towards the Poisonous Fog, on a collision course with dozens of its wisps. A look of shock passed over everyone's faces.

Even a Tier Nine Powerhouse would have to meticulously avoid that Poisonous Fog, yet he dares to charge right into it?

Seeing this, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er anxiously sprang to her feet on the Demon Sparrow's back and cried out, "Mr. Mu, wait! Mr. Mu, stop at once! You absolutely must not touch that Poisonous Fog!"

Chapter 267: Terrifying Taotie Lin Xuankong, Convergence at the Burial Grounds

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, in her urgency, urged the Demon Sparrow into a phantom streak and flew directly towards Lin Xuankong. In the blink of an eye, she arrived near Lin Xuankong's Corpse Scorpion.

At this moment, the Tier Seven Corpse Scorpion, controlled by Lin Xuankong, had already stopped in mid-air. A wisp of green corpse Poisonous Fog slowly drifted half a foot in front of him. Lin Xuankong was gazing at that wisp of Poisonous Fog thoughtfully.

Seeing this, the anxiety on Xiaoo Ying'Er's pretty face dissipated. She lightly leaped from the Demon Sparrow onto the back of the Corpse Scorpion Lin Xuankong was riding and quickly walked towards him. "Mr. Mu, these Poisonous Fogs are extremely unpredictable. Now that we've reached this place, you absolutely must not fly quickly. You need to be careful and cautious..."

Unfortunately, before she could finish her sentence, she suddenly saw Lin Xuankong reach out, cup some Poisonous Fog in his hands, and begin to scrutinize it.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's face froze in an instant, stunned where she stood. "Mr. Mumu, this... these Poisonous Fogs cannot be touched!"

The others, including Hua Yanluo and the maid Qīng, were all equally astonished. They stared at Lin Xuankong, who had cupped the Poisonous Fog in his hands, as if looking at a madman.

Lin Xuankong, after sensing it carefully, gently exhaled and blew the Poisonous Fog from his hand away.

A small smile touched the corners of his mouth. He hadn't guessed wrong. With his impressive Immortal Tier Poison Resistance, even the Poisonous Fog of a Tier Nine Perfect Corpse Scorpion wouldn't affect him in the slightest!

These Ninth-Layer Perfection Poisonous Fogs, after touching them, aside from a slight corpse stench, were almost the same as ordinary clouds to him!

"Is your Cultivation starting to drop, Mr. Mu?" Xiaoo Ying'Er rushed to Lin Xuankong's side, her pretty face showing signs of anxiety.

Lin Xuankong turned to look at Xiaoo Ying'Er. Seeing her pretty face filled with tension, he shook his head and said, "Perhaps the amount of contact was too little, so my Cultivation didn't drop. Besides, I've taken some special Treasures that can neutralize various poisons, so I should be fine!"

Hearing him say this, Xiaoo Ying'Er showed a face full of doubt. "Really? Are there actually Treasures that can neutralize the poison of a Tier Nine Perfect Corpse Scorpion?"

Lin Xuankong smiled without speaking. He definitely wasn't lying. His Immortal Tier Poison Resistance was indeed the result of consuming the Ghost Frog Eggs!

But Xiaoo Ying'Er obviously still didn't believe him. She stared at Lin Xuankong carefully, continuously sensing his aura. She feared he might drop to the Fifth Layer, Fourth Layer, or even the Third Layer, then the First Layer, in the next moment!

The others also wore expressions of doubt, looking at his hand, then at his face.

Lin Xuankong smiled and said, "If you all don't believe it, you can try!"

Try?

Xiaoo Ying'Er decisively shook her head. Only a fool would try!

Hua Yanluo and the maid Qiing also shook their heads repeatedly.

Lin Xuankong smiled at the corners of his mouth. It seemed that the people of the Royal Family and the Celestial Sect weren't that easy to fool... Back in the Demon-Suppressing Valley, when he demonstrated his poison resistance, some Martial Cultivators from the Han Family had believed it and tried it themselves. But the Third Princess, Hua Yanluo, Qiong, and the others didn't fall for it!

However, he quickly thought of something. "Ying'Er, you seemed extremely anxious just now. Were you that worried about me?"

