

Stronger 271

Chapter 271: Where Did Mu Shiba, the Strongest in Princess's Mansion, Come From? Part 2

This girl still has some intimidating power!

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked at the crowd and continued, "Since you've come to me for judgment, then I shall explain the reasoning to you! Prince Yu's Mansion set up a Grand Array here, expending countless manpower and resources. It's only natural that they should refine the Celestial Demon Bone!"

Han Li, Yang Luo Chen, and Yang Luofeng, the three Tier Eight Powerhouses, frowned upon hearing Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's words. However, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er was currently incensed. Although the three men were dissatisfied, none of them dared to speak.

Xiaoo Ying'Er continued, "However, the Celestial Demon Bone in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm is indeed an ownerless, supreme Treasure. If Prince Yu's Mansion were to monopolize the Celestial Demon Bone solely because they set up the Grand Array, that too would be unfair! My suggestion is this: since everyone has benefited from the convenience provided by Prince Yu's Mansion, anyone who subsequently intends to try and approach the Celestial Demon Bone must provide Prince Yu's Mansion with adequate benefits. Whether it's Elixirs or Treasures, compensation must be given! In this way, it would be fair and reasonable. Everyone can compete on equal footing, relying on their own strength!"

After Xiaoo Ying'Er finished speaking, she looked intently at the crowd.

Yu Jiansheng and General Wang Linghui exchanged a look, their expressions somewhat grim. Han Li and the Yang Family Brothers, however, had a glint in their eyes, clearly weighing the pros and cons.

At this moment, a sound of tearing air suddenly came from outside the valley. Immediately after, a woman's figure shot in like an arrow, landing near Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er.

This woman appeared to be in her fifties or sixties. She was tall and stout, with white hair yet a youthful face, and a rosy complexion. As her eyes opened and closed, a sharp light faintly flickered within them. Upon landing beside the Third Princess, she immediately looked at Han Li and the other Tier Eight Powerhouses, her face darkening as she said coldly, "Her Highness the Third Princess's proposal is perfectly reasonable and makes complete sense. I, Guan Nanfeng, support it wholeheartedly and will comply with it fully! Do any of you dare to disagree?"

Everyone raised their eyes to look at her. Their bodies stiffened as they recognized her attire and appearance. Whether it was the thousand Martial Cultivators or the Tier Seven and Tier Eight experts like Han Li, all their pupils contracted, revealing expressions of profound apprehension.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked at the newcomer with visible joy on her face, exclaiming, "Granny Guan, you are here!"

Celestial Sect Elder Hua Yanluo, standing behind Xiaoo Ying'Er, quickly performed a curtsy upon seeing the newcomer. "Hua Yanluo respectfully greets Steward Guan!"

The maid Qiing and the other maids' faces tightened. They all knelt down in unison, proclaiming, "We respectfully greet Chief Steward Guan!"

Lin Xuankong gazed at the chubby, white-haired old woman with a youthful face standing beside the Third Princess, a hint of confusion in his eyes. The Third Princess calls her 'Granny'? Hua Yanluo calls her 'Steward'? And numerous Tier Eight Powerhouses seem to be extremely wary of her?

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er seemed to have noticed Lin Xuankong's confusion and smiled. "Granny Guan is the Chief Steward of my Princess's Mansion. She has watched me grow up since I was a child. Back then, she was my father's wet nurse, you know!"

Emperor Xiaoo of Great Xia's wet nurse, and the Chief Steward of the Princess's Mansion? Lin Xuankong's expression changed slightly as he involuntarily scrutinized the old lady more closely.

Guan Nanfeng, however, looked towards Han Li, the Yang Family Brothers, Yu Jiansheng, and Wang Linghui, her eyes narrowing slightly. "Generals, you still haven't responded to the Third Princess's proposal!"

At this moment, being stared down by Emperor Xiaoo of Great Xia's wet nurse, the expressions of Yu Jiansheng and the others kept shifting.

After a few moments, Yu Jiansheng bowed and cupped his hands, smiling wryly. "Who would dare to disagree with the Third Princess's proposal! I was merely considering what kind of Elixirs would be appropriate to request from Fellow Daoist Han, Fellow Daoist Yang, and the others!"

Guan Nanfeng moved her rather chubby legs and walked towards the Yang Family Brothers. "So, it's you two brothers who disagree?"

Yang Luochen and Yang Luofeng, both Early Eighth Layer experts renowned throughout the world for their Explosive Dust Technique, now showed expressions of deep apprehension as they faced the Chief Steward of the Princess's Mansion.

Yang Luochen put away his giant hammer and forced a smile. "We agree! How could the two of us dare to disobey the Third Princess's command!"

Guan Nanfeng then looked at the white-haired, sword-bearing Han Li. "Old Han, do you disagree?"

Han Li's heart jolted. He immediately shook his head repeatedly and took out ten bright yellow Elixirs from his robes. "I've even prepared the Elixirs. These are ten Restoration Elixirs, capable of continuously replenishing a large amount of True Qi. Please consider them as my, Han Li's, apology to General Yu!"

Seeing the powerful experts react this way, Guan Nanfeng couldn't help but laugh out loud.

The numerous Tier Eight and Tier Seven experts all wore expressions of embarrassment.

After laughing heartily for a while, Guan Nanfeng walked towards Third Princess Xiaoying'er.

When she once again stood beside the Third Princess, this old woman, who had just worn an imperious expression and intimidated numerous Tier Eight Powerhouses, respectfully performed a curtsy. Then, looking at the Princess, her face filled with a doting and affectionate expression. "Third Princess, if I didn't know how kind-hearted you are, I would have thrashed these rascals on the spot!"

"These scoundrels merely feign compliance! They knew the Princess was being pursued by a Great Demon, yet none of them went to her rescue. Moreover, just now, in front of countless people, they dared to hesitate in obeying the Third Princess's orders. Even if I were to strike them dead here and now, neither Prince Qi's Mansion nor Prince Dong's Mansion would have grounds to complain!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er walked over and held Guan Nanfeng's chubby arm, frowning as she said, "Let's not talk about them! Granny, since you entered the Secret Realm so long ago, why didn't you come to help me sooner? How could you bear to watch me being bullied by that Tier Seven Great Demon?"

Guan Nanfeng looked dotingly at Xiaoo Ying'Er, her eyes showing a hint of heartache. "After I entered the Secret Realm, I intended to find you immediately. However, right after entering, I had an epiphany and went into secluded cultivation for many days. It was only after I emerged that I learned the Princess was being pursued by a demon!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er's face lit up with joy. "A breakthrough? Granny, have you broken through the Late Eighth Layer and advanced to Eighth-Layer Perfection?"

Guan Nanfeng nodded. "Yes, I've advanced to Eighth-Layer Perfection. I originally believed it was impossible for me to reach the Ninth Layer in this lifetime. Unexpectedly, after entering the Ba Mountain Secret Realm and experiencing a change of environment, I suddenly had an epiphany and broke through to Eighth-Layer Perfection! Once my Realm stabilizes, I can take a Treasure Elixir and naturally advance to the Ninth Layer! However, if I had known the Princess would encounter a Great Demon... my breakthrough to the Perfection Realm should have been delayed for a while!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er shook her head repeatedly. "It's alright, it's alright! Little Yu King and this Mr. Mu both came to help me, and we managed to deal with that Great Demon in the end! Granny, your cultivation is more important. The opportunity to break through to Eighth-Layer Perfection is fleeting; how could it be delayed? Please don't say such things, or Ying'Er will really be upset!"

This Third Princess of Great Xia, usually so composed and serene, now displayed a touch of childish charm and acted coquettishly upon seeing the granny who had watched her grow up!

Guan Nanfeng glanced at the silent Little Yu King to the side, then turned to the Third Princess. "Mr. Mu? Where did this Mr. Mu come from? There are no prominent families with the surname Mu within the Great Xia territory!"

Chapter 272: Reverence of the Strongest, This is Not a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone!

