

Stronger 331

Chapter 331: The Terrifying Divine Might of the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, The Celestial Sect Grand Elder's Panic

WHIZZ! WHIZZ! WHIZZ! WHIZZ!

It wasn't until the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword had flown over twenty li that the piercing, sharp cry finally reached the cave from over a hundred zhang away, a testament to the incredible speed of the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword!

Xiao Xiuyi, the Artifact Refining Genius who had personally crafted the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, stood with her mouth slightly agape and her eyes wide, staring intently at the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword as it neared the Tier Eight Great Demons!

At this moment, on Flying Dragon Slope, which had been cleaved in two by the residual Sword Qi, a smooth and seamless crevice appeared right at Xiao Xiuyi's feet! This crevice extended from her feet, stretching over twenty li away, right to the front of those two Tier Eight Great Demons!

The originally formidable and fearsome Tier Eight Great Demons, which had been swinging countless tentacles to entangle the Late-stage Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions, finally sensed the fatal danger and reacted at the very moment the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword was about to strike! The two Late-stage Tier Eight Earth Dragon Demons immediately tossed the Late-stage Tier Seven Corpse Scorpions aside, no longer bothering to tear them apart!

At the same time, on the enormous bodies of the two Earth Dragon Demons, hundreds of zhang long, countless layers of extremely condensed Demon Qi, several zhang thick, appeared. Their thousands of tentacles also rose high, facing the terrifying and brilliantly dazzling Cyan Nether Immortal Sword! They hoped to rely on the condensed Demon Qi cultivated over hundreds of years, and on their tentacles capable of easily piercing mountain peaks hundreds of zhang high, to block this coveted Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, to entangle this Immortal Artifact they desired so much!

Compared to the enormous bodies of the two demons, hundreds of zhang long, the swift and light Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, transformed into a stream of light, appeared extremely delicate. It resembled a tiny hair against a whale, seemingly easy to block with Demon Qi, seemingly easy for the demons' tentacles to capture!

However, after a mere one-twentieth of a breath, the two Great Demons, waving thousands of tentacles and stirring up violent airflows, stood frozen in place. The brilliant stream of light, the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, had penetrated their several-zhang-thick dense Demon Qi, pierced through their thousands of tough tentacles, and then sliced across their massive bodies!

Brilliant lights, accompanying the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, circled the two Late-stage Tier Eight Great Demons once. Then, the Immortal Sword flew back towards Flying Dragon Slope without a pause!

At this moment, the stiff bodies of the two Late-stage Tier Eight Great Demons, hundreds of zhang long and over ten zhang thick, were already split in half. Countless strands of Sword Qi lingered at the wounds, constantly destroying their thoroughly tempered bodies!

When the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword returned to the cave entrance, floating before Lin Xuankong, the bodies of the two Late-stage Tier Eight Great Demons suddenly shattered... It was as if, in that one-twentieth of a breath, their bodies had been slashed by the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword hundreds of thousands, even millions of times. Their bodies fragmented into countless fine particles, forming piles of dust hundreds of zhang long and over ten zhang high and wide, which then fell to the ground!

The violent airflows, originally stirred up by the Demon Techniques of the two Great Demons, also calmed. The wind settled, and the dust fell! It seemed as if, twenty li from Flying Dragon Slope, those two Tier Eight Earth Dragon Great Demons had never appeared. It seemed as if nothing earth-shattering had occurred nearby at all—indeed, this battle hadn't been earth-shattering; the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword had merely flown in a circle!

However, between Flying Dragon Slope and the piles of dust that were once the Great Demons, a terrifying and gigantic crevice, nearly twenty-four li long and several dozen zhang deep, had appeared. This dreadful crevice was caused by the residual Sword Qi as the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword flew past... It alone proved that a stream of light had just streaked across the land, obliterating two Late Eighth-Layer Earth Dragon Great Demons in one-twentieth of a breath!

The power of an Immortal Artifact... is actually this terrifying! Moreover, this Cyan Nether Immortal Sword is currently only an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact. It hasn't even grown to be Grade-Entering, far from its limit. If it were to mature, its power...

Xiao Xiuyi, the Artifact Refining Genius who had personally crafted the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, stared blankly at the scene before her. In her heart, pride swelled from creating such a fearsome Immortal Artifact! There was also the joy of witnessing the fall of Tier Eight Great Demons and narrowly

escaping death! And even more so, a profound fear arose in her heart after witnessing the terrifying power of the Immortal Artifact!

A moment later, a hint of astonishment gradually appeared on her face. She turned to Lin Xuankong beside her and said, "Brother Lin, if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I would never have believed that you, who were only in the Third Realm a few months ago, could already wield an Immortal Sword! And you even nourished it completely in just over twenty breaths!"

Lin Xuankong smiled without speaking. Then, with surprise and a hint of fervor in his eyes, he reached out to touch the blade of the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword.

Cyan Nether Sword unleashed, Tier Eight Great Demons, a double kill with one blow!

If he hadn't done it himself, if his Heart Spirit hadn't just connected with the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, he himself probably wouldn't have believed that a weapon in this world could unleash such terrifying power! After all, he had previously expected that even if the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword could slay Tier Eight Demons, it would require a fierce battle, striking dozens or even hundreds of times to kill them. These were, after all, Tier Eight Demons that had cultivated for hundreds of years...

Who would have thought? With just one strike, Late-stage Tier Eight Great Demons, cultivated for hundreds of years, were extinguished in body and soul, turned to powder and dust!

He glanced down at the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, gently stroking its blade. It's a pity that with my current Realm, I can only wield it for three breaths each time I finish nourishing it! Otherwise, with this Cyan Nether Immortal Sword in hand, where in the entire Great Xia Dynasty could I, Lin Xuankong, not go! However, even three breaths is already extremely fearsome and terrifying! If I nourish it in advance, even if dozens of Eighth-Layer Great Demons were to attack simultaneously, they would stand no chance against the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword!

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Moreover, this was just the initial power of the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword. If it absorbed enough Demon Pearls, Geng Metal Crystals, and Li Fire Crystals, and gradually grew, its power might multiply many times over! Even now, it can devastate mountains and cities with a single strike. If it were to mature fully...

Lin Xuankong was amazed. Gripping the sword hilt, he looked at Xiao Xiuyi and said, "This Cyan Nether Immortal Sword is an incredibly powerful weapon, far beyond my imagination. Without your help, Miss Xiao, I probably would never have obtained such a terrifying, evolving Immortal Artifact in this lifetime! I, Lin Xuankong, will deeply remember your assistance in acquiring this Immortal Artifact. In the future, if you ever need any help, Miss Xiao, please feel free to tell me. As long as it's within my ability, I will not hesitate!"

Seeing his earnest expression, a smile touched the corners of Xiao Xiuyi's lips. "Brother Lin, I will definitely remember these words! Now that you have this Immortal Sword, once your Cultivation Realm rises, you will surely be able to roam the world freely. When that time comes, I might really need to ask for your help with something!"

Lin Xuankong nodded with a smile. "Don't mention just one thing; even ten would be fine!"

He looked down at the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword in his hand. "I just used the Immortal Sword for about one breath of time in total. There are still two breaths of activation time left. With these two breaths of activation time, I feel like taking the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword to the Sealing Demon Mountain Range to slay a few Great Demons and indulge myself!"

Unfortunately, such a world-shaking Immortal Artifact will surely attract countless disputes and covetous gazes. After all, who wouldn't want to possess such a terrifyingly powerful Immortal Artifact! Until I have truly grown strong, the fact that I possess this Immortal Sword must be kept secret. For now, we should leave this place! His eyes flashed as he looked into the distance. In thirty to forty breaths at most, this place will be crowded with Cultivators from all over the Great Marsh Prefecture!