Hearing this, Xiao Ying'Er's expression turned dazed.

"Not... not that anxious!"

Actually, if Elder Hua or Qiong got poisoned, I would certainly be a bit anxious too!"

Lin Xuankong joked, "Is that so? I thought it was because of me that Ying'Er was especially anxious!"

Xiao Ying'Er gazed at him intently. "In any case, Ying'Er still hopes that Mr. Mu doesn't touch the Poisonous Fog casually anymore. This time it might be because the contact was brief or the fog sparse, but next time, you might drop in Realm instantly, and it could take years to recover!"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly. Then he turned to look towards the Secret Realm Center, contemplating.

They were still hundreds of miles from the Secret Realm Center. Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er was determined to follow him, and they had to avoid the Poisonous Fog and fly slowly. If they continued to evade the Poisonous Fog and travel at this pace, it would likely take two days to arrive. Missing the chance to refine the Celestial Demon Bone would be disastrous!

Meanwhile, Hua Yanluo and the maid Qiong on the Demon Sparrow were already stunned. It wasn't because Lin Xuankong hadn't been poisoned by the small amount of Poisonous Fog, but because Lin Xuankong actually dared to call the Third Princess "Ying'Er"!

Besides Emperor Xiao of Great Xia and the Celestial Sect Leader, who else dared to call the Third Princess 'Ying'Er'? And a young man at that?

Hua Yanluo couldn't help but recall the several Hours Lin Xuankong and Xiaoo Ying'Er had spent alone in a cave. This Celestial Sect Elder suddenly felt a pain in her heart.

It felt as if the fresh, tender cabbage she had carefully nurtured for over a decade had been despoiled by some wild boar that appeared out of nowhere! Moreover, judging by the intimacy of this address and the Third Princess's apparent indifference, it seemed the cabbage had been despoiled quite thoroughly, utterly ravaged!

Hua Yanluo couldn't help but clutch her chest, turning her face away from the two on the back of the Corpse Scorpion, not wanting to look at them anymore. Too heartbreaking! The Third Princess's status was so exalted! And what status did this wild boar, from who knew where, possess? How could these two possibly be together!

The maid Qiing widened her eyes. She felt as if her once bright and fresh world had suddenly darkened. Maybe, possibly, it felt like the sky was falling!

As the Third Princess's close maid, she had imagined countless times who Her Highness's future Prince Consort would be. Perhaps a Saint Heir from some great Immortal Sect, or even an Immortal himself... Yet, here was the Third Princess, so intimate with an unknown common man? Ying'Er, Ying'Er! Ying'Er?

Chapter 268: Terrifying Taotie Lin Xuankong, Gathering at the Burial Grounds_2

If it weren't for the fear of angering the Third Princess, and knowing that she couldn't win, Qiing would have slapped Lin Xuankong to death by now!

While everyone was lost in thought, Lin Xuankong reached into his robes. Instantly, a gigantic, black-patterned serpent, over ten feet thick and more than three hundred feet long, suddenly materialized and landed on the ground. Soon after, this Tier Six Marsh Python raised its head, bringing it close to the airborne Lin Xuankong and Xiaoo Ying'Er.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er was somewhat puzzled to see Lin Xuankong suddenly summon a Tier Six Marsh Python Demon. However, before she could ask, the surrounding air currents began to swirl violently. In the blink of an eye, a gale emerged, sweeping for several miles. Then, Xiaoo Ying'Er saw the colorful Poisonous Fog within a range of several miles in front of them get sucked into the mouth of the black-patterned serpent, like smoke drawn by a tornado!

In just three or four seconds, all the Poisonous Fog had gathered into the giant serpent's mouth. The area several miles in front of them cleared up, and the black-patterned giant serpent disappeared in an instant.

Lin Xuankong said, "The Poisonous Fog around us has been cleared. We can travel quickly now!"

The next moment, the Tier Seven Corpse Scorpion beneath his feet was already carrying him and Xiaoo Ying'Er swiftly forward. Seeing this, Xiaoo Ying'Er quickly urged her Demon Sparrow to carry Hua Yanluo and the others, following closely behind.