Upon hearing Granny Guan's inquiry about Mr. Mu, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, who was holding onto Guan Nanfeng's arm, looked at Lin Xuankong and said, "This is Mr. Mu. He claims to be a Loose Cultivator from the countryside."

Guan Nanfeng's eyes showed a hint of doubt as she sensed him from top to bottom, her doubts growing even deeper. A Loose Cultivator from the countryside, with Sixth-Layer Cultivation, yet he can withstand a Late-stage Tier Seven demon?

At that moment, Lin Xuankong's three Spirit Puppets were stationed outside the valley and had not been brought over. Guan Nanfeng was naturally puzzled.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked serious. "Granny, Mr. Mu has great talent; we cannot simply evaluate him based on his Cultivation!"

Guan Nanfeng frowned. "His appearance is indeed not bad! But to say he has great talent, can he really be stronger than Cao Qingshan, the Sect Leader's True Disciple from the Yuqing Sect, with all his various techniques?"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er whispered something in Guan Nanfeng's ear, then smiled and said, "Just by relying on that Demon Prison Cage, Mr. Mu's Artifact Refining techniques can be claimed to be the best in Great Xia. Not to mention that in just over ten days, he subdued three Late-stage Tier Seven Great Demons and refined them into Spirit Puppets!"

After hearing what the Third Princess said, Guan Nanfeng couldn't help but scrutinize Lin Xuankong once more. A flicker of surprise appeared in her eyes—she, an Eighth-Layer Perfection powerhouse who instilled deep apprehension in Cultivators from Prince Dong's Mansion, Prince Yu's Mansion, and Prince Qi's Mansion. A Demon Prison Cage that can suppress Late-stage Tier Seven demons! Refining three Late-stage Tier Seven Spirit Puppets in fourteen days! If he truly possesses these abilities, it is indeed impressive!

Not far away, Little Yu King, upon hearing this, could not help but speak up.

"I was just wondering why Mr. Mu came to the Secret Realm Center at this time. So it turns out he had already finished refining two Late-stage Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions! Mr. Mu is indeed extraordinary; such refining speed is beyond even the several Tier Eight Powerhouses in my Prince Yu's Mansion!"

Guan Nanfeng said, "When I flew over the valley entrance earlier, I sensed three powerful Late-stage Tier Seven demons lurking on one side of the valley entrance. I thought they were demons spying on the Celestial Demon Bone, but it turns out they are this Mr. Mu's Spirit Puppets! With such Spirit Puppets,

he can even fight and win against an ordinary Early-stage Tier Eight opponent! A Tier Six Cultivator possessing such techniques is indeed rare and can be considered a remarkable person!"

She looked at Xiaoo Ying'Er with a doting expression on her face.

"I have always said that the Third Princess is the most talented and fortunate among all the princes and princesses of Emperor Xiaoo of Great Xia! Now it seems that the Third Princess indeed has deep blessings. Even the Golden-haired Demon Bear from the Sealing Demon Mountain Range sending a Tier Seven Great Demon was just gifting a Spirit Puppet! Moreover, with just a casual trip to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, the Third Princess could even gain a subordinate like Mr. Mu; such fortune is indeed comparable to the True Disciples of the Yuqing Sect!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, however, slightly shook her head and sighed.

"Granny, you always praise me, every day with a different compliment. No wonder Father says you spoil me too much! Besides, Mr. Mu is not my subordinate; he personally taught me the Demon-Capturing Array and has saved me multiple times at critical moments. Someone like him cannot be taken as a mere subordinate! If Mr. Mu could be a Tributor at my Princess's Mansion in the future, Ying'Er would be extremely happy!"

"A Tributor at the Princess's Mansion?" Guan Nanfeng's expression changed slightly.

The Tributors of the Princess's Mansion are all Tier Eight and above Cultivators, every one of them a top-tier powerhouse of this era, and they are all women personally appointed by Emperor Xiaoo of Great Xia! How could a man with Sixth-Layer Cultivation, no matter how many techniques he possesses, become a Tributor at the Princess's Mansion!

However, being the steward of the Princess's Mansion, she had a discerning mind. At this moment, seeing that the Third Princess seemed to hold 'Mu Shiba' in high regard, and knowing that 'Mu Shiba' possessed three Spirit Puppets, she could not underestimate him. Even though she was opposed to Lin Xuankong being a Tributor, she did not say it out loud.

With a shift in her thoughts, Guan Nanfeng reached into her Ghost Frog Pouch, took out a green gallbladder, and changed the topic.

"Third Princess, on my way here to find you, I encountered an Early-stage Tier Eight Marsh Python Great Demon in a lake eighty miles outside this valley. That Great Demon was clearly spying on the Celestial Demon Bone, lurking in the lake. It had already taken many Cultivators' lives and happened to be encountered by me, so I killed it. I obtained ten thousand pounds of Demon Flesh and a Tier Eight Marsh Python Gall. The gall juice of this Tier Eight Marsh Python Gall has extremely powerful healing effects. Please accept this as an apology gift from this old one for arriving late to protect you!"

Upon hearing this, many Martial Cultivators present could not help but look closely. Whether it was the thousands of Fifth-Layer powerhouses or Tier Eight Powerhouses like Yang Luo Chen, Yang Luofeng, and Han Li, all showed deep fear on their faces.

Within the borders of the Great Xia Dynasty, there are numerous demons, their species likely numbering in the tens of thousands. If measured by attack capabilities, Marsh Python Demons would not be considered very formidable and would probably rank outside the top several hundred. But in terms of sheer survivability, Marsh Python Demons would at least rank in the top five among all demons!

The fact that Guan Nanfeng had killed an Early-stage Tier Eight top-tier Great Demon with such formidable survivability—and spoke of it so lightly—showed that this powerful expert, known worldwide as Emperor Xiaoo of Great Xia's wet nurse, possessed skills that truly lived up to her reputation!

Especially since Guan Nanfeng had already reached Eighth-Layer Perfection. Once she left the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, stabilized her Realm, and advanced with the help of a Treasure Elixir or Spiritual Object, the Great Xia Dynasty would have another top-tier powerhouse who could suppress thousands of Martial Cultivators. And with a Tier Nine Powerhouse, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'er's Princess's Mansion would undoubtedly see its prestige soar!

Amidst the numerous Cultivators from Prince Yu's Mansion, Wang Linghui could not help but cup her hands and say, "Granny Guan, your techniques are far beyond what Linghui could ever hope to achieve."

Chapter 273: Reverence of the Strongest, This is Not a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone!_2

"Even if Spirit Badge were to later advance to Eighth-Layer Perfection, to kill an Early-stage Tier Eight Marsh Python in the lake would still take at least a few days and nights of fierce battle!"

Everyone else also clasped their hands and praised. Han Li from the Thousand Swords Sect, who carried a longsword on his back, laughed and said, "Given time, Granny Guan will be ranked in the top fifty of the Great Xia Summer List once she reaches the Ninth Layer. Compared to some Mid-Ninth Layer top-notch powerhouses, her ranking won't fall short!"

Guan Nanfeng, despite being praised by everyone, remained quite indifferent. Her eyes flickered as she glanced at Lin Xuankong, and she suddenly spoke:

"I was able to easily slay an Early Eighth-Layer Marsh Python only because of my higher realm. However, this Mr. Mu Shiba can control three Late Stage Seventh-Layer Great Demons! What's more, among these three Spirit Puppets, two are Late Stage Seventh-Layer Corpse Scorpions with strange Demon Techniques. Even if Mr. Mu has a Sixth-Layer Cultivation, he could probably fight that Tier Eight Marsh Python! Such great talent, if he can advance to the Eighth Layer in the future, would definitely qualify to be a Tributor at the Princess's Mansion of Great Xia!"

Numerous Martial Cultivators, upon hearing this, couldn't help but look at Lin Xuankong. Among them, Tier Eight Powerhouses like Wang Linghui, Yang Luo Chen, and Yang Luofeng were all somewhat puzzled.