Xiao Xiuyi frowned slightly. "I will quickly pack the important items in the cave, and then we can leave together, Brother Lin!"

After speaking, a trace of reluctance appeared in her eyes as she gazed at the serene scenery around Flying Dragon Slope. "Having lived here for several years, I've grown accustomed to it. I've developed a fondness for every plant, every mountain, and every stream here. Leaving so suddenly... I do feel a bit reluctant!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong's heart stirred, and a smile appeared on his face. "If Miss Xiao likes the scenery here, I know a place we can go. Once we're there, I can recreate this scenery for you! Moreover, at that place, you can peacefully focus on the Artifact Refining Technique, free from disturbances by Demons or troublesome Cultivators!"

Xiao Xiuyi, who was packing her belongings, heard this and couldn't help but smile. "Is there really such a tranquil place in this world? One without even the Demon Race?"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly.

Then, stroking the Longsword in his hand, he gazed towards the distant Sealing Demon Mountain Range.

There, in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range, are Thick Earth ore veins, Geng Metal Ore Veins, Thick Earth Spiritual Objects, and Geng Metal Spiritual Objects. If I can obtain one of each kind, there will be no more obstacles to advancing my Cultivation Realm to the Seventh and Eighth Layers! These spiritual objects are crucial for me!

There are also hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of tormented people treated as blood food. If I save them and let them cultivate and guard Spirit Medicines in the Secret Realm, my future source of True Qi will become increasingly abundant!

That place also has countless Demons—possibly over a hundred thousand Tier Two, Tier Three, Tier Four, Tier Five, and even stronger Demons. Those are all Demon Flesh resources, but they are also formidable and terrifying opponents. After all, the various Demon Techniques of these Demons are extremely bizarre, and I cannot underestimate them!

However, now that I have the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, as long as I am somewhat cautious and wait for the Third Princess to engage the Demons of the Sealing Demon Mountain in battle, distracting the Great Demons, I can then strike with thunderous force. There shouldn't be any issues, right?

「A few dozen breaths later,」

Several figures flew into the airspace above the location where the two Tier Eight Great Demons had fallen. It was none other than Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er and her party.

Ouyang Qinglan, leading them, landed near the piles of dust that were once the Demons. This Grand Elder of the Profound Sect and the Celestial Sect, an Eighth-Layer Perfection Cultivator, examined the countless dust particles on the ground and the massive twenty-four-mile-long crack. A look of astonishment appeared on her face as her pupils shrank.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er carefully examined the elongated piles of dust, her eyes filled with suspicion as she said, "There is still some residual Demon Qi in this dust. The concentration of this Demon Qi is very strong. The Demon that died here and turned into dust must have been at least a Seventh-Layer Demon!"

Ouyang Qinglan shook her head gently, the astonishment on her face yet to dissipate. "Third Princess, the residual Demon Qi in this dust is indeed highly concentrated, but it's not from a Seventh-Layer Demon. According to my senses, this should be the residual Demon Qi after the fall of a Late Eighth Layer Great Demon... And judging by the pattern of the dust, these were likely two Late Eighth Layer Earth Dragon Demons!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er's face was filled with amazement. "Late Eighth Layer Earth Dragon Demons? The recovery ability of Earth Dragon Demons is not inferior to that of Marsh Pythons; in fact, it's even stronger! While Marsh Pythons need to be near water sources, Earth Dragon Demons can convert soil into Demon Qi to rapidly heal their injuries! To slay two Late Eighth Layer Earth Dragon Demons... normally, one would need to be at least a Mid-Ninth Layer Cultivator, or even stronger!"

The Cultivators who continued to arrive overheard the conversation between Ouyang Qinglan and Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er. As they looked at the dust on the ground and the enormous crack, utter astonishment filled their faces; some even showed traces of fear!

Among these Cultivators, even the strongest were at most Late Eighth Layer. None of them could possibly be a match for a Late Eighth Layer Earth Dragon Demon, let alone defeat one!

Ouyang Qinglan, her face full of dread, said, "To slay two Late-stage Tier Eight Great Demons and carve a twenty-four-mile-long crack in the ground! This must be the power of the newly emerged Immortal Artifact. Without an Immortal Artifact, even I couldn't contend with two Late-stage Tier Eight Earth Dragon Demons, let alone create such a terrifying crack in the earth! But how could an Immortal Artifact that has just appeared be activated so quickly..."

Han Li, his longsword on his back, meticulously inspected the crack in the ground, which was many tens of meters deep. An Immortal Artifact? The power of an Immortal Artifact is actually this terrifying! If I,

an Early Eighth Layer Cultivator, were to attempt creating such a terrifying crack, I'd probably need to slash at it for several days, thousands, even tens of thousands of times!

General Yang Luochen squatted, observed the crack for a moment, then shook his head decisively. "The issue is, judging by its shape, this terrifying twenty-four-mile-long crack was definitely not formed by thousands or tens of thousands of slashes. It was absolutely formed in a single strike!"

"A single strike? The power of a single strike?" a Seventh-Layer Cultivator in the crowd exclaimed in a low voice.

Another Seventh-Layer Cultivator looked at the crack as if witnessing something incredibly terrifying. "To unleash such terrifying power in a single strike? As expected of an Immortal Artifact heralded by such an astonishing phenomenon!"

General Wang Linghui of Prince Yu's Mansion, his expression shifting rapidly, said, "However, if someone truly did activate the Immortal Artifact, create this crack, and slay the Great Demons, doesn't that mean the Immortal Artifact that illuminated the heavens and earth is now in someone's possession? Who on earth could possess such incredible fortune to have mastered such a terrifying Immortal Artifact!"

Listening to the crowd's discussion, a thought suddenly struck Ouyang Qinglan. She looked up towards Flying Dragon Slope, her expression tensing once more. The esteemed Grand Elder of the Celestial Sect now had eyes full of reverence, her voice heavy as she spoke, "It's not just a matter of great fortune. From the moment the Immortal Artifact emerged until now, only a little more than the time it takes to drink half a cup of tea has passed! An expert capable of nurturing an Immortal Artifact and unleashing its terrifying strike in such a short period must themselves be incredibly powerful! Such nurturing speed... even Late Ninth Layer or Perfection experts couldn't possibly nurture an Immortal Artifact so quickly!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's delicate face showed a changing expression. "Elder Ouyang, are you suggesting... an Immortal?"

Ouyang Qinglan shook her head. "I cannot be certain! However, this crack clearly appeared just moments ago. That expert might still be at Flying Dragon Slope, where the crack begins!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er heard this and turned her head towards Flying Dragon Slope, a hint of anticipation in her eyes. "Then, shall we go and meet this expert?"

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Ouyang Qinglan's expression changed immediately when she heard the Third Princess wanted to go over. She frowned and transmitted via voice projection, "Third Princess, we still cannot be certain whether the terrifying Cultivator who obtained the Immortal Artifact is from Great Xia or another dynasty. Most importantly, if he harbors any hostility towards you, none of us Cultivators here will be able to protect you!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er glanced at the dust that was once the Earth Dragon Demon and said, "Since he is an enemy of the Demon Race, he is a friend of the Great Xia Dynasty! This place is only about twenty li from Flying Dragon Slope. What difference does it make if I don't go over? If he has hostile intentions, the Immortal Artifact could strike, and I would likely perish even from twenty li away!"

"Moreover," she continued, "if there is any chance at all to win over this powerful Cultivator with an Immortal Artifact, I will not let it slip by! With such a powerhouse as our ally, not only would the demon calamities be a thing of the past, but even the Rakshasa Six Demon Sects, which frequently invade our Great Xia Kingdom, would no longer dare to challenge Great Xia!"