When they reached an area several miles away where the Poisonous Fog was dense, Lin Xuankong summoned the giant serpent again to suck it in, and then they continued moving swiftly.

After this was repeated several times, Xiaoo Ying'Er couldn't help but curl her lips. "Mr. Mu, this method of summoning the Marsh Python to absorb the Poisonous Fog is quite good!"

Lin Xuankong replied, "It's the only way. Otherwise, slowly avoiding the Poisonous Fog would take us two days to reach the center of the Secret Realm!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er pondered for a moment, her brows furrowing slightly. "However, frequently summoning the Marsh Python consumes an extreme amount of True Qi! Even though you're a Tier Six Cultivator, you can probably only sustain it a dozen times. After advancing tens of miles, you'll likely need to stop and replenish your True Qi. Why not let us handle summoning the Marsh Python?"

Lin Xuankong shook his head. He took out a large pile of Demon Flesh from the Ghost Frog Pouch, placed it on the back of the Corpse Scorpion, and continuously used lightning to roast it until it was intensely fragrant. "With the large amount of Demon Flesh Ying'Er gave me, it's enough for me to replenish my True Qi while we travel!"

After saying this, he picked up some Demon Flesh, put it in his mouth, and swallowed it.

Nearby, Hua Yanluo, Qiing, and the others couldn't help but shake their heads slightly. Xiaoo Ying'Er furrowed her brows and said, "Using Demon Flesh to replenish True Qi requires digestion first, transforming it into Qi Blood. Then, the Sunflower Water Vein and Wood Vein are used to condense it

into True Qi! Summoning the Marsh Python so frequently consumes a great deal of True Qi. Just roasting Demon Flesh won't replenish it in time!"

Lin Xuankong heard this but only smiled without saying a word, continuing to eat the Demon Flesh.

After the time it takes for a cup of tea, Xiao Ying'Er, who had been frowning, began to show a hint of surprise in her bright eyes.

Along the way, Mr. Mu has summoned the Marsh Python dozens of times, yet he shows no signs of his True Qi running out? The most surprising thing is that Mr. Mu has already eaten at least a thousand pounds of Demon Flesh, and his stomach hasn't bulged even a bit?

Hua Yanluo, on the nearby Demon Sparrow, also showed a look of astonishment. After frowning for a moment, she couldn't help but speak: "I've heard there's a Medium-sized Sect in Nanyuan Prefecture called the Profound Glutton Sect. Its Sect Master is a Tier Seven powerhouse! It's said that among the many Secret Techniques of the Profound Glutton Sect, there's a Supporting Cultivation Technique called the Blood Eating Secret Technique. This technique allows Martial Cultivators to greatly increase their food intake and quickly replenish Qi Blood and True Qi! With Mr. Mu's huge appetite, could it be that he's using the Blood Eating Technique?"

Lin Xuankong, who was continuously devouring Demon Flesh to replenish his True Qi, nodded and said, "Elder Hua is indeed knowledgeable. What I'm using is indeed the Blood Eating Secret Technique, but it wasn't learned from the Profound Glutton Sect; I learned it from someone else."

The doubt in Hua Yanluo's eyes became even more pronounced. "However, I've heard that the Blood Eating Secret Technique is extremely difficult to cultivate. Even the Sect Master of the Profound Glutton Sect has only cultivated it to the Late Stage of the Realm of Integration, able to consume only a few hundred pounds of Demon Flesh at once! Yet you just ate at least a thousand pounds..."

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong merely shook his head slightly without explaining, continuing to devour the Demon Flesh.

Nearly an hour later, the onlookers watching Lin Xuankong eat Demon Flesh were all dumbfounded. Even Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er had her mouth slightly agape, her eyes filled with astonishment.

"Probably five thousand pounds already!" The maidservant Qiing couldn't help but exclaim. "Mr. Mu's appetite... My goodness, even the Taotie Demon of ancient legend would be like this!"

After saying this, she shook her head repeatedly. If the Third Princess really ends up with this guy, even with the abundant resources in the Princess's Mansion, it wouldn't be enough to support such eating! Third Princess, oh Third Princess, please don't get involved with him! This guy is simply a bottomless pit, a real Taotie monster!