The Emperor of Great Xia's wet nurse, a powerhouse at Eighth-Layer Perfection approaching the Ninth Layer, actually admired this Mu Shiba so much? It's likely that once this news spreads, Mu Shiba will be known throughout the entire Six Prefectures of Nanjiang! Moreover, this Mu Shiba possesses three Spirit Puppets, including two Late Stage Seventh-Layer Corpse Scorpions as Spirit Puppets! The Poisonous Fog of a Late Stage Seventh-Layer Corpse Scorpion is enough to affect Eighth-Layer Martial Cultivators. Two Late Stage Seventh-Layer Corpse Scorpions can easily contend with Early Eighth Layer powerhouses! Such a powerhouse, even with only a Sixth-Layer Cultivation, cannot be underestimated!

But none of them had heard before of someone named Mu Shiba in the Southern Border, so they were naturally puzzled.

The Third Princess Xiaoying'er, hearing this, couldn't help but show a trace of helplessness on her pretty face. She supported Guan Nanfeng's arm and thought to herself: Granny Guan is good in every aspect, but her standards are too harsh and picky! What does it matter if Mr. Mu only has Sixth-Layer Cultivation? Can't he be a Tributor of the Princess's Mansion now? With his Cultivation Speed far surpassing my own, he could probably advance to the Eighth Layer within ten years or so! But Granny Guan doesn't agree with him becoming a Tributor for my Princess's Mansion because of his cultivation level! Hmm... she's even being indirect about it, it's truly a headache!

At this moment, while the Third Princess looked helpless, Lin Xuankong felt nothing. A Tributor at the Princess's Mansion, is that something so appealing? I'm not even interested in being the Princess's Consort, alright!

While everyone was sighing with emotion, Guan Nanfeng glanced proudly at Lin Xuankong. Then she looked towards the center of the valley at a Demon Qi Group, over one hundred zhang in diameter, semi-spherical, and pressed against the ground.

Lin Xuankong naturally had long noticed that Demon Qi Group. Under the influence of the Grand Array laid by Prince Yu's Mansion, that Demon Qi Group was constantly shrinking, while inside it numerous bizarre phenomena were taking place!

In those phenomena, stars were falling to the ground, countless continents were crumbling, numerous planets were shattering into countless pieces, and countless suns were breaking into fragments of flames scattered across the universe. At the center of the phenomena was a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, meandering through the boundless starry sky. Wherever it went, the fallen stars returned to the sky, the crumbled continents reassembled, the shattered stars recovered, and the suns gathered again, radiating light and heat...

The most peculiar thing was that these phenomena were incredibly lifelike. Even when Lin Xuankong secretly used the Eye Power of his Celestial Eye to magnify the illusions countless times, he still couldn't find any flaw. Under his magnified vision, the mountains and rivers on the shattered continents were revealed one by one! Lin Xuankong even suspected that if his Eye Power were enhanced by hundreds more times and he continued to magnify, he might be able to see the flying birds and roaming beasts on the shattered continents!

After observing for a while, Lin Xuankong was greatly shocked in his heart. Perhaps these aren't illusions, but events that the Golden Dragon which left the Celestial Demon Bone truly experienced?

While he was silently contemplating, Guan Nanfeng, who was also watching the phenomena, said in a deep voice:

"All of the Celestial Demon Bones in the Great Xia Dynasty, Rakshasa Kingdom, and the Central Divine Dynasty are said to display this same phenomenon before being fused by Cultivators. Our predecessors speculate that these illusions may not be false. Perhaps all the Celestial Demon Bones on this continent come from the same Ancient Celestial Demon, and these illusions are merely what that Ancient Celestial Demon experienced and saw in its lifetime! If the truth aligns with the speculations of our predecessors, the abilities of the Golden Dragon that left this Celestial Demon Bone are indeed terrifying. It can shatter countless stars and suns and also restore all things!"

The maid Qiing, standing nearby, couldn't help but exclaim in surprise upon hearing this:

"Guan Official Family, how can such a terrifying Celestial Demon exist in this world? If so, wouldn't that mean that the Immortals of the Immortal Sects in the Central Divine Dynasty and even the legendary ancestors of the Human Race are not as powerful as this Celestial Demon! Moreover, if all Celestial Demon Bones come from the same Ancient Celestial Demon, why are they divided into Tier One, Tier Two, and Tier Three Celestial Demon Bones!"

Guan Nanfeng laughed and replied:

"Little girl, if these illusions are real, the strength of this Golden Dragon Celestial Demon cannot be compared to Great Demons, Demon Kings, or even Demon Emperors! As for the differentiation of tiers in Celestial Demon Bones, it is only because the size and location of the obtained Celestial Demon Bones differ, so their power and effectiveness vary. If one obtains only a sand-sized piece of Celestial Demon Bone, it's naturally a Tier One Celestial Demon Bone. After nurturing it for two to three hundred years, the Secret Realm it can expand is only within a few hundred miles!"

Chapter 274: Reverence of the Strongest, This is Not a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone!_3

If one were to obtain a piece of Celestial Demon Bone the size of a fingernail, after nurturing it for several hundred years, the Secret Realm that could be expanded would be just like the current Ba Mountain Secret Realm, with a diameter of four thousand li, comparable to one-sixtieth of the Great Xia Dynasty's territory!

If the Celestial Demon Bone obtained were the size of a finger, it could manifest a Secret Realm equivalent to nearly one-fifth to one-sixth of the Great Xia Dynasty's territory!

Our Emperor Xiao of Great Xia, the Celestial Sect Leader, and the Saint Dragon President all possess Tier Three Celestial Demon Bones. The Secret Realms they control, combined, equate to half the size of the Great Xia Dynasty!

As for the uses of the Celestial Demon Bone—such as transforming into an out-of-body avatar, altering one's physical form, and manipulating Divine Fire—it is speculated that these varying effects are due to the different parts of the Celestial Demon Bone obtained!

The maid Qiing could not help but widen her eyes. "Her Highness the Third Princess seldom speaks to me about the Celestial Demon Bone. I had no idea the Secret Realm manifested by the Celestial Demon Bone could be so vast!"

Lin Xuankong's eyes brightened. Obtaining the Celestial Demon Bone from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, and nurturing it for several hundred years, could indeed yield a Secret Realm with a diameter of several thousand li? If I were to obtain it, it would be equivalent to gradually owning a great world under my control. Couldn't I establish a preeminent great family with this?! This Celestial Demon Bone from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm is incredibly powerful...

Guan Nanfeng smiled and stroked Qiing's head, then he turned to look at Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er and cupped his hands.

"Your Highness, the Demon Qi of this Ba Mountain Secret Realm's Celestial Demon Bone is incredibly vibrant, and its unusual phenomena are terrifyingly distinct. This must be at least a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone, perhaps even a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone! Even I would like to attempt it. When do you plan to let everyone start approaching the Celestial Demon Bone?"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er carefully examined the illusion and sighed, "If it truly is a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone, our Great Xia would then have the fourth invaluable Celestial Demon Bone! Four Tier Three Celestial Demon Bones... even the powerful Rakshasa Kingdom possesses only seven Tier Three Celestial Demon Bones. Let's hope this is indeed a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone! As for when to start... the Demon Qi of the Celestial Demon Bone has been mostly suppressed!"

She turned to look at everyone. "Ladies and gentlemen, if you intend to personally attempt to approach the Celestial Demon Bone, you must each give treasures or medicines equivalent in value to ten Restoration Elixirs to General Yu of Prince Yu's Mansion! Concerning the order, I have some beads with hidden Inscriptions. You will each draw one, and the number within will decide your sequence. How about it?"

The many Martial Cultivators present could not help but frown at these words. Drawing beads to decide the order—if one draws a bead with a higher number, won't they fall behind others? What if others enter the Demon Qi Group first and obtain the Celestial Demon Bone before them...

However, despite their unwillingness, since the Third Princess had spoken and Guan Nanfeng supported her, who would dare to court disaster?

They could only nod and retrieve some elixirs and treasures, moving towards Prince Yu's Mansion.