Ouyang Qinglan frowned. "Third Princess, what can you offer to win him over? He possesses an Immortal Artifact, which is more valuable than even a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's expression was resolute. "No matter the cost—status, wealth, power, anything—we must gain his support for Great Xia. No price is too high!"

Seeing Xiaoo Ying'Er's firm resolve, Ouyang Qinglan fell silent.

A few moments later, Ouyang Qinglan took the lead, protecting Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, while several dozen Tier Seven and Tier Eight powerhouses followed. The group slowly flew towards the sky above Flying Dragon Slope, landing at the entrance of Xiao Xiuyi's cave.

Every Cultivator moved very slowly, landing lightly and remaining silent, seemingly afraid that any loud noise or large movement might cause a misunderstanding or trouble. These powerhouses, who usually

held high status in various Prince Mansions, were acting with extreme caution, like mice about to meet a cat!

Ouyang Qinglan nodded slightly to Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, then approached the cave entrance. Clasp her hands respectfully towards the cave, she announced, "Senior, Ouyang Qinglan of the Profound Sect Celestial Sect has come to pay her respects. We have witnessed the power of Senior's Immortal Sword and are filled with immense admiration, longing to glimpse your true form! The Third Princess of Great Xia is present herself and intends to invite you, Senior, to the Great Marsh Prefecture for a meeting. Would you be willing?"

After speaking, Ouyang Qinglan looked apprehensively towards the cave. The Cultivators behind her, including Han Li, Wang Linghui, and Yang Luochen, also gazed at the cave with expressions of both apprehension and reverence. Unfortunately, after several breaths' time, the cave remained silent.

Ouyang Qinglan enveloped herself in a protective layer of True Qi, placed her right hand on the Longsword at her waist, and then boldly walked into the cave. Moments later, her voice came from inside, "Third Princess, it's empty. That Senior appears to have already left!"

Upon hearing this, the many Martial Cultivators outside showed expressions of disappointment.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er quickly walked into the cave. She found it empty, devoid of any items. It looked as if it had been struck by terrifying lightning; patches of scalding lava, formed from melted rock, were everywhere, and no other presence could be detected.

Xiaoo Ying'Er, who had been so eager to meet Lin Xuankong and win him over, furrowed her delicate brows. He left?

Ouyang Qinglan sighed. "The power of an Immortal Artifact is exceedingly terrifying. For a Cultivator capable of wielding one, a flicker of their Heart Thought could transport them dozens, or even hundreds, of li away!"

However, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's expression was resolute. "No matter what, we must find that Senior, using any means necessary! Upon returning to the Great Marsh Prefecture, I will immediately use the Communication Jade Token to report this to my father and the Celestial Sect Leader. I am certain they will also be eager to find this Senior!"

On a small mountain in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, similar in height to Flying Dragon Slope, Xiao Xiuyi's eyes sparkled with surprise and joy as she gazed at the vast Secret Realm before her. Brother Lin actually possesses a Celestial Demon Bone! And this Secret Realm is so expansive; it must be from at least a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone! In the Great Xia Dynasty, those with Tier Two Celestial Demon Bones have often become Princes, guarding various regions—figures like King Yu and the East King. Brother Lin has a Celestial Demon Bone like theirs; he truly is extraordinary! With such a vast Secret Realm, and Brother Lin, its owner, to help, it seems I can indeed focus on Artifact Refining here, without worrying about Demons or other Cultivators disturbing me!

At this point, she looked at Lin Xuankong in amazement. "Brother Lin, you possess such diverse methods and Talents, and even a Celestial Demon Bone... I'm starting to suspect you're actually a disciple of some reclusive super Major Sect, and you only joined the Yin Talisman Sect to hide your identity!"

Lin Xuankong laughed. "Then Miss Xiao can certainly regard me as a disciple of some hidden Major Sect, if you wish!"

Xiao Xiuyi glanced at Lin Xuankong. "It seems you're not planning to share many of your secrets with me, Brother Lin. Of course, everyone has their own hidden strengths, and I'm not overly curious. However, Brother Lin, you did promise to replicate Flying Dragon Slope for me. This bare little mountain looks nothing like it!"

Lin Xuankong's expression faltered for a moment. "Ah... don't worry. I've already driven the Demons in this Secret Realm to the far corners. Without them, this place will soon be teeming with vibrant life—flowers, trees, winding paths, and babbling brooks will all appear. I definitely won't break my promise to Miss Xiao!"

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"Hmph, is someone trying to fool people again? Having Yu Fei and me isn't enough; now you've brought another girl. Are you hiding lovers in the Secret Realm again?" Young Lady Lii Xiaolan's voice came through.

Lin Xuankong turned his head to look, only to see the pouting Young Lady and Zhao Yufei leaping towards the hillside.

Xiao Xiuyi also turned to look upon hearing the words. When Young Lady Lii Xiaolan saw that the person standing on the top of the slope was Xiao Xiuyi, her pretty face froze for a moment, then she smiled. "Miss Xiao? How did my husband trick you into the Secret Realm too?"

"What do you mean tricked into the Secret Realm? This is a June Snow Level injustice!" Lin Xuankong protested.

Lii Xiaolan and Zhao Yufei, however, ignored Lin Xuankong. The two girls ran directly to Xiao Xiuyi and started chatting with this Artifact Refining Genius.

Zhao Yufei wasn't very familiar with Xiao Xiuyi, but Lii Xiaolan had once asked Xiao Xiuyi to modify her Battle Armor, so they were already quite acquainted. Now that the three women were together, they were chatting happily, completely ignoring Lin Xuankong.

After a while, Zhao Yufei helped Xiao Xiuyi build a stone tower, and Lii Xiaolan finally stood behind Lin Xuankong. She poked Lin Xuankong's waist with her finger. "Hmph, bringing in such a pretty beauty again, do you not want your waist anymore?"

Lin Xuankong shook his head repeatedly. "Heaven and earth can testify, Miss Xiao came here just for some peace and quiet to refine artifacts without any disturbances. We absolutely have no relationship beyond friends."

He spoke firmly, but his heart was somewhat guilty... After all, Xiao Xiuyi had called him her husband before, and he had agreed on the spot!

"Really?" Lii Xiaolan looked at Lin Xuankong with suspicion, then pressed her ear to his chest.

After a while, as Lin Xuankong started feeling a bit uneasy, the Young Lady glared at him with disdain. "Your eyes are steady, and your heartbeat is normal. It doesn't seem like you're lying. Hmph, you passed this time!"

Lin Xuankong was speechless.

Lii Xiaolan suddenly laughed.

"By the way, I have good news for you. I've just about figured out the refining method for the Turtle-Poria Elixir. In another twenty days or so, we can start refining Treasure Level Turtle-Poria Elixirs!

"Once these Treasure Level Turtle-Poria Elixirs are successfully refined, they should significantly increase the user's Lifespan, much more than what the Pine Crane Longevity Technique can do!"

Lin Xuankong's eyes lit up. "Young Lady, you truly are amazing!"

Lii Xiaolan slightly raised her chin.

"Of course. Not only can it increase Lifespan, but the Turtle-Poria Elixirs I plan to refine should have a bittersweet, rich flavor that tastes great!

"However, the Treasure Level Turtle-Poria Elixirs require a vast variety of herbs, which are extremely rare and in low production. Initially, we can buy and gather some materials, but if we want to refine them long-term, we'll need to plant medicinal herbs in the Secret Realm to produce them in large quantities!"

Lin Xuankong said, "I've already sent people to collect lots of seeds and rhizomes for the Nine Revolutions Qi Replenishing Elixir. You can also make a list for the Turtle-Poria Elixir seeds!"

Lii Xiaolan raised her brows. "The problem is manpower, though. If Yu Fei and I are the only ones planting and caring for them, we'll be exhausted!"

Manpower! Lin Xuankong frowned.