After her astonishment, a hint of doubt suddenly appeared in Xiao Ying'Er's eyes.

I'm extremely sensitive to True Qi, but from the moment 'Mu Shiba' started devouring Demon Flesh until now, I haven't sensed even the slightest bit of True Qi leaking from him! This situation is very wrong! For a normal Martial Cultivator, forget consuming five thousand pounds of Demon Flesh; even consuming a hundred pounds would produce more Qi Blood and True Qi than their Dantian, Sunflower Water Vein, and Wood Vein could contain. Five thousand pounds of Demon Flesh... it's absolutely impossible for a normal Martial Cultivator's veins to hold that much!

Chapter 269: Terrifying Taotie, Lin Xuankong, A Meeting of Fates at the Burial Grounds_3

Could it be that this Mu Shiba in front of me, like Lin Xuankong whom I encountered at the Demon Slaying Conference, possesses an extremely special talent? A talent that allows his body to accommodate a great deal of Qi Blood? Or perhaps, this Mu Shiba is actually Lin Xuankong in disguise? No, that's not right. I personally fought Lin Xuankong before. He was at the Fourth Layer at most. How could he have advanced to the Sixth Layer in such a short time? That's absolutely impossible, utterly impossible!

After Xiao Ying'Er's eyes flickered for a moment, a smile touched her lips. Whether they are the same person can be determined by using the Holy Arrival Jade Tokens I gave them. Both of them have one!

Thinking of this, Xiao Ying'Er secretly reached for the Holy Arrival Jade Token by her slender waist. She closed her eyes slightly and carefully sensed it.

A few breaths later, the Third Princess opened her eyes, a puzzled expression on her face.

No... The Holy Arrival Jade Token is such a precious treasure, capable of automatically protecting its owner. Yet, neither Lin Xuankong nor this Mu Shiba is wearing theirs. They both placed them inside their Ghost Frog Pouches! In the images I just received, one Holy Arrival Jade Token was surrounded by

bloody Demon Flesh, and the other was next to a pile of medicinal herbs! Neither of them is wearing their Jade Token... Now it's truly difficult to determine if they're the same person!

Just as Xiaoo Ying'Er's gaze shifted, and she was about to ask Lin Xuankong why he wasn't wearing his Jade Token, Lin Xuankong's voice suddenly interjected, "Ying'Er, we can already see that strange mass of light at the center of the Secret Realm. Is that where the Celestial Demon Bone is buried?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er looked up. An unusual gleam shone in her eyes. "Mr. Mu is right. That area, several miles in radius and constantly manifesting various illusions, is indeed where the Celestial Demon Bone lies!"

Beside her, Hua Yanluo, mounted on the Demon Sparrow, sighed. "They say the Ba Mountain Secret Realm's center is fraught with danger, and just reaching it means navigating through countless Poisonous Fogs! Yet, following Mr. Mu, we arrived in only one Hour. If I hadn't experienced this myself, I, Yanluo, truly would never have believed it! Mr. Mu's Blood Eating Technique for rapidly replenishing True Qi is truly profound and incredibly useful!"

At this moment, a shout suddenly echoed from the distance, reverberating across the land.

"General Yu! The Celestial Demon Bone in this Ba Mountain Secret Realm is an ownerless object! If your Prince Yu's Mansion can refine it, why can't our Thousand Sword Sect?"

Upon hearing this voice, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned. "The Thousand Sword Sect from the Eastern Six Prefectures sent people too? Has Prince Qi's Mansion also set its sights on this Celestial Demon Bone?"

Lin Xuankong asked in confusion, "Prince Qi's Mansion? The Thousand Sword Sect?"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er nodded. "The Thousand Sword Sect was founded by King Qi Han Ren's uncle. It has gathered over thirty thousand Sword Cultivators and is known as the foremost Sword Cultivator Sect in our Great Xia Dynasty. The Sect Master, Han Yan, is at the Late Stage of the Ninth Layer. He is one of the top powerhouses in the Eastern Six Prefectures, on par with King Qi!"