Lin Xuankong saw this and looked at the Third Princess. "What is the value of a Restoration Elixir? If I attempt this, how much Tier Three Demon Flesh should I give to Prince Yu's Mansion?"

Xiao Ying'Er smiled and said, "The Restoration Elixir is the only elixir that directly replenishes True Qi and is extremely precious. Even in the Great Xia Capital, only a few Alchemists can refine it! About ten Restoration Elixirs can fully replenish the True Qi of a Fifth Layer Martial Cultivator. Regarding Tier Three Demon Flesh, about two hundred jin is equivalent in value to ten Restoration Elixirs. However, Tier Three Demon Flesh cannot be directly converted into True Qi. If you plan to use Demon Flesh instead of Restoration Elixirs, then give General Yu one thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh!"

Upon hearing this, Guan Nanfeng turned to Lin Xuankong. "Mr. Mu, with your Sixth-Layer Cultivation, approaching the Celestial Demon Bone will be extremely difficult! Even if you prepare twenty or thirty Restoration Elixirs, it may not be enough. Moreover, from your tone, you don't seem to have prepared even one Restoration Elixir?"

Lin Xuankong shook his head slightly. "I haven't prepared any."

Hearing this, Guan Nanfeng frowned. He hasn't even prepared Restoration Elixirs, yet he plans to withstand the annihilation of True Qi by the Demon Qi? Even I, at Eighth-Layer Perfection, would need dozens of them to have even a small chance of approaching a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone! This Mu Shiba, making no preparations and still wanting to approach the Celestial Demon Bone—it's simply a fool's dream!

While Guan Nanfeng inwardly criticized, the cultivators intending to enter the Demon Qi Group had each handed some Restoration Elixirs to Yu Jiansheng. Only Lin Xuankong gave Yu Jiansheng one thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh. This sight caused the strong practitioners preparing to refine the Celestial Demon Bone to shake their heads in disapproval.

Yu Jiansheng, receiving the Demon Flesh, secretly shook his head as well. This Mu Shiba has three Tier Seven Spirit Puppets and exceptionally strong methods. Without relying on the Hundred-Man Battle Array, I might not even be his match! However, when facing the Demon Qi of the Celestial Demon Bone, no matter how strong one's methods, they are useless. Approaching the Celestial Demon Bone comes down to one's True Qi Amount and luck!

Chapter 275: Great Xia's Number One Celestial Demon Bone, Only Eighteen Steps in the Seventh Layer Late Stage?

After numerous Martial Cultivators handed over Elixirs or treasures to Yu Jiansheng, they each moved towards Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er.

There were a total of twenty-four Cultivators preparing to approach the Celestial Demon Bone.

Besides Little Yu King and Lin Xuankong, the lowest Cultivation level among the others was at the mid-grade seventh layer. All were elite experts hailing from Prince Yu's Mansion, Prince Dong's Mansion, and Prince Qi's Mansion!

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er then took out a Profound Iron Box, placing twenty-four special Jade Pearls into it. She looked at everyone and spoke,

"During the process of approaching the Celestial Demon Bone, there are countless dangers. Although the Celestial Demon's Demon Qi is suppressed within a hundred-zhang radius, the concentration of the Demon Qi varies in different positions. Someone might take just a single step and encounter a high concentration of Demon Qi that annihilates all their True Qi in an instant, leaving no time to use Elixirs to replenish it! Conversely, someone might get within three hundred steps of the Celestial Demon Bone without encountering an extremely high concentration of Demon Qi!

"So, there's no need to worry about the sequence. Perhaps the first to attempt refining might have to retreat after a few steps. Perhaps the last to attempt refining could smoothly approach it with ease!

"But I urge everyone to remember: though the Celestial Demon Bone is a supreme treasure, it is ultimately an external thing. We Cultivators must ultimately temper ourselves to make progress in the Martial Dao! If any of you enter the Celestial Demon's Demon Qi Group and cannot endure, you must withdraw quickly. Otherwise, after your True Qi is annihilated, the Demon Qi will then annihilate your body and Divine Soul. Soon, your flesh will shatter and your soul will dissipate!"

Everyone nodded in agreement before stepping up to the Profound Iron Box one by one to take a Jade Pearl.

Lin Xuankong moved within the crowd, beside Little Yu King, and took a Jade Pearl as well.

Before Lin Xuankong could activate his True Qi to reveal the number on the Jade Pearl, Little Yu King frowned and sighed, "I picked number twenty-two. With all the powerful experts gathered in the valley now, what chance does the twenty-second have to get the Celestial Demon Bone? I'm afraid the first few will have the best shot at it!"

After speaking, he repeatedly shook his head, looking at Lin Xuankong. "Mr. Mu, what number did you get?"

Lin Xuankong infused his True Qi into the Jade Pearl, then examined it closely, and his face immediately tensed. Affected by True Qi, the displayed number on the Jade Pearl was twenty-three... even further back than Little Yu King's! Among those preparing to refine the Celestial Demon Bone, he ranked second to last! This luck is truly terrible!

He couldn't help but furrow his brow. "It's twenty-three!"

Little Yu King glanced at it, his eyes flickered, and he smiled bitterly. "Mr. Mu and I are both at the Sixth-Layer Cultivation. The odds of refining the Celestial Demon Bone were already slim. Perhaps being ranked so far back is a good thing!"

Not far away, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er had been observing Lin Xuankong's Jade Pearl. Seeing his number was twenty-three, she let out a sigh of relief.

Mr. Mu is only at the Sixth-Layer Cultivation. Once he enters the Demon Qi, his speed will be suppressed, making it extremely difficult to move forward! Although his True Qi Amount seems far beyond ordinary people, even if it's 'just' dozens of times that of an ordinary person—like Lin Xuankong's—refining the Celestial Demon Bone still relies on luck. Should he encounter highly concentrated Demon Qi, even a hundred times the normal True Qi Amount might be exhausted within ten breaths! Now that Mr. Mu drew twenty-three, he won't need to take risks! Given Mr. Mu's exceptional talent, focusing on his Cultivation and refining the Demon Prison Cage is the right path.

While Xiaoo Ying'Er pondered, Lin Xuankong was frowning deeply. My luck is truly outrageous!

Unfortunately, all the Cultivators in the valley obediently followed Xiaoo Ying'Er's orders, with even Eighth-Layer Perfection experts backing her. Despite the Third Princess's respect, he couldn't change the situation... Would she really bend the rules publicly just for me?

The key issue was that even with three Spirit Puppets, he likely couldn't beat the Eighth-Layer Perfection expert Guan Nanfeng!

All he could do now was proceed cautiously, hoping the Cultivators ahead couldn't reach the Celestial Demon Bone!

"HAHA! My Thousand Sword Sect's Fourth Elder got number one!" Han Li suddenly shouted, laughing.

Everyone looked up to see a seventh-layer Cultivator beside Han Li raise a Jade Pearl, clearly displaying the number "One"!

Those from Prince Dong's Mansion and Prince Yu's Mansion shook their heads slightly.

Yu Jiansheng's expression changed several times, then he sneered, "Refining the Celestial Demon Bone is fraught with danger. The speed at which Demon Qi annihilates True Qi is astonishingly fast. I hope your Fourth Elder from the Thousand Sword Sect can at least make it a hundred steps!"

Han Li stroked his white beard and laughed. "Our Fourth Elder has reached the late seventh-layer, and his strength is formidable. With thirty Restoration Elixirs, he should manage two hundred steps. If lucky, he might reach three hundred steps and directly touch the Celestial Demon Bone! Excuse us, everyone, our Fourth Elder from the Thousand Sword Sect will go ahead! HAHAAH!"

The Martial Cultivators saw his arrogance as they looked at the Jade Pearl in the Fourth Elder's hand with envy.

Among the crowd, General Wang Linghui, at Early Eighth Layer, shook his head and said, "Restoration Elixirs might replenish True Qi quickly, but it's slower than directly absorbing True Qi from Profound Truth Jade. During the time it takes to walk two hundred steps, one can convert fifteen Restoration Elixirs at most; that's the limit. Elder Han shouldn't celebrate too early!"