The situation in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range is still unclear, and I'm not sure how many Tier Nine Great Demons are in there. I don't know when the Third Princess will send her army to attract the attention of those Demons so I can sneak in!

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

This morning, after finishing his Cultivation, Lin Xuankong had just left the backyard when Li Xiaohu jumped over the courtyard wall and quickly walked to his side. "Elder Lin, there's trouble!"

Lin Xuankong was somewhat surprised. "Today should be the day the Third Princess organizes the army to gather and prepare to go to the Sealing Demon Mountain Range. What happened?"

Li Xiaohu shook his head and said, "The Third Princess has already sent a Celestial Sect disciple, Ding Rui, to order the various forces that the battle at Sealed Demon Mountain will be delayed for a period of time."

Lin Xuankong frowned. "Why delay?"

A delay would mean... right now I'm at Sixth Layer Mid-grade, so I don't urgently need the Thick Earth Spiritual Object. But it would delay my plan to gather the people from the Sealing Demon Mountain Range into my Secret Realm. Young Lady and Yu Fei are waiting for me to gather manpower, and that's crucial for planting massive amounts of medicinal herbs in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm!

Li Xiaohu whispered, "I had someone inquire. It's said that after the appearance of an Immortal Artifact in Prison Dragon City, an extremely powerful person came to the inner city. It's rumored to be some Immortal Sect True Inheritance. He has mobilized people from the Celestial Sect and various local forces to fully investigate the whereabouts of the Immortal Artifact!"

"Now, throughout the Great Xia Kingdom, all the Cultivators from the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, the Holy Dragon Association, and the official Cultivators are spread out, meticulously investigating the traces of the Immortal Artifact!"

"Additionally, when Brother Yang and I sent people to buy Demon Flesh recently, we also encountered some inspections. It's said that nurturing an Immortal Artifact definitely consumes a lot of True Qi, so now the officials are checking the destination of large quantities of Demon Flesh!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong frowned even tighter.

This Immortal Sect True Inheritance is indeed sharp, directly hitting the crucial point... Whether it's nurturing an Immortal Artifact or the Celestial Demon Bone, it requires a massive amount of Demon Flesh. Investigating from this angle could indeed easily reveal my identity!

But this Immortal Sect True Inheritance can mobilize all the Cultivators in Great Xia?

"When collecting Demon Flesh in the future, we must be more discreet and ensure nothing is exposed!" Lin Xuankong instructed.

Li Xiaohu nodded. "Those Cultivators assigned to investigate—Brother Yang and I have already offered them considerable benefits to win them over, so nothing should be exposed. But in the short term, the quantity of Demon Flesh collected will definitely be significantly affected. After all, local official Cultivators are easier to deal with, but a significant portion of our Demon Flesh is transported from elsewhere!"

Lin Xuankong nodded. "Then just collect less for now. The most important thing is not to be exposed. I'll think of something for the rest!"

After Li Xiaohu left, Lin Xuankong frowned deeply, a sense of crisis rising in his heart.

An Immortal Sect True Inheritance, a True Disciple of the Central Province Immortal Sect? How powerful is this person? He has such great authority, able to mobilize all the disciples of the Celestial Sect, the Holy Dragon Association, and official Cultivators throughout Great Xia?

However, if this Immortal Sect True Inheritance is in the inner city of the Great Marsh, I might be able to spy on him... The only thing to be careful of is whether the Immortal Sect has countermeasures against the Eight Gates Celestial Eye.

To be safe, I shouldn't use the Eight Gates Celestial Eye at home!

After pondering for a while, Lin Xuankong quickly left the Lin Residence, heading straight for the territory of the Spirit Snake Gang.

He found a private room in a restaurant within the Spirit Snake Gang's territory and then activated the Eight Gates Celestial Eye. Instantly, a red light swiftly left the restaurant, crossing streets and alleys, passing numerous wooden buildings, heading towards Linshui Pavilion in the inner city of the Great Marsh!

This red light flew into the conference hall of Linshui Pavilion and directly landed on Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er within.

In the blink of an eye, Lin Xuankong felt a shock to his Heart Spirit, and before him appeared the vision of Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er. He also gained the various sensations of Xiaoo Ying'Er's body, as if he had become Xiaoo Ying'Er.

In the conference hall, besides Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, there were five other Cultivators.

These five all had youthful faces and crane-white hair. One of them Lin Xuankong recognized as Grand Elder Ouyang Qinglan. The other four, also women, sitting beside her were evidently Grand Elders of the Celestial Sect with extremely strong cultivation, all at Late Eighth Layer or above; otherwise, they wouldn't be able to sit alongside Ouyang Qinglan.

Everyone was silent, their gazes directed outside the conference hall, their expressions quite solemn.

After a moment, footsteps were heard from outside, and a handsome, white-robed man walked in.

All six people present, including Xiaoo Ying'Er, stood up together. Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er curtsied slightly and said, "Xiaoo Ying'Er greets Cao Zhen's Biography!"

Lin Xuankong, who was peeping, was startled. This Immortal Sect True Inheritance is indeed extraordinarily prestigious! Even Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er has to address him with such respect? I've never enjoyed such treatment!

Chapter 335: The Terrifying Time Technique, Young Lady is Indeed Clever

The man known as Cao Zhen's Biography walked directly to the main seat.

"Third Princess, there's no need to be so serious. I, Cao Yu, cannot stand to see others looking so grave. The path of Cultivation is long and tedious, filled with numerous hardships. How nice it would be if everyone could be happy every day!"

The Third Princess frowned secretly. It would be strange if anyone could be happy when dealing with a guy like you, who comes around giving orders.

Thinking this, Xiaoo Ying'Er was forced to put on a smile. "What Cao Zhen's Biography says is right!"

Cao Yu glanced at Xiaoo Ying'Er. "Of course, if you're not happy, there's no need to force a smile! Third Princess, you are as beautiful as a flower, even more appealing than the Fairies of my Immortal Sect, yet forcing a smile makes you look a bit unsightly!"

Upon hearing this, Xiaoo Ying'Er's expression stiffened. Despite her excellent composure, anger flared within her at such rude treatment, and she quietly clenched her fists!

The five Grand Elders of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, seeing their Celestial Sect Saintess being treated so rudely by this eccentric, ill-spoken Cao Zhen's Biography, were all infuriated but did not dare show any sign of displeasure. They could only lower their heads, pretending not to hear.

Lin Xuankong, who was secretly watching the situation in the council chamber, furrowed his brows upon seeing this. His relationship with Xiaoo Ying'Er had always been quite good, and he considered her a friend. Seeing her so frustrated naturally annoyed him. Yet, he was surprised. The Third Princess of Great Xia and the Celestial Sect Saintess held such esteemed positions. How could they not dare to retort after being harshly confronted by this eccentric Immortal Sect True Inheritance?

This eccentric Cao Zhen's Biography from the Immortal Sect is so arrogant! Behind Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er stands the entire Great Xia Dynasty, the Saint Dragon President, the Celestial Sect Leader, and Emperor Xiao of Great Xia!

As Lin Xuankong was still surprised, Cao Yu spoke,

"Emperor Xiao of Great Xia has already taken my advice and mobilized Cultivators from various regions to thoroughly investigate the whereabouts of the Immortal Artifact... Of course, the main focus remains on Great Marsh Prefecture!

However, despite the Third Princess claiming to have mobilized over one hundred thousand Cultivators in Great Marsh Prefecture for a thorough search, after several days, no trace of the Immortal Artifact has been found. Third Princess, you have been quite disappointing!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong's heart stirred. This Cao Zhen's Biography has been acting so passive-aggressively since he arrived. Is it because the Third Princess hasn't found any trace of me?

At this moment, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er finally felt she could no longer hold back. Her father had brought Cao Yu from the Immortal Sect to help fend off the disturbances from the Six Great Demon Sects of the Rakshasa Kingdom, not to let him boss her around and issue commands! Her father even considered marrying her to this guy. Hmph, she would rather be married as a concubine to Lin Xuankong, who already had a wife, than to this guy!

She suddenly stood up, frowning, and said,

"Cao Zhen's Biography, I have already dispatched all the Cultivators from the Celestial Sect, Holy Dragon Association, Governor's Mansion, and various City Lords in Great Marsh Prefecture. Among them, though a few might not be meticulous, the majority are without issue! The key is, the powerhouse possessing the Immortal Artifact is formidable and has only appeared once. How could they be found easily? It will naturally take some time!

To track the Immortal Artifact, I have even temporarily halted the battle at Sealed Demon Mountain. Cao Zhen's Biography, are you still not satisfied?"

Cao Yu raised his left eyebrow, shaking his head. "Of course, I know that finding the trace of the Immortal Artifact takes time! I am just worried that the Great Xia Dynasty might plan to monopolize the Immortal Artifact, and even if they get information, they would hide it from me! Of course, this is just my worry; perhaps I'm overthinking it!"

Hearing this, everyone present, including the Third Princess, had a sudden stiff expression. Especially Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er; that was indeed her intention... but the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect was

immensely powerful, and she certainly couldn't afford to offend this Cao Zhen's Biography openly. Thus, her true plans could never be revealed!

Seeing Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er remaining silent, Cao Yu's left eyebrow twitched, and he said coldly,

"My Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect has already sent ten Late Stage Ninth Layer disciples to the Great Xia Dynasty. Although my junior brothers haven't reached Ninth-Layer Perfection, each possesses Immortal Sect Immortal Techniques, and their strength is not much weaker than mine! Although Central State is extremely distant from Great Xia, with numerous Demons along the way, they will undoubtedly arrive within a hundred days!

If by that time, Great Marsh Prefecture still has not uncovered any leads, my junior brothers might resort to using Magical Artifacts and performing the Soul Searching Technique on every Cultivator in Great Marsh Prefecture.

If it truly comes to that, all the more than two hundred thousand Cultivators in Great Marsh Prefecture will suffer, their Divine Souls damaged, and even Cultivators from other regions will be affected!

For the safety of the Cultivators in Great Marsh Prefecture, for the Cultivators of the Celestial Sect and Holy Dragon Association, Third Princess, esteemed Grand Elders, I hope you will all do your utmost to avoid harming the harmony between my Immortal Sect and the Great Xia Dynasty!"

Upon hearing this, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er furrowed her brows even deeper. After a moment of contemplation, a trace of helplessness appeared on her face, and she said with some difficulty, "Moving forward, I will urge everyone to intensify their search and produce results as soon as possible!"

The five Grand Elders of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect had hidden resentment in their eyes.

In their view, the ten Late Stage Ninth Layer Cultivators from the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect were indeed powerful. But if it really came down to it, the Profound Sect Celestial Sect, the Great Xia Royal Family, and the Holy Dragon Association combined could definitely suppress those ten Immortal Sect Disciples! After all, Great Xia Dynasty's more than ten Tier Nine Powerhouses with Celestial Demon Bones could already suppress the ten Late Stage Ninth Layer disciples from the Immortal Sect...

Chapter 336: The Terrifying Time Technique, Young Lady is Indeed Clever_2

But the problem was, if that happened, the Great Xia Dynasty would undoubtedly face the wrath of the Immortal Sect's Immortals. At that point, the Great Xia Royal Family and their powerful experts could hide in a Secret Realm, but the lands of Great Xia would likely suffer catastrophic devastation!

At this moment, Cao Yu stood up and walked towards the exit of the hall.

As he passed several Grand Elders of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, he glanced coldly at Ouyang Qinglan. Suddenly, he raised his hand and pointed. A shaft of pale white True Qi abruptly struck Ouyang Qinglan.

Instantly, Ouyang Qinglan's entire body trembled. She cried out in pain and collapsed onto her chair.

Her once rosy and full facial skin aged at a speed visible to the naked eye; her muscles withered, and wrinkles proliferated across it.

In the blink of an eye, this Eighth-Layer Perfection expert transformed from a woman in her twenties into a crone in her fifties!

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er exclaimed and quickly walked over to support the trembling Ouyang Qinglan. The four Celestial Sect Grand Elders beside her looked at Ouyang Qinglan with deep concern, then frowned at Cao Yu.

At this moment, whether it was Xiaoo Ying'Er or these Grand Elders, their True Qi was circulating... yet none of them dared to make a move against Cao Yu!

Cao Yu said coolly, "The sixty years of Lifespan stripped away by the Time Technique—I can still restore them for this Elder Ouyang. However, this is limited to within three months. Once three months have passed, those sixty years of Lifespan will be impossible to recover! Sixty years of Lifespan, how precious. I hope you all cherish this, lest you end up like Elder Ouyang! I wish to have news of the Immortal Artifact within three months!"

After speaking, this True Disciple of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect elegantly floated up and, in an instant, had flown out of the conference hall, heading towards Linshui Pavilion.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked at the aged Ouyang Qinglan, a wave of helplessness and heartache washing over her. Among the many Grand Elders of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, Elder Ouyang was the one who doted on her the most. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been the first to come to Great Marsh Prefecture to assist her. Tragically, watching Ouyang Qinglan, who was like kin to her, age so suddenly, Xiaoo Ying'Er felt utterly powerless.

"Cao Yu's Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone and the Time Technique, its associated Demon Technique... I'm afraid only he himself can undo it. Elder Ouyang's Lifespan..." Bitterness flashed in one Grand Elder's eyes, and the faces of the other three Grand Elders were also filled with anger.

Ouyang Qinglan patted Xiaoo Ying'Er's hand and forced a smile. "Third Princess, don't feel sorry for this old woman. I am at Eighth-Layer Perfection; my Lifespan is over three hundred years. Losing sixty years isn't enough to cause my demise."

At this, she secretly transmitted her voice, "Third Princess, if you obtain news about the Immortal Artifact and that expert, you absolutely must not tell that Cao Yu! So what if he uses the Time Technique on me again? So what if this old woman perishes? My life is insignificant compared to the future of the Celestial Sect and the Great Xia Dynasty!"

Hearing Ouyang Qinglan's words, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er sighed, the helplessness in her heart deepening.

Silently perceiving the Third Princess's turmoil of emotions, Lin Xuankong's brows furrowed tightly. He could clearly sense the helplessness, anger, and pain of the Third Princess of Great Xia.

Unfortunately, no matter how much he empathized, he absolutely could not reveal the information about the Immortal Artifact he had obtained to the Third Princess of Great Xia!

The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's power is absolutely immense, and the various Immortal Techniques they possess must be terrifying. Otherwise, how could they mobilize the countless Cultivators of the entire Great Xia Dynasty? Facing such a behemoth, I must be exceedingly cautious!

Now that I possess the Immortal Sword, I can, of course, severely injure Cao Yu from a great distance, but it's still uncertain whether I can kill him!

After all, Cao Yu is an Immortal Sect True Inheritance and definitely carries powerful Magical Artifacts and Treasures. He himself possesses the Celestial Demon Bone and can retreat into a Secret Realm at any time... Unless he's killed instantly, Cultivators with the Celestial Demon Bone are very hard to eliminate!

The most crucial point is that Cao Yu's Celestial Demon Bone Demon Technique is truly bizarre; it can instantly strip sixty years of Lifespan from others... Although I still have nearly two hundred years of Lifespan left, if I were to face Cao Yu and he casually used his Time Technique on me a few times, I'd revert to an old man on the brink of death. Cao Yu's Time Technique is truly something ordinary Cultivators cannot hope to withstand!

It seems that for the near future, I must be cautious and maintain a low profile. The collection of Demon Flesh must be temporarily halted for Little Hu and the others!

Replenishing Qi Blood must quickly shift to cultivating medicinal herbs, but the critical difficulty is the lack of manpower!

With these thoughts swirling in his mind, Lin Xuankong returned to the Lin Residence and then to his Ba Mountain Secret Realm.

「In the stone tower atop the mountain in the Secret Realm,」

Seeing Lin Xuankong return, Zhao Yufei and Lii Xiaolan smiled and brought out dozens of dishes prepared in the kitchen.

Seeing Lin Xuankong's furrowed brows, Lii Xiaolan frowned. "What's wrong?" she asked. "You look so crestfallen, completely gloomy."

Lin Xuankong briefly recounted the day's events. "Without a large supply of Demon Flesh," he explained, "while my Cultivation progress won't be delayed, the advancement of my Celestial Demon Bone and the Great Reincarnation Technique definitely will be! Also, without an immense amount of Demon Flesh to nourish the Immortal Sword Miss Xiao helped me refine, I certainly won't be able to wield it freely! The current solution is to plant a large quantity of medicinal herbs in the Secret Realm..."

Chapter 337: The Terrifying Time Technique, Young Lady Is Indeed Clever_3

"Regarding manpower, I previously considered the hundreds of thousands, possibly up to a million, people trapped in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range.

Unfortunately, there are too many Great Demons over there. The Demon Techniques of the Ninth-Layer Great Demons are exceptionally bizarre and powerful! If I were to attack from afar, my own life might not be in grave danger, but I still wouldn't be able to obtain the Thick Earth Spiritual Object or rescue those hundreds of thousands of people. Worse yet, in the chaos of battle, I might end up causing the deaths of many innocent people!"

Zhao Yufei frowned and said, "Husband, your safety is the most important!

Your Cultivation Speed far exceeds that of ordinary people, so why take unnecessary risks? It's safer to wait until your Cultivation gradually improves. Once you reach Sixth-Layer Perfection and are sufficiently confident, then you can pursue the Thick Earth Spiritual Object and rescue those people. That would be much safer."

Lin Xuankong said, "But if we do it that way, the matter of planting medicinal herbs will be delayed!"

Standing beside him, Lii Xiaolan suddenly laughed and lightly tapped Lin Xuankong's head. "You big fool, always thinking about biting off more than you can chew!"

Lin Xuankong was somewhat surprised. "What do you mean?"

Lii Xiaolan laughed. "Gathering people to plant the Nine Revolutions Qi Replenishing Soup and Turtle-Poria Elixir herbs can be done gradually! Even if we gather just a hundred more people, it would be much faster than just the three of us. Why insist on getting hundreds of thousands, or even a million, people all at once? With your current ability and strength, gathering a hundred people shouldn't be a problem, right?"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong's eyes lit up. "The Young Lady is indeed smart. I was too fixated on those hundreds of thousands of people in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range and became a bit hasty!"

Lii Xiaolan said, "Husband, you have a compassionate heart and are always thinking about rescuing those people. It's understandable that you'd feel anxious and overlook other solutions!

In fact, when you told me about the suffering of those hundreds of thousands, up to a million, people, I also desperately wanted to rescue them. But to save others, we must first ensure our own safety; we can't throw our own lives away!"

Lin Xuankong suddenly stood up.

"I will now go arrange for Little Hu and the others to act! Drawing tens of thousands of people from the hundreds of Outer City Towns controlled by the Guo Family, Feng Family, and Black Tiger Gang shouldn't be an issue. If we can gather twenty thousand people and cultivate one to two hundred valleys for planting medicinal herbs, after some time, the harvest will be sufficient to cover my current substantial needs!

"Yes, after gathering those people, we can initially build some simple wooden houses for them. Additionally, outside those valleys, we can clear a lot of farmland. We can let them plant various grains and vegetables, and even raise some livestock. This way, their food, clothing, shelter, and transportation can all be self-sufficient!"

Zhao Yufei nodded and said, "There will be no problem! Although the people in those Outer City Towns are protected by Cultivators from the Feng and Guo Families, they still face constant threats from Demons in the Outer City and could lose their lives at any moment. If they can enter this Ba Mountain Secret Realm and be free from such life-threatening danger, they will be absolutely delighted!"

Lii Xiaolan said,

"Then, Husband, you go gather the people, and Yu Fei and I will find Miss Xiao and have her refine some sharp and useful farm tools!

Once Husband brings those people into the Secret Realm, they can immediately start building houses and get to work quickly!"

Hearing Lii Xiaolan suggest that Miss Xiao refine farm tools, Lin Xuankong's expression flickered as a brilliant idea struck him.

Since we're going to develop our own Secret Realm and establish a continuously growing nation, why not aim higher and take bigger strides?

Chapter 338: A New Kingdom With Everything Turned Upside Down, The Magical Profound Iron Machinery

The Ba Mountain Secret Realm will be my base, my retreat in times of danger, Lin Xuankong thought. I need to gather people for construction and development, establish a solid foundation.

At this thought, Lin Xuankong decisively said, "I will go with you to find Miss Xiao and collaborate on designing the farming tools."

He took the hands of the two young ladies, and in the next moment, the three of them were already standing on the slope where Xiao Xiuyi was located.

Entering Xiao Xiuyi's stone tower and explaining his intentions, Xiao Xiuyi looked somewhat surprised.

"Refining farming tools is a simple task, Brother Lin. You prepared plenty of Profound Iron and various refining materials for me. Refining hundreds of thousands of farming tools won't be a problem. Is there really a need for design in such simple items?"

Lii Xiaolan interjected, "Hmph, I think Husband just used this as an excuse to come see Miss Xiao!"

Lin Xuankong was speechless. He walked to the table in the stone tower's hall and took out paper and pen from the Ghost Frog Pouch. "I'll sketch out the farming tools I want Miss Xiao to refine for us, and you'll understand. The farming tools I design will be a little different from those in Great Xia."

With that, he swiftly began sketching on the paper.

Lii Xiaolan, Zhao Yufei, and Xiao Xiuyi, seeing his mysterious expression as he sketched on the paper, couldn't help but feel curious and all gathered around him.

A moment later, Lii Xiaolan, frowning at the strange farming tools sketched on the paper, asked, "Is this a farming tool? Is this your 'little different'? This thing looks like a four-wheeled vehicle? I understand

the four wheels, but what is that long rod paired with a circle? And what is connected behind the four-wheeled vehicle? This is so odd!"

Zhao Yufei also looked curious.

"Most of Great Xia's carriages have two wheels, drawn by horses or Exotic Beasts. But this vehicle Husband sketched seems to have no animal drawing it? Moreover, this four-wheeled vehicle looks square, with only one seat on top and something being dragged behind it! The crucial point is, how can this vehicle move? Do you expect people to push it?"

Xiao Xiuyi frowned too. "Since we're going to refine farming tools, why sketch a four-wheeled vehicle?"

Lin Xuankong coughed and cleared his throat.

"This vehicle stems from a peculiar dream I once had. In that dream, farmers mostly used these vehicles for plowing fields, turning soil, and making furrows, and so on. In that dream, this thing was called: Tractor!"

Zhao Yufei looked surprised. "A 'Peel-a-Chick'?"

Lii Xiaolan's expression turned odd. "A 'Drag-a-Chick'?"

Xiao Xiuyi pondered. "A 'Haul-a-Contraption'?"

The three of them were clearly baffled.

Lin Xuankong pointed at the various parts of the tractor on the paper, explaining,

"In that dream, I heard the farmers discussing that this part should be called an engine, the power unit for the vehicle, like a replacement for the horses' or Exotic Beasts' strength! The circle with the long rod is called a steering wheel, used for controlling the vehicle's direction! This position has a starting

mechanism to activate or stop the vehicle's movement. These three parts are called the accelerator, gear shift, and brake..."

Lii Xiaolan, Zhao Yufei, and Xiao Xiuyi were even more puzzled after hearing the explanation.

"'Engine Chicken,' 'Steering Wheel,' 'Oil-boiled shrimp'... no, 'Oil-boiled gear shift brake'? What is all this stuff?" Lii Xiaolan's bright eyes were filled with confusion and incomprehension.

Lin Xuankong took out a piece of Profound Truth Jade and smiled. "Actually, the key to this design lies in using Profound Truth Jade as its power source."

With that, he looked at Xiao Xiuyi and began explaining the design concept of the tractor in detail.

More than an hour later, Xiao Xiuyi's eyes finally brightened. "Brother Lin, you're planning to design a vehicle powered by the True Qi of Profound Truth Jade, driving internal gears with various components transmitting Power through Demon hides! This design isn't too difficult. I should be able to devise it with careful calculations in a day or two!"

Zhao Yufei frowned and looked at Lin Xuankong.

"Husband, whether in Great Xia, Rakshasa Kingdom, or other dynasties, Artifact Refiners focus on designing powerful, highly defensive Battle Armor. The top-notch Artifact Refiners of the Central Divine Dynasty, on the other hand, reportedly craft Magical Artifacts that aid in combat. The more advanced ones, like Miss Xiao, even strive to create Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts. Which Artifact Refiner spends valuable time crafting devices for ordinary folk to plow fields and plant herbs?"

Lii Xiaolan nodded in agreement. "Indeed! Indeed! Miss Xiao has exceptional Talent; no Artifact Refiner in the Central Divine Dynasty matches her! A refiner of such caliber, and you don't ask her to create Immortal Artifacts but instead have her refine tools for ordinary civilians? Any simple farming tool would suffice for them!"

Lin Xuankong shook his head with a smile.

"I have more fantastic designs from my dreams for Miss Xiao to refine later. When those are made, don't you two be tempted and clamor to try them!"

Lii Xiaolan and Zhao Yufei exchanged glances and then turned their chins up at Lin Xuankong.

"Ha, we wouldn't be tempted!"

"Yes, that ugly device you sketched isn't half as comfortable as a carriage. I wouldn't try it!"

...

「Two days later,」

At the foot of Flying Dragon Slope in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, Lii Xiaolan sat on the 'Profound Iron Tractor,' gripping the steering wheel tightly.

This charming Young Lady screamed while stepping hard on the accelerator.

Chapter 339: The New Kingdom That Turned Heaven and Earth Upside Down, The Magical Profound Iron Machinery_2

Sitting beside the driver's seat, Zhao Yufei was extremely nervous. "Sister Lii, quickly, quickly, turn the steering wheel! We're about to hit that big rock in front!"

Lii Xiaolan's long hair flowed in the wind as she shouted continuously, "AAAAAHHHH, this is so exhilarating! I'm shifting to fourth gear!"

Zhao Yufei yelled up Flying Dragon Slope, "Miss Xiao, can't you design a fifth or sixth gear? It would be even better if it could go faster!"

Lin Xuankong was speechless. These two! They said they weren't interested in trying out the tractor I designed! Besides, this is a tractor, and they're treating it like a race car...

Soon enough, on the tractor, Lii Xiaolan and Zhao Yufei were already arguing.

"Sister Lii, you said you'd drive for one cup of tea's time, then switch with me. Get down, I want to control the steering wheel!"

"Yufei, just let me drive for one more cup of tea's time. I'll make you some delicious elixirs later!"

"Huh, why did it stop? There's no power! Quick, switch in another Profound Truth Jade Particle. I want to drive the tractor all day today!"

On Flying Dragon Slope, Lin Xuankong couldn't stand it anymore.

He shouted at Lii Xiaolan and Zhao Yufei, "You two have mastered the driving skills; you just need to teach the common people! One is a Princess Consort of Ba Mountain Secret Realm, and the other is a Female Prime Minister. Do you really intend to drive the tractor all day long?"

"We just want to drive, just for today!" Lii Xiaolan laughed.

Lin Xuankong shook his head helplessly and looked at Xiao Xiuyi beside him.

"Miss Xiao is indeed an Artifact Refining Genius. I didn't even remind you, and you managed to think of using inflated Marsh Python Skin to make wheels. This way, by replacing the Profound Iron wheels, it can significantly reduce the tractor's weight and decrease the consumption of Profound Truth Jade Particles! And the fact that Miss Xiao could design the Profound Iron Tractor so quickly truly amazed me!"

Xiao Xiuyi smiled. "Actually, it wasn't difficult because Brother Lin had already told me the design ideas! This Profound Iron Tractor is much simpler than refining an Immortal Artifact, or even Battle Armor; there's no need for size changes either! In fact, most of the time was spent refining a large number of Profound Iron Components!"

She pointed behind her. "Once these Profound Iron Components are assembled, approximately ten Profound Iron Tractors can be put together! As for the designs Brother Lin gave me later for things like

bulldozers, excavators, and cranes, they are slightly more complex than this Profound Iron Tractor. However, they aren't too difficult; given a few days, I should be able to design all of them!"

Lin Xuankong said, "Miss Xiao, you're dedicated to studying the Artifact Refining Technique! Refining these items takes up a lot of your time; I feel rather bad about it!"

Xiao Xiuyi shook her head slightly, a hint of admiration in her eyes as she looked at Lin Xuankong. "Brother Lin, your imaginative ideas surprise me! Even though I've just started refining these special devices, I can already foresee the tremendous changes they will bring to the lives and work of ordinary people if they become more common. It will be a massive transformation! The main thing is, even if other Cultivators could conceive of such things, they would absolutely not bother to ask Artifact Refiners to craft these devices. Cultivators generally look down on common people; how many would be willing to invest their efforts for ordinary folk? They certainly wouldn't be willing to spend their True Qi to infuse Profound Truth Jade Particles to power these devices! In my view, Brother Lin, your intentions and actions are truly unique in this world! This compassionate nature, this care for the weak, truly commands my respect!"

Being praised like this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but wave his hands repeatedly.

"Miss Xiao, you're joking. I'm just planning to let the gathered common people utilize these devices to cultivate and plant more medicinal herbs! It's merely a matter of mutual benefit, absolutely nothing to do with compassion or caring for the weak!"

Xiao Xiuyi continued to smile at him.

"Regardless, Brother Lin, your devices can significantly improve those people's work efficiency. Just for this thoughtful intention of yours, I am willing to put more effort into developing these devices and producing more!"

At this point, she thought for a moment and then said, "Brother Lin, your devices aren't particularly complex. In the future, when you gather people into the Secret Realm, you can select some clever girls to come to me. I can teach them the methods to manufacture these devices, which would greatly accelerate the production speed!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong's eyes brightened. "If Miss Xiao is willing to teach some disciples, that would be even better!"

Currently, in the Secret Realm, Young Lady Lii Xiaolan is in charge of medicinal herb management and overall affairs, while Second Lady Zhao Yufei is responsible for personnel management, rewards, and punishments. This Miss Xiao, with her extraordinary Artifact Refining Talent, is undoubtedly the perfect candidate for Minister of the Research Department!

「Several days later.」

Lin Xuankong stood on a peak within the Secret Realm, looking at the thousands of people gathered in the distance, their families in tow.

These people had been secretly gathered by Li Xiaohu from the Feng Family's territories. For Little Hu and Li Er, who had completely taken control of the Feng Family, mobilizing a few thousand people from the Feng Family's Outer City Towns, which had a population of two to three hundred thousand, was very simple indeed!

At this moment, Zhao Yufei, clad in Silver-White Battle Armor, stood before the many anxious people, announcing necessary rules and various rewards and punishments. Coming from a prestigious family, Zhao Yufei had often managed some of the Zhao Family's Outer City Towns, so she was very familiar with these tasks.

As they listened to Zhao Yufei's announcements, the initially anxious faces of these people—sallow, covered in dirt, and numb with hardship—gradually showed expressions of shock.

The reason for their shock was that this powerful Cultivator before them had just announced that they could possess their own plots of land. Moreover, Zhao Yufei declared that aside from properly cultivating medicinal herbs, they only needed to hand over thirty percent of the grains and crops grown on the land they themselves reclaimed!

How could these people not be shocked? Back in the Feng Family's Outer City, these people didn't own even an inch of land; they were little more than slaves to the Feng Family, and their treatment was far worse than that of the common folk in Great Marsh Prefecture City!

As for the various machines placed before them, they were utterly bewildered—after all, people of the Great Xia Dynasty had never seen a tractor before.

Watching this scene, Lin Xuankong smiled.

These thousands of people are just the beginning, and these dozens of Profound Iron Machinery are just the start! Once some time passes and the sound of mechanical farming echoes throughout Ba Mountain Secret Realm, will I still need to worry about Qi Blood consumption? The medicinal herbs from thousands of miles of vast land, mostly for my exclusive use—that should be enough, right?

「The next moment.」

Lin Xuankong's figure flashed to Flying Dragon Slope in Ba Mountain.

He looked at the busy Xiao Xiuyi. "Miss Xiao, I've had my people acquire all five Demon Pearls from the Prison Dragon City auction. But you still haven't told me how to make the Immortal Sword devour the Demon Pearls!"

As he finished speaking, Lin Xuankong's eyes filled with anticipation. The Cyan Nether Immortal Sword in his hand was his strongest weapon and primary offensive means. Its every bit of growth would significantly enhance his power.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Xiuyi raised her delicate brows. "For the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword to devour and grow, you must prepare the Demon Pearls along with equivalent amounts of Geng Metal Crystal Stone and Li Fire Crystal. Simply having Demon Pearls won't do!"

Lin Xuankong frowned. "Geng Metal Crystal Stone, Li Fire Crystal?"

These two items... I've only heard Miss Xiao mention them. Where on earth can I find them?!

Xiao Xiuyi saw his frowning face and suddenly started to laugh.

Chapter 340: Great Advancement in Sixth-Layer Perfection Strength, the Immortal Corpse of the Sealing Demon Mountain Range

Seeing Xiao Xiuyi smiling so happily, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but be puzzled.

He frowned and said, "Could it be that Miss Xiao knows where to find Geng Metal Crystal Stones and Li Fire Crystals?"

Xiao Xiuyi nodded, a slight smile playing on her lips. "Geng Metal Crystal Stones and Li Fire Crystals are quite rare, generally found in their corresponding ore veins. Since the Sealing Demon Mountain Range has a Geng Metal Ore Vein, it's very likely there are Geng Metal Crystal Stones as well. Moreover, these two items are essential for Artifact Refiners, and I happen to have some here. Though not much, they are enough to support you in Devouring these five Demon Pearls! However, I can't just give these materials to you for free, Brother Lin!"

Lin Xuankong nodded. "Since they are rare minerals, I certainly can't take them for nothing. Whatever Miss Xiao needs, just say the word!"

Xiao Xiuyi gazed at Lin Xuankong carefully and suddenly shook her head seriously. "I don't need anything material. I only hope that in the future, as you grow stronger, you will still treat the common people and weaker Cultivators kindly, just as you do now!"

She sighed and looked out towards Flying Dragon Slope. "In this world, strength is revered. The strong can act recklessly, disregarding the dignity and lives of the weak! Even though my father was an Artifact Refiner, he was still humiliated because his strength was insufficient. That's why I am unwilling to associate with those so-called strong ones and refine killing weapons for them! But Brother Lin, you are different. From you, I always see something distinct from other strong ones: like those ingenious devices meant for common people, and though you don't admit it, you actually care about the poor commoners. These qualities are truly precious. I only hope that when Brother Lin becomes powerful in the future, you will remain the same!"

Hearing her words, Lin Xuankong fell silent.

After a moment, he spoke, "Miss Xiao, rest assured, I am a person who values the past! I used to be just an old man selling crispy cakes, and although I now own the entire Secret Realm, I still habitually calculate the value of items in terms of how many crispy cakes they are worth!"

Xiao Xiuyi couldn't help but smile at his words. She took some Geng Metal Crystal Stones and Li Fire Crystals out from the Ghost Frog Pouch at her waist and said with a smile, "Then Brother Lin, calculate how many crispy cakes these crystals I'm about to give you are worth?"

...

「In the blink of an eye, two and a half months had passed.」

In these two months, as the three months' deadline mentioned by Cao Yu approached, the checks on Cultivators by the Great Xia Dynasty's officials became increasingly strict. The Feng Family, Guo Family, and Black Tiger Gang had been forced to completely stop their collection of Demon Flesh.

Of course, the Cultivators from these three families were not idle; they had already started to switch their efforts to collecting Geng Metal Crystal Stones and Li Fire Crystals. Additionally, the Cultivators from these three families also helped Lin Xuankong to gather information about Demon Pearls being auctioned throughout the Great Xia Dynasty.

During this period, Xiao Xiuyi helped Lin Xuankong by refining more than twenty micro Communication Jades from Profound Truth Jade Particles. With these Communication Jades made from Jade Particles, the Cultivators from these three families found it much easier to gather various materials and valuable Demon Pearls!

As a result, Lin Xuankong's Immortal Sword, supported by the gradually collected Demon Pearls and Crystal Stones, became increasingly powerful!

In the two and a half months, within the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, the number of people moving in had been steadily increasing and had now reached 45,000.

These people, originally slaves from the Outer Cities of various families, were completely astounded by the treatment they received upon entering the Secret Realm! Whether it was food, clothing, shelter, or transportation, the conditions provided by the Ba Mountain Secret Realm were more than twice as good as those outside. Most importantly, here they could earn their own brick-and-mortar houses, land, and a majority of the harvest through their labor!

With these contrasting conditions, the enthusiasm of the people inside the Secret Realm skyrocketed. Many worked so tirelessly that they could go without rest for an entire day and night... After all, given the comparison, who would want to be expelled from the Secret Realm just for being lazy?

They saw Profound Iron Tractors, seeders, excavators, and cranes. Road rollers were constantly paving roads, and occasionally, a Profound Iron Helicopter flew overhead. It truly made these people feel as if they had entered a paradise!

With enough food and motivation, these people did not disappoint Lin Xuankong. Within two and a half months, they had already cultivated 240 valleys, and various medicinal herbs had been planted in them!

As some of the medicinal herbs began to mature, Lin Xuankong's Qi Blood replenishment also gradually increased!

It can be expected that once the medicinal herbs in these 240 valleys reach maturity, Lin Xuankong's Qi Blood replenishment will be even greater than before. Consider Yin Talisman Sect's Four-Direction City: it only possessed three valleys of medicinal plants, yet this was enough to supply thousands of disciples for their Cultivation. In contrast, Lin Xuankong now had 240 such medicinal planting grounds. Furthermore, he didn't need a Grand Array, nor did he have to worry about Demon intrusions or the prying eyes of other factions!

The only thing that slightly vexed Lin Xuankong was that, although the Blood Eating Technique was very effective and could quickly digest various medicinal herbs, the taste was still not as good as the delicious roasted Demon Flesh!

But this was not a problem. Young Lady Li Xiaolan had already selected 100 clever young girls from the newly migrated populace,