"The person who just spoke should be Han Li, the Grand Elder of the Thousand Sword Sect. He is one hundred and seventy-six years old. He's at the Early Stage of the Eighth Layer, and his Cyan Rainbow

Sword Technique is said to be unparalleled. It's claimed he can challenge those at the Mid-Eighth Layer and even injure Late Eighth Layer experts and Great Demons..."

Just as Third Princess Xiaoying'er finished speaking, a burst of laughter suddenly came from the distance.

"HAHAHA! Elder Han Li is right! A treasure like the Celestial Demon Bone is naturally open for everyone to contest! Elder Han Li, I trust you've been well. Luo Chen greets you!"

Hearing this voice, Hua Yanluo, still on the Demon Sparrow, tensed. "It's Yang Luo Chen from Prince Dong's Mansion!"

The maidservant Qiong frowned. "The Yang Luo Chen who is one of the Seven Prodigies of Prince Dong's Mansion? The one at the Early Stage of the Eighth Layer?"

Hua Yanluo nodded. "That's right. Yang Luo Chen, one of the Seven Prodigies of Prince Dong's Mansion. He's one hundred and ninety-eight years old and at the Early Stage of the Eighth Layer. His Dust Explosion Technique is terrifyingly powerful; he once killed two Mid-Tier Eight Great Demons. Among Cultivators, he's considered a renowned expert!"

"Another Tier Eight Powerhouse!" Lin Xuankong frowned as he listened to their discussion.

He gazed towards the valley where the mass of light was located, his heart growing heavy. It seems the Celestial Demon Burial Ground in this Ba Mountain Secret Realm has truly become a gathering point for the influential. So many Tier Eight Powerhouses have come! With this many Tier Eight Powerhouses, if I hadn't made thorough preparations beforehand, I probably wouldn't even qualify to compete!

Chapter 270: Where Did Mu Shiba, the Strongest in Princess's Mansion, Come From?

As they spoke, the group had already flown over the valley.

Lin Xuankong glanced at the valley, his eyebrows rising involuntarily. At this moment, nearly a thousand individuals were gathered in the valley. They were divided into three teams, each occupying a corner. Condensed True Qi surrounded every person, indicating that all of them were Cultivators of at least the Fifth Layer!

When the Tier Seven Corpse Scorpion and the Third Princess's Demon Sparrow landed, immediately, all one thousand Cultivators turned their gazes towards them.

The few Cultivators at the forefront of the three teams all rose into the air, swiftly floated over, and landed beside the Demon Sparrow.

The Little Yu King was the first to bow, saying respectfully, "Changge welcomes Your Highness, the Princess!"

The others also bowed respectfully.

"Yu Jiansheng welcomes Your Highness, the Princess!"

"Wang Linghui welcomes Your Highness, the Princess!"

"Han Li welcomes Your Highness, the Princess!"

"Yang Luo Chen welcomes Your Highness, the Princess!"

"Yang Luofeng welcomes Your Highness, the Princess!"

After completing their formal greetings, everyone looked up at Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er.

Among these dozen or so Martial Cultivators, aside from the Little Yu King, Yu Changge, who possessed a Sixth-Layer Cultivation, the others had Cultivation levels far exceeding his—at least Mid-grade Seventh Layer. Furthermore, four of them possessed extremely formidable Condensed True Qi, which faintly exerted immense pressure on Lin Xuankong. They were clearly Tier Eight Powerhouses!

Although these Martial Cultivators approached and paid their respects with apparent deference, when they looked at Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, there was no trace of fear, nor any attempt to curry favor. Each face was stern, and their bearing exuded a natural authority, clearly indicating they were individuals accustomed to high positions.

After sweeping her gaze over the crowd, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er performed a slight curtsy and said, "General Yu, General Wang, Elder Han, General Luo Chen, General Luofeng, you have all fought for the nation for many years and accumulated countless battle merits. You are the pillars of the Great Xia Dynasty; there is no need for such excessive courtesy in front of Ying'Er!"

Sixth-Layer and Seventh-Layer Cultivators were already considered the core strength within the Great Xia Dynasty. Tier Eight Cultivators were ranked just below the Ninth-Layer pinnacle powerhouses, making them top-tier figures. These five individuals were all renowned figures throughout the Great Xia Dynasty!