Han Li, however, pulled the Fourth Elder quickly towards the Demon Qi Group surrounding the Celestial Demon Bone, laughing heartily.

Chapter 276: Great Xia's Number One Celestial Demon Bone, Only Eighteen Steps in the Seventh Layer Late Stage?

"Hahaha, it mainly depends on luck," Han Li said with a laugh. "Since this Fourth Elder of ours managed to capture the first Jade Pearl, he must be a very lucky person! On this journey, he might encounter only sparse Demon Qi!"

As Han Li spoke, the Fourth Elder reached the outer edge of the Demon Qi Group. Many Cultivators immediately focused their gazes there. The Fourth Elder took out fifteen Restoration Elixirs, placed them all in his mouth, and with a determined expression, stepped into the massive Demon Qi Group!

Lin Xuankong also watched carefully.

As the white-haired Fourth Elder walked into the Demon Qi Group, the countless illusions originally manifesting within it instantly began to change at a speed at least tens of times faster!

The Fourth Elder, who had stepped into the Demon Qi Group, froze. An extremely painful expression appeared on his face, as though he was enduring a horrifying pressure of hundreds of thousands of pounds. Faint cracking sounds emanated from the joints all over his body!

He clenched his fists and let out a low shout. Instantly, a massive amount of incredibly condensed True Qi spread over the surface of his body. He then withstood the terrifying pressure and took a step forward. During this process, the invisible Demon Qi around him continuously annihilated the True Qi on his body, emitting countless sparks, as if he had transformed into an incomparably dazzling ball of light!

The thousands of Martial Cultivators present were unable to withstand the intense light and couldn't help but squint. Despite desperately straining their Eye Power, they couldn't discern any details within the ball of light.

Lin Xuankong, silently activating his Eight Gates Celestial Eye, showed a subtle change in expression. His Eye Power was extremely strong, far surpassing the others by an unknown multiple. At this moment, he could clearly see the Fourth Elder gritting his teeth, slowly advancing step by step. Each step consumed an unknown amount of True Qi. After just twelve steps, the True Qi around the Fourth Elder's body had thinned considerably. The Fourth Elder's expression changed, his throat moved, and he continuously swallowed Restoration Elixirs. Bursts of True Qi perpetually re-emerged to shield his body!

With a glimmer of hope in his eyes, the Fourth Elder looked towards the path ahead, obscured by illusions, gritted his teeth, and continued forward.

After three breaths, a total of eighteen steps, the hope in the slowly advancing Fourth Elder's eyes suddenly vanished. A bitter expression appeared on his face as he turned with all his might and began to walk back out.

It wasn't that he didn't want to persist, but his luck was too bad; the position he entered had extremely dense Demon Qi! If he took even three more steps and the surrounding Demon Qi remained this dense, forget making it three hundred steps—he absolutely wouldn't even have a chance to return! Although the Restoration Elixir could replenish True Qi, it was still a medicinal substance requiring time to convert and couldn't sustain him for very long!

The Fourth Elder activated his True Qi to shield his body and walked outward with all his might. However, after just three steps, he suddenly found that the invisible Demon Qi around him had become even denser. The annihilation rate of his True Qi was now several times faster than before!

Damn it! Fear surged in the Fourth Elder's heart, and he wanted to quicken his pace. But as the Demon Qi intensified, the initial pressure of hundreds of thousands of pounds continually increased, shockingly becoming nearly a million pounds. Even with his Late Stage Tier Seven cultivation and a body as sturdy as Profound Iron, he could hardly withstand this immense pressure, causing his steps to become even slower.

Outside the Demon Qi Group, the numerous Martial Cultivators could not see the invisible Demon Qi, nor could they discern the situation within the ball of light that was the Fourth Elder. They could only see that after less than ten breaths, the ball of light began moving outward, albeit at an incredibly slow pace.

Seeing this scene, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but furrow his brows. Refining the Celestial Demon Bone is indeed perilous, he thought. This Fourth Elder's luck is particularly bad, encountering such dense Demon Qi on his first attempt. It looks like he'll have to exhaust all his True Qi just to get out! A Tier Seven Martial Cultivator's True Qi is still insufficient. Compared to a 'Qi Ox' like me, it's nearly ten thousand times less; how could he possibly withstand such consumption!

"No! Fourth Elder, did you encounter dense Demon Qi?" Han Li, who had been full of joy and eager for the Fourth Elder to be the first to approach the Celestial Demon Bone, stared intently at the ball of light.

The joy on his face gradually vanished, replaced by a look of bewildered suspicion. "Why are your movements so slow? Is your True Qi still sufficient?"

"Quick... quickly save me!" the Fourth Elder's intermittent voice came from within the Demon Qi Group. "The True Qi... is ann-annihilating too fast! I don't have enough!"

Hearing this, Han Li dared not delay any longer and immediately stepped into the Demon Qi Group. However, as this Tier Eight Powerhouse had just stepped in, his expression changed. "The Demon Qi in this location is so condensed and potent! No wonder you... Wait, Fourth Elder? Fourth Elder, is your True Qi depleted?"

Han Li, who had stepped into the Demon Qi Group, exclaimed in shock.

At this moment, the ball of light that was the Fourth Elder within the Demon Qi Group suddenly flared even brighter, then abruptly dimmed. It revealed the Fourth Elder, whose flesh and blood were rapidly crumbling and dissipating all over his body. His skin, muscles, and bones, starting from his feet, began to disintegrate like sand, gradually transforming into motes of light and vanishing inch by inch with terrifying speed!

Within a single breath, this Late Stage Tier Seven Martial Cultivator had dissipated into countless motes of light, merging into the Demon Qi Group without leaving a single trace. Only the Longsword he carried on his back clattered to the ground within the Demon Qi Group, emitting a resonant hum.

Chapter 277: Great Xia's Number One Celestial Demon Bone, Only Eighteen Steps in the Late Stage of the Seventh Layer?_3

Entering the Demon Qi Group, intending to rescue the Fourth Elder, Han Li's face was instantly filled with rage and sorrow, his muscles trembling all over. Feeling the extremely dense Demon Qi around him, no matter how angry he was, he had no choice but to retreat.

Retreating to the outside of the Demon Qi Group, the Tier Eight Powerhouse, who had previously been full of joy, suddenly knelt on one knee and cried out in sorrow, "Old Fourth, Old Fourth... Why didn't you come out sooner if you couldn't hold on? Now that you have died here, how will I explain this to your wife and nephews, how will I explain this to the Sect Master?"

Inside the Demon Qi Group, what was once a slightly chaotic scene had now transformed back into the image of a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon flying through the Cosmos, without a trace of the Fourth Elder's recent presence!

Around them, the cultivators watching this scene, glancing at the Demon Qi Group, then at the wailing Han Li, were all somewhat moved.

The Fourth Elder was a Late Stage Seventh Layer powerhouse. Such a level of cultivation, even for those with exceptional talent, would likely require several decades to a hundred years to achieve. Yet, in an instant, his body and soul were utterly destroyed. His cultivation, capable of awing millions, was instantly reduced to nothing!

Even Yu Jiansheng and Wang Linghui, who had repeatedly clashed with Han Li, displayed expressions of sadness at this moment, shaking their heads and sighing.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, watching this scene, also had a heavy expression on her delicate face. To her, every cultivator here, especially the Seventh Layer powerhouses, was a truly precious treasure of the Great Xia Dynasty. Now one had perished in the blink of an eye, naturally causing her heart to ache.

"Third Princess, something's not right!" Guan Nanfeng furrowed her brows, using True Qi to transmit her voice. "The Demon Qi from a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone, no matter how dense, shouldn't limit a Late Stage Seventh Layer Martial Cultivator to moving only this short distance! Even the densest Demon Qi near a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone couldn't extinguish the True Qi of a Martial Cultivator this quickly!"

A Late Stage Ninth Layer Martial Cultivator, with the combined True Qi from their five Strange Veins, has nearly double the True Qi Amount of a Late Stage Seventh Layer cultivator. Additionally, their five Strange Veins convert elixirs twice as fast, and their movement speed is much quicker. All these advantages combined only allow them to travel ten times the distance of a Seventh Layer cultivator!

A Late Stage Seventh Layer Martial Cultivator could only move this short distance within this dense Demon Qi of the Celestial Demon Bone. If a Late Stage Ninth Layer Martial Cultivator encountered the dense Demon Qi that the Fourth Elder just faced, they wouldn't reach the Celestial Demon Bone either!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er furrowed her brows and responded via True Qi transmission, "Granny, you mean the Celestial Demon Bone in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm is a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone, and even a Late Stage Ninth Layer cultivator would be at great risk trying to refine it? My father once told me that when our ancestors refined the first Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone, two Mid-Ninth Layer companions perished. Only a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone could be this dangerous!"

Guan Nanfeng furrowed her brows for a moment. Her eyes gradually lit up, and her face slowly became excited as she transmitted via True Qi, "Third Princess, the Celestial Demon Bone before us might be even stronger! It could perhaps be a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone—a Celestial Demon Bone that only the Immortals of the Immortal Sects in the Central Divine Dynasty possess!"

The Third Princess was taken aback by these words, her bright eyes revealing her surprise.

A Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone had never been seen in the Great Xia Dynasty! Even in the Rakshasa Kingdom, which was more prosperous and far larger than Great Xia, a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone had never appeared! It is said that only in the Central Divine Dynasty can Celestial Demon Bones beyond Tier Three be found!

Could the Celestial Demon Bone in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm possibly be a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone? No wonder... No wonder so many powerhouses have perished in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, despite it only having been opened a few times! A Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, if nurtured for hundreds to thousands of years, could it not create a 'small' world several times larger than Great Xia? Moreover, the special abilities granted by fusing with a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone would definitely be much stronger. They would far exceed the wondrous abilities of a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone by many, many times!

Thinking of all this, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, who had always been calm and composed, couldn't help but show her excitement on her charming face.

Not far away, Lin Xuankong, who was secretly observing Guan Nanfeng and Xiaoo Ying'Er's lip movements, couldn't help but show a change in his expression. A Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone? A Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone that neither the entire Great Xia Dynasty nor the even more powerful Rakshasa Kingdom possesses?

Just then, near the Demon Qi Group of the Celestial Demon Bone, another Martial Cultivator stood up.

This Martial Cultivator was also a Late Stage Seventh Layer powerhouse, a Golden Armor General from Prince Yu's Mansion named Wang Linglan. However, the position he chose was several tens of zhang away from where the Fourth Elder had entered the Demon Qi Group, clearly unwilling to enter from the same spot!

Seeing another person step forward, Lin Xuankong's heart stirred.

The density of Demon Qi within the Demon Qi Group varies greatly in different areas. If Wang Linglan is lucky and his route encounters thinner Demon Qi, he might advance two or three hundred steps... Thinking of this, he couldn't help but furrow his brow.

Chapter 278: The Strong Flee from the Valley, The Treasure Coveted by Immortals

As Lin Xuankong worried, Golden Armor General Wang Linglan of Prince Yu's Mansion had already placed fifteen Restoration Elixirs into his mouth and was now clutching twelve Profound Truth Jades in his hand. Suddenly, a cracking sound emitted from his bones, and his figure abruptly shrank several times over, until he was merely a foot or so tall!

The surrounding cultivators were all taken aback by this sight.

Elder Han Li of the Thousand Sword Sect, whose emotions had just calmed, couldn't help but frown. "This is one of the three great wondrous techniques of Prince Yu's Mansion, the Flea Body Technique! General Wang has actually cultivated it to the Seventh-Layer Realm? Can he really shrink his body seven times?"

General Yu Jiansheng from Prince Yu's Mansion, stroking the golden saber at his waist, spoke with a measure of pride, "My nephew-in-law possesses exceptional talent in the Flea Body Technique. With this Seventh-Layer Realm Flea Body Technique, his muscle and bone strength can increase by more than tenfold, and his height can shrink sevenfold. The amount of Demon Qi he comes into contact with will naturally be reduced many times over. Consequently, his chances of approaching the Celestial Demon Bone are also magnified many times!"

As Yu Jiansheng spoke, Wang Linglan had already stepped into the Demon Qi Group. He transformed into a ball of light and began to move forward, bit by bit.

Not far from Lin Xuankong, the Little Yu King's eyes held a hint of anticipation as he said, "My brother-in-law possesses a unique talent. While cultivating the Flea Body Technique, the compression of flesh and

bones would normally be excruciating, yet he feels no pain at all. With this Flea Body Technique, his chances of obtaining the Celestial Demon Bone should be quite considerable!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong's brows furrowed even tighter, and he activated his Celestial Eye for a closer look.

Nearby, Guan Nanfeng watched the small ball of light within the Demon Qi Group and transmitted her voice with a frown, "Princess, if this Celestial Demon Bone truly is a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, it represents an unimaginably tremendous opportunity!"

"Why don't I have all the cultivators present withdraw from the valley and forbid them from approaching? This will prevent this supreme treasure, one that could shake the entire Great Xia Dynasty, from falling into others' hands!"

Make everyone withdraw from the valley? Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned and shook her head.

"Let's see how things develop first! Although Grandmother is here, and they wouldn't dare refuse my command, I've already said that everyone can try to refine it. How can I go back on my word?"

"Secondly, it's still uncertain what tier this Celestial Demon Bone is. Why cause widespread dissatisfaction by forcing everyone to leave now?"

"Thirdly, if it truly is a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, I'm afraid that among all the Seventh-Layer and Eighth-Layer powerhouses present, absolutely no one would be able to reach the center of the Demon Qi Group, and certainly, no one could touch that Celestial Demon Bone!"

"If it truly is Tier Four, then even you and I, I estimate, could only watch helplessly as the Celestial Demon Bone sits there, and then wait bleakly for the Secret Realm to close!"

"Furthermore, even if someone here could obtain this Celestial Demon Bone, they are still citizens of our Great Xia. After fusing with a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, nurturing it properly would require an unknown, immense amount of resources and Demon Flesh!"

"Without the resource support of our Great Xia Xiao Family, even if Prince Yu's Mansion, Dongfang Mansion, or Prince Qi's Mansion obtained the Celestial Demon Bone, they wouldn't be able to nurture it properly! Each of these Prince Mansions already has a Celestial Demon Bone that requires constant nurturing; how would they have the spare capacity to nurture a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone!"

After listening, Guan Nanfeng's expression turned solemn, and she transmitted her voice, "The Third Princess is indeed exceedingly wise. Just now, when I considered that this might be a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, I instantly became so excited I was a bit light-headed. Listening to Your Highness has made everything crystal clear!

"The insights I've accumulated over these hundred-plus years are merely a burden in comparison; they fall short of Your Highness's ability to pinpoint the crucial issue with such profound understanding!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er sighed lightly and frowned, saying, "If this Celestial Demon Bone truly is a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, it might not necessarily end up in the hands of a cultivator from our Great Xia Dynasty!

"This time, among the cultivators who have come to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, Grandmother, you have the highest cultivation!

"Although you, Grandmother, are at Eighth-Layer Perfection and can undoubtedly look down upon all others here, and refining a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone would be absolutely no problem for you, at your current Realm, successfully refining even a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone would already depend heavily on luck!

"A Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone... even cultivators at the Ninth-Layer Late Stage or Ninth-Layer Perfection might not necessarily be able to get close to it! If it cannot be refined this time, then when the Ba Mountain Secret Realm next opens... if news of this were to leak, I fear the Golden Body Buddha Lord of the Rakshasa Kingdom, the Demon Venerable of the Demon Sect, and even the Sect Leaders of the Central Divine Dynasty would all come flocking upon hearing the news. At that time, not even my grandfather and my father could stop those paramount powerhouses!