Among them, Grand Elder Han Li of the Thousand Swords Sect, who carried a cyan longsword on his back, stroked his beard and said, "Third Princess, your arrival is most timely! You can be the judge! Just now, General Yu saw me and the two Generals Yang arriving with our men, yet he actually forbade us from approaching the Celestial Demon Bone, acting as if he was about to wage war against us!"

Upon hearing this, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er could not help but look towards General Yu Jiansheng of Prince Yu's Mansion. He was adorned in Golden Armor and was the Little Yu King's uncle.

Yu Jiansheng's facial muscles twitched repeatedly, and he sneered, "Elder Han and the two Generals Yang, you certainly have impeccable timing. You didn't come early, you didn't come late, but arrived just as the people from my Prince Yu's Mansion had finished setting up the Grand Array to suppress the Demon Qi of the Celestial Demon Bone! You lot get to relax, not having to painstakingly set up the Grand Array, yet you still want to approach the Celestial Demon Bone!"

"However, do you think it's that easy to sit back and enjoy the fruits of others' labor?"

"The swords of the Thousand Sword Sect are sharp, and the Explosive Dust Technique of Prince Dong's Mansion is formidable. But is the Hundred-Man Battle Array of my Prince Yu's Mansion any worse?"

"Why don't we just have a battle? Whichever family wins will earn the right to approach the Celestial Demon Bone!"

Hearing this, Han Li, who carried a longsword on his back, suddenly surged his True Qi. "Fine, fine, fine! Everyone says the Battle Array of Prince Yu's Mansion is matchless. I, Han Li, would like to see just how

the Thousand Swords Array of my Thousand Sword Sect compares to your Prince Yu's Mansion's Battle Array!"

Beside him, Yang Luochen and Yang Luofeng, who bore some resemblance to each other—one with a slightly pale complexion, the other slightly ruddy—each raised an ancient-looking, massive black hammer.

The pale-faced Yang Luochen said coldly, "Just because your Prince Yu's Mansion occupied this place first and set up the Grand Array, does that make the Celestial Demon Bone yours?"

"If I were to draw a circle around the Celestial Demon Bone, would that make it mine?"

"Who gets to obtain this Celestial Demon Bone will naturally depend on who can get close to it, who can touch it!"

"Yu Jiansheng, if you want a big fight, then we Yang Family Brothers will gladly oblige and liven things up with you!"

As they spoke, the few individuals slowly began to retreat towards their respective teams.

Seeing this, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's brows knitted together tightly.

After a moment of contemplation, she looked at the tense, confrontational crowd, suddenly circulated her True Qi, and her voice became laced with an icy chill as she spoke, "The Celestial Demon Bone is indeed a supreme treasure of the mortal world. However, Prince Dong's Mansion, Prince Yu's Mansion, and Prince Qi's Mansion each already possess a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone for protection. For you to fight over another piece would merely be adding flowers to brocade... Are you all planning to fight to the death for this Celestial Demon Bone, right here in front of me?"

Standing beside Xiaoo Ying'Er, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but observe her closely.

From the time he first saw the Third Princess in the Demon-Suppressing Valley until this very moment, this was the first time he had seen her truly angry.

No wonder she is the Celestial Sect Saintess and the Third Princess of Great Xia! To be able to adopt such a stance even when facing numerous Seventh-Layer and Tier Eight Powerhouses! The only question is, will they give her face?

Lin Xuankong surveyed the surroundings. He saw that the Seventh-Layer and Tier Eight Powerhouses, who had just been bristling with hostility and on the verge of fighting, all showed a change in expression upon seeing Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er's anger. One by one, they lowered their weapons. Even Yu Jiansheng of Prince Yu's Mansion, whose face had previously been twitching with rage, showed a subtle change in his expression.

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but think to himself: With Emperor Xiao of Great Xia and the Celestial Sect Leader backing her, she truly is different!

The descendant of a Ninth-Layer Perfection powerhouse, even when facing Seventh-Layer and Tier Eight Powerhouses, shows no fear at all. Instead, it's these Seventh-Layer and Tier Eight Powerhouses whose expressions have changed, and they no longer dare to clamor!