"A Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone... even those lofty Immortals from the great Immortal Sects would be moved enough to cross countless mountains and rivers to come for it!"

Guan Nanfeng frowned deeply, a fierce glint in her eyes.

"If it indeed is a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, I will stake this old life of mine and try to see if I can get close to it!

"Back then, Uncle Xiaoo saved the lives of my Guan Family's widow and orphan—myself included—and even imparted to me much about the Martial Dao. Nanfeng, even if it means being utterly destroyed, is willing to fight desperately for the Great Xia Dynasty!

"If that truly proves impossible, then I will force everyone present to swear a deadly oath in the name of the deities of our Divine Land Continent. By doing so, the possibility of the news leaking will become exceedingly small! If anyone dares to refuse to swear the deadly oath, I will personally smash that person into fine powder on the spot!"

After speaking, she clenched her fists, her face a mask of unwavering resolve.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, however, just frowned and shook her head slightly, thinking to herself, It's such a pity. During the previous few times the Ba Mountain Secret Realm opened, the Tier Eight Powerhouses who came to attempt refinement all came alone. They perished within the Secret Realm, and absolutely no information was ever sent back... If not for that, how could it be that we are only now learning just how precious the Ba Mountain Demon Bone truly is!

Chapter 279: The Strong Flee from the Valley, The Treasure Coveted by Immortals_2

A Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, as large as a palm!

The one who obtains it could establish a nation within a nation, and even have the opportunity to develop a force stronger than the Great Xia Xiao Family!

If such a supreme treasure truly appeared, it's uncertain whether it would be a blessing or a curse for the Great Xia Dynasty...

Lin Xuankong, standing to the side, observed the two lip-reading and couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement.

A Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone! Even a Demon Path Demon Venerable and a Golden Body Buddha Lord would be tempted. Would Immortals from the Immortal Sect be drawn over, unable to sit still? If I could obtain such a precious treasure, wouldn't even Immortals envy it! Luckily, I'm using a fake identity... Most importantly, according to Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er and Guan Nanfeng, if it truly is a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone, even the True Qi amount of a Ninth Layer cultivator would be insufficient to approach it... I hope this Celestial Demon Bone is Tier Four. That way, even if I draw the second-to-last lot, I can safely wait for everyone else to fail and easily get it in the end!

For a moment, Lin Xuankong's eyes filled with anticipation.

While Xiaoo Ying'Er and Guan Nanfeng communicated using True Qi transmission, General Wang Linglan from Prince Yu's Mansion continued to move forward.

His movement speed was much faster than that of the Fourth Elder of the Thousand Sword Sect. The Flea Body Technique indeed greatly reduced the rate at which True Qi was annihilated!

Lin Xuankong watched the Demon Qi Group with a mixture of joy and worry in his eyes. He saw General Wang Linglan take a full forty-five steps before his movement speed slowed, seemingly because his True Qi was starting to run low.

After another four or five breaths, Wang Linglan finally couldn't hold on any longer. He shook his head and retreated.

More than forty breaths later, by the time he exited the Demon Qi Group, the True Qi from both his Profound Truth Jade and Restoration Elixirs was completely consumed. Had he retreated a breath or two later, he would have suffered the same miserable fate as the Fourth Elder of the Thousand Sword Sect.

Generals Yu Jiansheng and Wang Linghui quickly walked over to support the staggering Wang Linglan.

Wang Linglan sighed. "The Demon Qi on the path I chose is indeed sparser, but the rate at which True Qi is annihilated is still terrifyingly fast. It's a pity; I, Linglan, have disappointed you, Brother, and General Yu, having only advanced just over fifty steps."

Yu Jiansheng raised his eyebrows and said, "Why say such things? Refining the Celestial Demon Bone is fraught with danger; a slight misstep means death and the destruction of one's Dao. You persisted this far and helped General Wang Linghui scout so much of the path, which is already commendable. When it's General Wang Linghui's turn—an Early Eighth Layer cultivator, carrying twelve pieces of Profound Truth Jade and thirty Restoration Elixirs—he absolutely has a chance to get close to the Celestial Demon Bone."

Wang Linghui, an Early Eighth Layer cultivator standing to the side, showed a hint of anticipation in his eyes. I've also cultivated the Flea Body Technique. While my technique's realm is the same as Linglan's, my Martial Arts Cultivation Realm is a full layer higher than his. Combined with the Profound Truth Jade and Restoration Elixirs, perhaps I have a slim chance to get close to this Celestial Demon Bone!

After a brief discussion, the three retreated, allowing other cultivators to take turns entering the Demon Qi Group surrounding the Celestial Demon Bone.

Seeing that the Demon Qi on Wang Linglan's chosen path seemed sparser, the others unhesitatingly chose the same route. Alas, even with Wang Linglan having luckily found a path with weaker Demon Qi, the next five cultivators still couldn't advance far.

Even Grand Elder Han Li of the Thousand Sword Sect, an Early Eighth Layer powerhouse carrying eleven pieces of Profound Truth Jade, could only take fifty-two steps before being forced to retreat.

When the eighth cultivator entered, the Demon Qi Group suddenly changed. The path that was originally sparse in Demon Qi became extremely dense due to a shift in the Demon Qi's flow, drastically increasing the rate at which it annihilated True Qi!

Caught unprepared, a Late Stage Seventh Layer expert from Prince Yu's Mansion couldn't bear the consumption after advancing thirty steps and hastily retreated. However, on his way back, he encountered even denser Demon Qi. When he was just fourteen steps from the outer edge, his True Qi was completely annihilated, resulting in instantaneous death, his soul utterly destroyed. Even the twelve pieces of Profound Truth Jade he carried were lost in the Demon Qi Group.

With no other choice, the subsequent cultivators had to select new paths, yet none could again find one with sparse Demon Qi.

Thus, one after another, the cultivators gave up halfway; none were even able to take thirty steps.

When it was the turn of the twelfth and thirteenth contenders, Yang Luo Chen and Yang Luo Feng, Early Eighth Layer powerhouses from Prince Dong's Mansion, entered the Demon Qi Group. Both wielded the Dust Explosion Technique, a marvelous skill capable of diverting Demon Qi flows to other locations. Alas, even so, they only managed fifty-six and fifty-four steps respectively, still far from reaching a hundred steps.

Witnessing this, Yu Jiansheng and Han Li decisively advised the few Late Stage Seventh Layer cultivators who had intended to try to give up.

Since even Early Eighth Layer cultivators could only manage fifty-odd steps, Late Stage Seventh Layer cultivators definitely had no chance of going farther.

Consequently, the turn to attempt refining the Celestial Demon Bone fell directly to the eighteenth contender, General Wang Linghui.

To the amazement of everyone from Prince Yu's Mansion, General Wang Linghui—who was highly anticipated by his own mansion and feared by the experts of other Prince Mansions—still failed to reach a hundred steps, even when using the Flea Body Technique and carrying twelve pieces of Profound Truth Jade. He retreated in despair at the seventy-second step.

Moreover, when he was only nine steps from the outer edge, his True Qi was nearly completely annihilated. Yu Jiansheng had to risk rushing into the Demon Qi Group to rescue him.

One expert after another failed and retreated. Despite employing various methods, not a single one managed to take a hundred steps. Even the most promising, General Wang Linghui, only managed seventy-two steps. The terrifying Demon Qi of this Celestial Demon Bone caused all cultivators present to turn pale.

For a time, the expressions of all cultivators in the valley changed, and they began to murmur amongst themselves in low voices.

Yu Jiansheng of Prince Yu's Mansion looked towards Han Li, Yang Luo Chen, and the others, his face full of suspicion as he said, "Could this be a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone? Otherwise, how could scores of elite experts fail to take even eighty steps? Normally, with a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone, even a Fifth Layer cultivator should be able to manage fifty steps!"

Han Li's face also showed suspicion. This confident Early Eighth Layer expert had only managed to take fifty-two steps; the setback was truly significant.

Yang Luo Chen of Prince Dong's Mansion sighed and said, "It should be a Tier Three Demon Bone. A Tier Three Demon Bone is a supreme treasure; only a Late Stage Ninth Layer Martial Cultivator would have a chance to obtain it and emerge alive! No wonder a Ninth-Layer Perfection Corpse Scorpion Demon King perished here. How could anyone easily walk three hundred steps through this terrifyingly dense Demon Qi!"

Hearing their discussion, many cultivators looked towards the Demon Qi Group again, their faces showing excitement. A Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone... there were only three in the entire Great Xia Dynasty, the same grade as the Celestial Demon Bone held by Emperor Xiao of Great Xia!

However, merely thinking of the dense and terrifying Demon Qi within the Demon Qi Group, the excitement on their faces quickly subsided, replaced by disappointment.

A Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone could only be obtained by a Late Stage Ninth Layer cultivator. Below the Ninth Layer, there was no chance. No matter how eager or excited they were, what was the use?

Standing not far from the Demon Qi Group, Lin Xuankong looked at the many disappointed cultivators in the valley and thought to himself: Those ahead of me, including Little Yu King, have already given up. Only Guan Nanfeng, an Eighth-Layer Perfection cultivator, remains! According to Guan Nanfeng's own assessment, she shouldn't have a chance of reaching the Celestial Demon Bone either! Hmm, victory is within my grasp!

At this moment, Guan Nanfeng walked towards the Demon Qi Group. This Eighth-Layer Perfection expert had a hint of joy in her eyes. Hmph, this bunch from the various Prince Mansions has never witnessed the Demon Qi of a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone; they're so ignorant! Such dense Demon Qi... this clearly isn't a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone. It must be a Tier Four Celestial Demon Bone! Still, it's good they've misunderstood. It saves the news from being exposed!

Amidst her secret joy, she reached the outer edge of the Demon Qi Group and took out thirty pieces of Profound Truth Jade and one Holy Arrival Jade Token from her Ghost Frog Pouch.

Lin Xuankong, who had initially felt victory was within his grasp, froze when he saw Guan Nanfeng take out a full thirty pieces of Profound Truth Jade.

Chapter 280: Lin Xuankong, the Sole Dazzling Figure Shocks the Strong Ones in the Valley

Thirty Low-grade Profound Truth Jades!

As expected of the chief steward of the Princess's Mansion!

More than twice what the people from Prince Yu's Mansion had!

So many Profound Truth Jades... Lin Xuankong's brows furrowed. The Zheng Family Trading Company behind Zheng Yunrui, which dealt with officials in the Rakshasa Kingdom trafficking various goods, possessed only two or three Profound Truth Jades as an entire family! Even top-tier families like the Black Tiger Gang in Great Marsh Prefecture, the Guo Family, and the Feng Family, which had operated for hundreds of years, could barely gather two or three Profound Truth Jades! Yet this Guan Nanfeng actually took out thirty Profound Truth Jades from her Ghost Frog Pouch? Thirty Profound Truth Jades are equivalent to storing 1,500 points of True Qi!

The foundation of the strongest Princess's Mansion in the Great Xia Dynasty was indeed unmatched by ordinary forces. Even Prince Dong's Mansion, Prince Qi's Mansion, and Prince Yu's Mansion could not compare!

Lin Xuankong couldn't help but look at his own Life Plate:

[True Qi: 1,499,988/1,500,000]

Thirty jades can store 1,500 points of True Qi. Although this amount is merely one-thousandth of his Life Plate's current capacity, if this pudgy old lady, carrying so many Profound Truth Jades, manages to get close to the Celestial Demon Bone...

"Mr. Mu, the two jade tokens I gave you have a higher storage capacity than Low-grade Profound Truth Jade! I've lent my Holy Arrival Jade Token to Granny Guan. Mr. Mu, can you lend your two jade tokens to her temporarily?" Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er suddenly spoke.

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but look at the Third Princess.

However, before he could speak, Guan Nanfeng suddenly said, "Third Princess, no need to trouble Mr. Mu! The Demon Qi of the Celestial Demon Bone becomes denser the closer you get to it. I'll try first with these Profound Truth Jades. If I can walk 150 steps, it means there's a glimmer of hope! If that happens... I will return to the outskirts of the Demon Qi Group, and not only will I borrow Mr. Mu's two jade tokens, I will also borrow the Profound Truth Jades from Prince Yu's Mansion, Dongfang Mansion, and Prince Qi's Mansion!"

Saying this, she looked at the people from Prince Qi's Mansion, Prince Dong's Mansion, and Prince Yu's Mansion with a half-smile on her face. "Everyone, you wouldn't refuse, right?"

Seeing this old lady from the Princess's Mansion speak, Yu Jiansheng, Yang Luo Chen, Han Li, and other Tier Eight powerhouses, though reluctant, could only nod in agreement.

Seeing that no one dared to oppose her, Guan Nanfeng finally smiled and took a step forward, entering the Demon Qi Group.

In the valley, nearly 1,000 powerful figures immediately focused their gaze on the ball of light that Guan Nanfeng had transformed into.

Soon, Han Li, Yu Jiansheng, Yang Luo Chen, and others had solemn expressions, and a look of apprehension appeared in their eyes.

This Guan Nanfeng was indeed worthy of an Eighth-Layer Perfection powerhouse. After stepping into the Demon Qi Group, her forward speed was considerably fast, several times faster than that of Han Li and other early-stage Tier Eight powerhouses!

In twenty breaths, Guan Nanfeng had walked fifty steps, twice as fast as the fastest Wang Linghui!

At fifty breaths, Guan Nanfeng had accomplished what none of the powerhouses present could achieve—she had walked 100 steps straight!

The surrounding cultivators immediately began whispering among themselves. Everyone remarked with admiration that this chief steward of the Princess's Mansion, whom they all feared, certainly lived up to her realm and reputation!

However, after 100 steps, Guan Nanfeng's pace significantly slowed down.

Taking two or three steps forward, she quickly grasped a Profound Truth Jade, continuously absorbing True Qi from it without stopping!

Clearly, even as powerful as she was, at 100 steps, where the Demon Qi became denser, she couldn't withstand the depletion. Her own True Qi had completely dissipated, and she had to rapidly replenish it to keep moving forward!

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong's previously tense heart gradually relaxed. It's already this difficult at 100 steps. If she were to walk 110 or 120 steps, the Demon Qi would become even denser, and this chief steward would move even slower...

As Lin Xuankong had anticipated, upon reaching 120 steps, a bitter expression already appeared on Guan Nanfeng's face.

After pushing herself for three more steps, she clenched her teeth, eyes revealing a look of reluctance, and turned back towards the outskirts of the Demon Qi Group!

When she reached the outer edge of the Demon Qi Group, only one of the thirty Profound Truth Jades in her hand remained with its True Qi untouched!

Worrying about Granny Guan's safety, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, who had been waiting outside the Demon Qi Group, quickly stepped forward to support the slightly staggering Guan Nanfeng.

Guan Nanfeng sighed, a bitter smile on her face, her body slightly hunched, and her face seemed much more haggard.

"My apologies to the Third Princess, my strength is insufficient, and I could only manage 123 steps!"

Saying this, she used True Qi to transmit her voice, "Third Princess, the Demon Qi inside is terrifyingly dense, far beyond the level of a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone. It should be a Tier Four Demon Bone! Alas, the closer to the Celestial Demon Bone, the denser the Demon Qi. Even if I gathered all the Profound Truth Jade here, I estimate I might only reach 150 or 160 steps, far from touching the Celestial Demon Bone! I estimate that to get to that Celestial Demon Bone, even a late-stage Ninth-Layer cultivator would need to bring several hundred to 1,000 Profound Truth Jades to succeed!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked at Guan Nanfeng with some heartache. "Granny, you've done your best. Your safety is more important than that Celestial Demon Bone!"

After Guan Nanfeng sat down to rest, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned and thought to herself: