

Stronger 351

Chapter 351: Immortal Sect Disciple's Hundred Treasures Pouch, Foster Father Above_2

"In this way, I won't have to worry about advancing to the Eighth Layer in the future! Yu, it was hard on you to get these Spiritual Objects for me from the Sealing Demon Mountain Range!"

Cao Yu was speechless. His heart was bleeding, and his breathing was quite rapid.

"Since these two are Rare Spiritual Objects, then this one emitting a crimson glow should be the Li Fire Spirit Object?" Lin Xuankong looked at the last seven Spiritual Objects.

Cao Yu, whose heart was still bleeding, panted heavily for a while. "That's right. These seven Li Fire Spirit Objects were bestowed upon me by my Master when I advanced from the Eighth Layer to the Ninth Layer. They are also of Treasure Level! Since they are essential for an Eighth Layer Cultivator to advance to the Ninth Layer, they are the most expensive among the five types of Spiritual Objects. At auctions in the Central Divine Dynasty, they often fetch prices exceeding forty pieces of Profound Truth Jade each! My Master gave me thirty pieces in total back then. I used more than twenty to advance to the Ninth Layer, and these seven Li Fire Spirit Objects remained!"

Lin Xuankong was astonished. "A True Disciple of the Immortal Sect with such good talent still needed over twenty Spiritual Objects to advance to the Ninth Layer? Your luck is a bit poor!"

Cao Yu remained silent. Rare Spiritual Objects offer only a two percent chance of enabling advancement. Advancing to the Ninth Layer using more than twenty Spiritual Objects means my luck was already quite good! Meeting you in this lifetime is truly my misfortune!

At this moment, Lin Xuankong finally finished examining all of Cao Yu's exceedingly precious Treasures.

He frowned slightly. "Normally, if the mine contained Thick Earth Spiritual Objects and Geng Metal Spiritual Objects, there should also be Geng Metal Crystals. Did you and those ten Immortal Sect Disciples not find any Geng Metal Crystals in the mine?"

Cao Yu frowned. "I've already taken thirty percent of the Spiritual Objects, which is quite a lot! Although Geng Metal Crystals are precious, they are not as valuable as Spiritual Objects. As the Senior Brother of the True Inheritance, how could I compete with those ten Junior Brothers for Geng Metal Crystals!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but turn his head to look towards the Sealing Demon Mountain Range. Geng Metal Crystals may not be as valuable to Cao Yu as Spiritual Objects, and he doesn't care much for them, but they are very important for the growth of the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword... Unfortunately, this fellow Cao Yu didn't get any Geng Metal Crystals; they all landed in the hands of the other ten disciples of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect! Most importantly, even though I've subdued Cao Yu, those ten Immortal Sect Disciples are still eyeing me fiercely. They definitely won't give up searching for the Immortal Artifact easily and will never let go of someone who possesses it! Moreover, these ten Immortal Sect Disciples control the Five Elements Extermination Immortal Array that can even injure Immortals. The danger is extremely high and must not be underestimated! They are ultimately a thorn in my side. I must subdue them as soon as possible to feel at ease!

Of course, with all these Spiritual Objects in my possession now, the most important thing is to quickly improve my strength, at least to advance to the Seventh Layer Realm where I can soar and fly!

After thinking for a while, Lin Xuankong put away all the Treasures and looked at Li Xiaohu. "Little Hu, I'll notify Li Er and have him, as the Second-in-Command of the Feng Family, manage their various affairs. For now, you follow Cao Yu and gather as much information as you can. Once we are sure there are no weaknesses, we will find a way to deal with the other ten Immortal Sect Disciples!"

Li Xiaohu nodded and then frowned. "Elder Lin, I can sense that the Celestial Demon Bone inside me is almost fully nurtured. Additionally, the Secret Realm within this Celestial Demon Bone is extremely vast, with a large number of Demon Cranes breeding inside. Many Demon Cranes have even surpassed Tier Five! I know Elder Lin urgently needs a large amount of Demon Flesh... How about this: I'll force this Celestial Demon Bone out of my body, and Elder Lin, you can control it. Hunt the Demons within to supplement your Qi Blood! This way, the Secret Realm won't go to waste either. Anyway, Little Hu has no interest in managing any Secret Realm!"

Lin Xuankong gently shook his head. "You need to impersonate an Immortal Sect True Disciple for me, so of course, you must have the Celestial Demon Bone on you. Otherwise, how could you use his Time Technique!"

"Besides, Little Hu, since you sincerely follow me, you will be one of my, Lin Xuankong's, people from now on. My people, of course, must have sufficient strength! Consider this Celestial Demon Bone a gift from me, Elder Lin!"

Upon hearing this, Li Xiaohu scratched his head and chuckled. "Elder Lin, with this Immortal Sect True Disciple's Ninth-Layer Late Stage Realm and identity, I'll be virtually unstoppable when helping you with matters in the Great Xia Dynasty in the future. Why would I even need any powerful Secret Technique! Especially since, Elder Lin, you are currently being watched by many people. Not only are there Immortal Sect Disciples spying, but also Demon Sect Disciples lurking in secret. Who knows when you might be exposed and encounter various crises. This Celestial Demon Bone's Secret Technique would be more useful on you than on me!"

Lin Xuankong gently shook his head and patted Little Hu's head. "I told you to keep the Celestial Demon Bone, so keep it. I have my reasons for making this decision!"

"Little Hu knows the Celestial Demon Bone is extremely precious. Elder Lin, you allowing Little Hu to reincarnate into the body of a Ninth-Layer Late Stage expert was already an incredible surprise for Little Hu. How could Little Hu still take such a Treasure!" Little Hu said, then secretly circulated his True Qi, planning to force out the Celestial Demon Bone.

Cao Yu, watching them, had an extremely colorful expression. That's a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone! Even within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, only the Master Teacher and two Supreme Elders possess Tier Four Celestial Demon Bones, which are a higher tier than my Celestial Demon Bone. Most other Immortal Sect Elders mostly have Tier One Celestial Demon Bones, and the Immortal Sect Disciples don't even have Celestial Demon Bones! This kind of Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone, if thrown into any Immortal Sect in the Central Divine Dynasty, would be considered an extremely important strategic Treasure! Yet these two fellows are pushing it back and forth, seemingly looking down on the Celestial Demon Bone? Damn it! If you don't want it, give it to me!

At this moment, Lin Xuankong seemed to have suddenly thought of something. His eyes lit up, and he stopped Little Hu, who was about to force out the Celestial Demon Bone. Then he said, "Little Hu, we've known each other for many years; why distinguish so clearly! I watched you grow up from childhood and have long considered you a relative in my heart! If you're really too embarrassed to possess the Celestial Demon Bone, how about this... From today onwards, you acknowledge me as your adoptive father, how about it? If you agree, this Celestial Demon Bone will be a gift from your adoptive father!"

After saying this, Lin Xuankong thought to himself: Cao Yu's Time Technique is indeed extremely powerful and bizarre! However, this child, Little Hu, is extremely sincere towards me and is very dedicated in doing things for me! Compared to Yang Mountain, Li Er, Han Lu, and the others, he is even more serious in his work, and also extremely clever, skilled at gathering all sorts of information. Having him remain outside the Ba Mountain Secret Realm can save me a lot of trouble. Such a capable assistant must, of course, be properly cultivated. With the Celestial Demon Bone on him, it can at least ensure his life is safe in most situations! As for wanting to obtain the Time Technique... Xiao Xiuyi and Xiaoo Ying'Er

both called me 'husband', and I then grasped their Cultivation Techniques! If Li Xiaohu calls me 'adoptive father', I should also be able to obtain his Time Technique, right! It should be like this... I hope so!

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong looked at Li Xiaohu with a hint of anticipation in his eyes.

Cao Yu, hearing this, was deeply affected. Damn, just by acknowledging an adoptive father, he can be gifted a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone? Are they really treating this like a pig's leg bone...

Li Xiaohu, upon hearing this, was first stunned for a moment. Then, he recalled the things that had happened to him over the past half-year. After a moment of stunned silence, his expression gradually became excited.

He looked intently at Lin Xuankong. "Elder Lin, you saved my life back then, gave me silver taels to help me join the Yin Talisman Sect, and later had Brother Yang Shan and the others take care of me many times. Eventually, you even allowed Little Hu to reincarnate as a top expert of the Great Marsh Prefecture... Elder Lin, you've saved my life repeatedly. Little Hu has long considered Elder Lin the only family I have in this world!"

Lin Xuankong smiled. "Since that's the case, why still call me Elder Lin!"

Li Xiaohu's expression immediately turned solemn. He knelt on one knee, clasped his hands in a salute towards Lin Xuankong, and said, "Adoptive Father, please accept Little Hu's bow!"

Chapter 352: Arrival of the Immortal Sect True Inheritance, Time Technique and the Five Great Elders

"Good, good, good! My child, quickly get up!" Lin Xuankong looked at Little Hu, whose face was full of excitement, his own face beaming with joy.

Although hearing the words "foster father," Lin Xuankong couldn't help but think of Lv Bu from the Romance of the Three Kingdoms, as well as the fates of Ding Yuan and Dong Zhuo.

However, Little Hu's character was simple and honest; he absolutely couldn't be someone like Lv Bu!

Lin Xuankong helped Little Hu up and patted his head. "Foster Father is really glad to take you, this Immortal Sect True Inheritance, as my foster son!"

Li Xiaohu chuckled. "Foster Father, don't worry. Even though I am just an Immortal Sect True Inheritance now, there's a chance you can reincarnate me as an Immortal in the future. By then, you will be the foster father of an Immortal!"

"Why insist on becoming an Immortal? What if I reincarnate you as a Fairy? Can't I be a Fairy's godfather?" Lin Xuankong, in a good mood, couldn't help but joke.

Hearing this, Li Xiaohu quickly shook his head repeatedly. "No, no Fairies! I, Li Xiaohu, haven't had enough of being a man; how could I become a woman!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but laugh heartily. Little Hu, seeing this, also scratched his head and chuckled.

This father and son were evidently extremely happy at this moment. Nearby, Cao Yu was full of gloom as he watched his own body kneel before someone else, repeatedly calling that person "Foster Father." This feeling is truly awful, so depressing!

After laughing for a while, Lin Xuankong suddenly felt a jolt in his mind as a large amount of information poured in.

His expression stiffened, and he signaled Little Hu to remain vigilant. Then he sat on the rattan chair in the courtyard, carefully comprehending the Time Technique that had appeared in his mind.

After more than half an hour, Lin Xuankong finally extracted his Heart Spirit from the flood of information.

Looking around, he saw Li Xiaohu standing guard at the entrance to the back courtyard, vigilantly watching the surroundings. Cao Yu, on the other hand, was sitting listlessly under the Old Willow Tree, looking as if life held no meaning.

Lin Xuankong moved swiftly, landing beside Little Hu. "I have already promised Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er to meet her later. Now that many matters are settled, it's time to see the Third Princess so as not to worry her!"

Li Xiaohu cupped his fists. "Then let me accompany you, Foster Father!"

Lin Xuankong knocked on Little Hu's forehead. "What 'Little Hu'? From now on, your name is Cao Yu, the dignified True Inheritance of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. From this moment on, even if you meet the Third Princess of Great Xia, the Sect Leader of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, or Emperor Xiao of Great Xia, you must display sufficient presence! You need to show them what the aura of an Immortal Sect is, and what the aura of an Immortal Sect True Inheritance is!"

Li Xiaohu, after being knocked on the forehead, cried out in pain. Rubbing his forehead, he rolled his eyes and then put on a serious look. "Foster Father, how about this?"

Lin Xuankong immediately shook his head. "An Immortal Sect True Inheritance doesn't need others' judgment. You are you, a unique firework. Within the borders of the Great Xia Dynasty, no one can criticize you. Remember that?"

Li Xiaohu immediately puffed out his chest, flicked the sleeves of his white robe, stared coldly at Lin Xuankong, and snapped, "Whether this True Inheritance remembers or not, do I need a mere Mu Shiba like you to instruct me?! What kind of rustic are you to dare shout at me!"

Lin Xuankong: ...

This guy... should I beat this foster son of mine, or praise him for getting into character so quickly? Why do I suddenly feel that now that this kid has late-stage Ninth Layer strength and the status of an Immortal Sect True Inheritance, he's starting to show signs of becoming like Lv Bu!

Cao Yu, watching this from the side, grew even more depressed. That damned Li Xiaohu! He's learning to imitate me so damn fast...

After instructing Little Bear to keep an eye on Cao Yu, Lin Xuankong headed towards the inner city of the Great Marsh Prefecture with Li Xiaohu.

Of course, his eagerness to see Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er now wasn't just to ease her worries. With Little Hu having become his foster son, Cao Yu, an Immortal Sect True Inheritance, many things would be much more convenient for him...

「In the blink of an eye」

The two passed through houses and alleys, landing within Linshui Pavilion, the Celestial Sect's residence.

As soon as they landed in the courtyard, several figures hidden in the corners revealed themselves.

One of the female Celestial Sect disciples, upon seeing their faces clearly, immediately adopted a solemn expression, knelt on one knee, and said respectfully, "Cao Zhen's Biography!"

Li Xiaohu flicked the long sleeves of his white robe, completely ignoring the female disciple, and walked directly towards the council hall.

As he walked, his robe sleeves fluttered. He looked both aloof and ethereal, truly embodying the presence of an Immortal Sect True Inheritance!

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but chuckle inwardly. This fellow, Little Hu, always acts like an immature child when he's alone with me. But out here, this imposing demeanor of his is quite convincing! These past few months of training as the Feng Family Patriarch have indeed helped this already extremely clever little fellow mature. He knows when to relax and when to put on a dignified front!

「At this moment, in the council hall」

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er sat in the seat of honor, her eyes tinged with worry as she constantly glanced outside the council hall.

Mr. Mu left with that poisoned Cao Yu... can he truly subdue him completely? This time, if things can really be settled properly, it would be a tremendous boon for both myself and the Great Xia Dynasty. But if there's even the slightest mishap, the wrath of the Immortal Sect is truly not something the Great

Xia Dynasty can withstand. The distinction between Immortal and Mortal is like that between clouds and mud...

Chapter 353: Arrival of the Immortal Sect True Inheritance, Time Technique and the Five Great Elders_2

Even though the Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er had a great deal of trust in 'Mu Shiba's' mystical methods, she still felt uneasy, knowing this concerned something that could impact the entire Great Xia Dynasty.

Seated in subordinate positions in the council hall were five of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect's Grand Elders, each at Eighth-Layer Perfection, their expressions also tinged with worry.

Among them, Ouyang Qinglan frowned after a moment of silence and said, "Third Princess, what exactly happened in the council hall earlier? Why was the ground destroyed, as if a battle took place? Ding Rui also told me that you invited that Cao Zhen here. Did Cao Yu and others make a move? Who did he fight?"

"Princess, no matter how significant the matter, the five of us are committed to assisting you. But you must tell us the reason behind these events! Seeing you so worried fills us with extreme anxiety!"

The Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked at the five of them and saw that all five Grand Elders were observing her with deep concern.

All five Grand Elders are extremely loyal to Great Xia and very caring towards me... But I still can't be sure if Mr. Mu has completely subdued that Cao Yu! The events have been too extraordinary, and I'm not sure how to explain them clearly. I can only hope that Mr. Mu truly has subdued him...

Just as this thought crossed her mind, Ding Rui's cautious voice came from outside the council hall, "Cao Zhen is back! Ding Rui kneels to welcome Cao Zhen!"

In the next moment, Li Xiaohu and Lin Xuankong stepped into the council hall. The Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, who was looking out from the chief seat, saw Mu Shiba and Cao Yu return together. Her expression changed repeatedly before she stood up and said, "Cao Zhen is back! Mr. Mu... Mr. Mu is also here!"

Upon seeing Cao Yu approach, Ouyang Qinglan and the other four Celestial Sect Grand Elders quickly stood up, their aged faces revealing mixed emotions.

However, when the five of them saw Lin Xuankong standing next to Cao Yu, a look of puzzlement flashed in their eyes.

Mr. Mu? Where did this Mr. Mu come from?

They exchanged glances secretly, then quietly sensed Lin Xuankong's aura as he walked past. Upon perceiving that Lin Xuankong's aura was merely that of the Sixth-Layer Realm, Ouyang Qinglan and the others furrowed their brows, their surprise and confusion growing even more pronounced.

How could a lowly Sixth-Layer Cultivator, virtually unknown, be walking alongside the highly esteemed Immortal Sect True Inheritance Cao Yu?

Amidst their astonishment and doubt, Li Xiaohu and Lin Xuankong had already reached the main seating area, where an intricately carved sandalwood Eight Immortals table and two chairs were placed. Seeing 'Cao Yu' and 'Mu Shiba' walk straight over, the Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked first at Cao Yu, then at Lin Xuankong, finally casting an inquisitive glance at Lin Xuankong with her bright eyes.

Lin Xuankong noted this and gave a slight nod.

Seeing Lin Xuankong's determined and relaxed demeanor, the anxiety in the Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's heart eased.

But as she looked at the unscathed Cao Yu, whose cultivation and aura had fully recovered, and sensed the overwhelming pressure emanating from him, doubt still lingered in Xiaoo Ying'Er's heart.

What exactly did Mr. Mu do to the Immortal Sect True Inheritance Cao Yu? How did he manage to subdue him? Since Mr. Mu subdued him, why did he allow him to recover his cultivation? Cao Yu's power is formidable, equipped with High-Tier Magical Artifacts and the terrifying Time Technique. Doesn't Mr. Mu fear that this Cao Yu will turn against him after recovering his cultivation?

Faced with so many inexplicable questions, even the highly intelligent Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er could not make sense of any of it.

As she pondered, Li Xiaohu adopted a proud expression. He nonchalantly sat in the left chair at the head table and then looked at Lin Xuankong. "Mr. Mu, please sit!"

Lin Xuankong gave Li Xiaohu a somewhat speechless glance, then looked at Xiaoo Ying'Er who remained standing, before shaking his head lightly. "Cao Zhen, you handle your own matters. Mu Shiba will just stand here!"

The Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned slightly but immediately stepped aside, leaving the main seat open. "Mr. Mu, please, take a seat!"

The five Grand Elders present couldn't help but look baffled as they witnessed this scene.

Are the Immortal Sect True Inheritance Cao Yu and Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er actually being so respectful and courteous to this Mr. Mu? The key is, this Mr. Mu is only at the Sixth-Layer Realm... When did a Sixth-Layer Cultivator gain such intimidating power? What is this Mr. Mu's background? There's no prominent family or great power with the surname Mu in Great Xia! Moreover, the strongest power in the Great Xia Dynasty, the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, practically reveres the Immortal Sect True Inheritance Cao Yu. How could there be any power that would make even him so respectful? Could he be a significant figure from the Central Divine Dynasty?

For a moment, the five Grand Elders looked at Lin Xuankong, their expressions rapidly changing.

At this time, seeing that his 'adoptive father' was still standing, Li Xiaohu could not sit still anymore. He stood up abruptly and said, "Since Mr. Mu isn't sitting, Cao Yu will also stand!"

Upon hearing 'Cao Yu' say this, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's expression shifted, and all doubt vanished from her heart. Mr. Mu has indeed subdued the arrogant Cao Yu... Otherwise, how could Cao Yu be so respectful to a Sixth-Layer Cultivator! But how on earth did Mr. Mu manage it?

The Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked at Lin Xuankong; she was dying to pull him into the dim secret chamber next to them and question him thoroughly.

Even more surprised than the Third Princess, the five Grand Elders' expressions also changed drastically; they stared at Lin Xuankong as if he were some kind of unbelievable anomaly.

Li Xiaohu then looked coldly at the Third Princess and the five Grand Elders. He coughed lightly and said, "Now that news of an Immortal Cave Mansion in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range is spreading, continue with the plan. Intensify it. Make sure cultivators from other regions also hear about it!"

This idea was, of course, Lin Xuankong's instruction to Li Xiaohu. Since Cao Yu (the real one) intended to use the Immortal Cave Mansion to lure cultivators, Lin Xuankong decided to turn this plan to their advantage. Their strategy was to attract even more cultivators, particularly powerful Demon Sect cultivators. The aim was to incite a massive clash between the Demon Sect and Immortal Sect disciples—ideally until they tore each other to pieces!

Upon hearing 'Cao Yu' say this, the Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, despite her lingering doubts, nodded slightly. "Ying'Er will take this to heart and will definitely continue to spread the news!"

Li Xiaohu nodded arrogantly, his gaze sweeping over the five wizened Celestial Sect Grand Elders, then continued,

"Additionally, Third Princess, Grand Elders, the disciples of my Immortal Sect need some crucial materials to activate the Five Elements Extermination Immortal Array in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range!

"These materials are extremely vital. If you can gather them, I, Cao Yu, will ensure the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect remembers your great merit! Moreover, if these materials are truly gathered, I can even restore your lifespans!"

Upon hearing this, the Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er couldn't help but sneak a glance at Lin Xuankong. Mr. Mu must have instructed Cao Yu to say this. What materials does Mr. Mu intend to ask for?

The five Grand Elders, however, became visibly excited.

Having our lifespans stripped by over a hundred years due to the Time Technique—used on us twice!—has been too agonizing! If there's a chance to restore our lifespans, we'd be willing to provide any

materials Cao Yu needs! But Cao Yu has always been so cold and arrogant, utterly disregarding anyone's dignity or suffering. Why would he suddenly offer to restore our lifespans? And can his Time Technique truly restore them?

Ouyang Qinglan, with a mix of doubt and hope, clasped her hands excitedly. "Cao Zhen, collecting materials is no problem, but... but are you truly willing to restore our five lifespans?"

Chapter 354: Xiao Ying'er's Oath, Immortal Artifact Grade-Entering and Fallen Crow Demon Venerable

At this moment, not only did Ouyang Qinglan's face look complicated, but the faces of the other four Grand Elders also changed. Li Xiaohu, on the other hand, displayed an extremely arrogant and cold expression. He slightly raised his right hand and pointed twice toward Ouyang Qinglan. In an instant, two strands of light green True Qi directly entered Ouyang Qinglan's body.

The next moment, Ouyang Qinglan, who was originally hunched and decrepit, trembled as her appearance quickly changed. The deep wrinkles on her face rapidly disappeared. In just ten breaths' time, this Elder had restored her original youthful appearance, becoming tender and radiant!

However, before she could show a look of joy, Li Xiaohu pointed twice again. The newly restored youthful face of Ouyang Qinglan was struck by two strands of ghastly-white True Qi, and her body trembled again. Her smooth and delicate face once more rapidly changed, becoming wrinkled like a dried prune!

Ouyang Qinglan was stunned, looking speechless at Li Xiaohu, while the other four Grand Elders also wore strange expressions on their faces.

Li Xiaohu arrogantly said, "The Time Technique can naturally restore your original lifespan! But, since you haven't yet helped me collect the materials, this lifespan will be temporarily held by me. Once the materials are collected, I will naturally use the Time Technique again to restore each of you Grand Elders to your youthful appearances!"

Ouyang Qinglan and the other four Grand Elders, hearing the Immortal Sect True Inheritance say this, could only nod repeatedly, promising to do their best to help collect the materials.

Li Xiaohu nodded slightly. "Actually, the materials I want you to collect are not that precious! Mainly three things: five hundred plant-based Demon Pearls, two thousand catties of Geng Metal Crystal, and two thousand catties of Li Fire Crystal!"

The Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er and the five Grand Elders were all dumbfounded upon hearing this. Five hundred plant-based Demon Pearls are not that precious?

A Demon Pearl is such a treasure that even killing ten thousand Demons might not yield one! Five hundred, and that's not precious? Does he really think Demon Pearls are children's playthings made of Glazed Glass?

As for the Geng Metal Crystal and Li Fire Crystal, they are equally rare, only obtainable from mineral veins!

These three items, in any force or family in Great Marsh Prefecture, would likely exhaust the entire strength of that force or family just to obtain a few Demon Pearls or ten to twenty catties of Geng Metal Crystal!

It was only because the five Grand Elders and Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er present were top figures of the entire Great Xia Dynasty, backed by the Great Xia Xuanfeng Celestial Sect and the Royal Family, that they might be able to collect these things given some time. However, if it were any other force—even the princes of Prince Yu's Mansion, Dongfang Mansion, or Prince Qi's Mansion—they would go crazy on the spot upon hearing a demand for five hundred Demon Pearls. They'd likely shout, "You might as well kill us!"

However, no matter how stunned, how pained, or how unwilling they were, facing an Immortal Sect True Inheritance who could manipulate lifespan, they could only force smiles, all expressing that they would definitely help Cao Yu with this task.

Seeing everyone agree wholeheartedly, Li Xiaohu then let out a cold snort. He stood up, lightly flicked his robe sleeves, and walked out of the council room. "I'll give you thirty days. That should be enough time to collect five hundred Demon Pearls, and two thousand catties each of Geng Metal Crystal and Li Fire Crystal.

"By then, don't disappoint me. Otherwise, with the remaining lifespan you Grand Elders have now, after two more attacks from the Time Technique, you'll likely run out of lifespan and die on the spot!"

Saying this, he paused, respectfully bowed to Lin Xuankong, secretly gave him a signal, and then said, "Mr. Mu, you probably have something to discuss with the Third Princess. I won't intrude here!"

Soon after, the sound of rending air was heard. This coldly arrogant 'Immortal Sect True Inheritance' had flown out of Linshui Pavilion!

With 'Cao Yu' gone, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked strangely at the five Grand Elders and made them all leave. Then she looked at Lin Xuankong. "Mr. Mu, can you come with me to the secret room for a moment?"

Seeing with her own eyes how Cao Yu was so respectful to Mr. Mu, even bowing respectfully when leaving Linshui Pavilion, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er was filled with confusion. She spoke in a consultative tone, appearing cautious.

After all, Cao Yu is an Immortal Sect True Inheritance capable of mobilizing Immortal Sect power to easily overthrow the Great Xia Dynasty. Even her father is courteous when facing Cao Yu... Yet Cao Yu is so respectful to Mu Shiba. How could she not understand? This Mu Shiba in front of her must possess abilities far beyond her previous guesses!

After entering the secret room, Xiaoo Ying'Er stared closely into Lin Xuankong's eyes under the dim light. "Mr. Mu," she asked, "the materials that Cao Yu asked me and the Grand Elders to collect are presumably for you, right?"

Lin Xuankong's expression froze; he felt somewhat embarrassed. This Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er is truly astute, he thought. She guessed so quickly that I was the one directing Cao Yu.

"Haha, the Third Princess is so astute!" Lin Xuankong laughed awkwardly to cover his embarrassment.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er couldn't help but glare at him. She was already stunningly beautiful; even Cao Yu had said she was a few degrees more beautiful than an Earth Immortal Realm Fairy of the Immortal Sect.

Now, under the dim light, as she shot him that glance, Lin Xuankong's heart skipped a beat. Of all the women I've ever seen, he thought, apart from Young Lady Lii Xiaolan's charming naivety, none can

compare to the absolute beauty of Xiaoo Ying'Er before me. Even the cold and elegant Lady Yu Fei and Miss Xiao Xiuyi are somewhat inferior!

Chapter 355: Xiaoo Ying'Er's Oath, Immortal Artifact Grade-Entering and Fallen Crow Demon Venerable_2

For a moment, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but let his gaze flicker, carefully admiring the unparalleled beauty before him. In his heart, he didn't harbor any lewd thoughts; after all, everyone has an appreciation for beauty, let alone such a peerless woman. As a man, it's only natural to take a few more looks!

However, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er felt a bit embarrassed after being stared at by Lin Xuankong like this.

At this moment, her heart was filled with countless doubts, but thinking that these doubts might concern Mr. Mu's secrets, she found it hard to ask.

Thus, the two remained silent, one admiring the other. The secret chamber was very quiet, and the atmosphere became somewhat romantic.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's mind was in turmoil. For some reason, she suddenly thought of the time when Mr. Mu asked her to call him husband!

After a while, Xiaoo Ying'Er, who was originally a bit shy, suddenly raised her eyes, staring directly at Lin Xuankong. "Mr. Mu, you are so talented, and your methods are beyond Ying'Er's imagination! Even the Immortal Sect's True Inheritance can be subdued by you and made to work for you! Compared to you, Ying'Er, this so-called Third Princess of Great Xia and Celestial Sect Saintess, is truly worthless! But Ying'Er still wants to ask Mr. Mu one question. When you asked Ying'Er to call you husband back then, was it really just a joke?"

After speaking, she stared seriously at Lin Xuankong, her beautiful eyes filled with complex emotions.

Lin Xuankong felt a headache coming on as he heard her question.

He already had a Young Lady and Yu Fei at home, and he was quite content with that... He never thought of taking this Third Princess of Great Xia as a wife too!

However, seeing Xiaoo Ying'Er a bit downcast, calling herself worthless as the Third Princess of Great Xia, and recalling Xiaoo Ying'Er's spirited demeanor in the past, he couldn't help but feel a slight sorrow.

If he admitted it was a joke back then, this Third Princess of Great Xia...

After pondering for a while, feeling somewhat troubled, Lin Xuankong looked at Xiaoo Ying'Er. "What are you saying, Ying'Er? As the Celestial Sect Saintess, you have a noble status, far superior to mine as an Independent Practitioner from the countryside! As for the husband thing... Ying'Er is as beautiful as a celestial being and has the title of the top prodigy of the Great Xia Dynasty. There's probably no man in the world who wouldn't be moved by the Third Princess! It's just that I already have a wife at home!"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, hearing him mention having a wife at home, hesitated for a moment. Then, she looked at Lin Xuankong, a smile suddenly gracing her lips. "So, Mr. Mu wasn't completely unmoved by Ying'Er?"

"Besides, Ying'Er never said she wanted to marry Mr. Mu right now, nor did she say she wanted Mr. Mu to become her Prince Consort. So, what does Mr. Mu mean by suddenly mentioning having a wife at home!"

Lin Xuankong was speechless. Was this girl teasing him? The atmosphere had just been perfectly set, and he'd thought she would say, 'Ying'Er doesn't care about anything else, whether you have a wife or not, Ying'Er just likes you and wants to be with you'... but it turned out this Third Princess was quite mischievous!

This thought had just crossed his mind when Lin Xuankong saw Xiaoo Ying'Er walk directly to him, then slightly stand on her tiptoes... This Third Princess of Great Xia, Celestial Sect Saintess, and the top prodigy of the Great Xia Dynasty actually leaned on his shoulder!

"Mr. Mu, your talent and various abilities have long surpassed Ying'Er's imagination. Truly, Ying'Er has never met such an extraordinary man!" Xiaoo Ying'Er said softly. "And you have saved Ying'Er several times; how could Ying'Er not be moved! Ying'Er is actually very happy to have your affection!"

Lin Xuankong, smelling the faint fragrance from her and listening to her soft murmurs, couldn't help but feel his heart stir.

He was about to put his arm around her, but Xiaoo Ying'Er suddenly kissed his cheek and then stepped back.

She looked at the slightly surprised Lin Xuankong and said softly, "Since I've already called you husband, Ying'Er will surely regard Mr. Mu as her husband from now on, and the only husband in this life! It's just... it's just that Ying'Er's Profound Phoenix Strange Vein is quite unique!"

Lin Xuankong was astonished. "Besides being able to cultivate the Blood Bath Divine Skill, what other special features does the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein have?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er lowered her head slightly and said softly, "The Profound Phoenix Strange Vein is an extremely rare Ancient Strange Vein. Its miraculous effects are only slightly recorded in the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect's scriptures! Perhaps even the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Cao Yu don't know that once this Profound Phoenix Strange Vein engages in marital relations with a man, it can immediately help both the man and herself to break through Realms. Even if the other party is an Earth Immortal, it can help them break through their bottleneck!"

At this, Xiaoo Ying'Er paused, her eyes flickering as she looked at Lin Xuankong. "From today, Ying'Er is devoted to you, Mr. Mu! The miraculous effects of this Strange Vein will always be reserved for you. If you encounter a bottleneck in your cultivation in the future, you can... you can..."

Seeing her suddenly stammer, Lin Xuankong couldn't help laughing out loud. "Eat you?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er was speechless.

With Li Xiaohu pretending to be Cao Yu and acting as an insider, Lin Xuankong did not have to worry about the ten Late Stage Ninth Layer disciples of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect causing any more trouble or setting traps in the short term.

Moreover, with numerous Spiritual Objects and hundreds of thousands of pounds of High-Tier Demon Flesh, Lin Xuankong had no other demands for the time being. So, after returning to the Lin Residence, he went directly back to the Secret Realm to focus on cultivation.

In cultivation, time seemed to lose its meaning.

「In what felt like the blink of an eye, three months passed.」

During this period, Lin Xuankong successfully broke through to the Seventh Layer Realm. Furthermore, thanks to the Great Xia Dynasty and the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect continuously collecting Demon Pearls and Geng Metal Crystals for him, his Immortal Sword was finally nurtured to First Grade.

Chapter 356: Xiaoo Ying'Er's Oath, Immortal Artifact Grade-Entering, and Fallen Crow Demon Venerable_3

After all, this was the collective power of an entire dynasty supplying one person. With such concentrated resources, his strength in all aspects naturally progressed at lightning speed!

Once the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword entered a grade, its power surged, and its weight astonishingly reached 12,800,000 jin!

This terrifying weight was comparable to a small mountain. When mobilized, its speed was even more frightening!

If pushed to its limits, Lin Xuankong felt that even his current Heart Thought was becoming difficult to control!

According to Cao Yu, a First-grade Immortal Artifact could easily injure a First-grade Earth Immortal. Although it couldn't kill an Earth Immortal, the Immortal Sword would absolutely crush Ninth-Layer Perfection Great Demons and Cultivators below that rank!

In his excitement, Lin Xuankong naturally left the Secret Realm. Riding the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword, he toured the Great Xia Dynasty.

During this tour, he actually killed dozens of Ninth-Layer Great Demons!

Those were Ninth-Layer Great Demons! Even if ten Immortal Sect Disciples teamed up, they could only repel them, not easily kill them!

And these Ninth-Layer Great Demons, with their immense Life Force and powerful Demon Techniques, couldn't even escape from the First-Grade Cyan Nether Immortal Sword!

The demon calamity that had troubled the Great Xia Dynasty and the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect was almost eradicated due to Lin Xuankong's actions. Only some pitiful Seventh-Layer and Eighth-Layer Demons remained, now being pursued relentlessly by the other experts of Great Xia. For a time, the tables had turned: instead of demons wreaking havoc in Great Xia, it was Great Xia's experts hunting demons everywhere!

Of course, the reappearance of the Immortal Artifact immediately caught the attention of the ten Immortal Sect Disciples. However, Cao Yu had already told Li Xiaohu everything he knew. Li Xiaohu's impersonation of an Immortal Sect True Inheritance was now so flawless that the ten disciples, whom Li Xiaohu had managed to join, no longer posed any threat to Lin Xuankong!

However, what gave Lin Xuankong and Xiaoo Ying'Er a slight headache was that, although the demon calamity within the Great Xia Dynasty was nearly eradicated, powerful individuals from the Six Great Demon Sects of the Rakshasa Kingdom had infiltrated various parts of Great Xia and were now stirring up trouble.

「This morning」

In Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er's boudoir at Linshui Pavilion, located in the inner city of Great Marsh Prefecture, Lin Xuankong leaned back on her bed. He comfortably raised his feet, placing them on the edge of the bed. Then, looking at Xiaoo Ying'Er, who was personally washing grapes for him, he frowned and said,

"I heard from Cao Zhen that recently, in Nanyang Prefecture, people from the Fallen Crow Demon Sect set up the Fallen Crow Demon Array in a small town. They reportedly killed 100,000 citizens and refined them into a Thousand Crow Demon Banner! Did Sect Leader Hua of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect personally go to deal with them, only to fall into an ambush and suffer greatly?"

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned, looking at Lin Xuankong, who had propped his feet on the edge of her bed. "Don't you know I'm a bit of a neat freak? Could you please put your smelly feet on the ground?"

Lin Xuankong immediately shook his head and moved his feet further onto the bed, placing them directly on the blanket. "A 'neat freak,' huh? That's easily cured. Let me help you with that!"

This is simply too outrageous!

"Hmph! If anyone else dared to do such a thing, I'd have his entire clan exterminated!"

Lin Xuankong laughed heartily. "I don't believe you. You're just bragging!"

The Third Princess gave him a helpless glance and sighed.

"Fine, have it your way!

"As for my master, Sect Leader Hua, and her clash with the Demon Sect...

"Ultimately, the main issue is that we still haven't found the person who collected the Immortal Artifact! Nobody knows who possesses it! He helped my Great Xia eliminate the demon calamity and killed dozens of Great Demons; countless citizens of Great Xia should naturally be grateful to him. Unfortunately, the Immortal Artifact also attracted the Demon Venerable of the Fallen Crow Demon Sect. My master confronted the Demon Venerable, and that's how she was defeated and injured!"

Lin Xuankong's eyes flickered. "Demon Venerable? If we go by the Cultivation Realms, where an Earth Immortal comes after the Ninth-Layer Realm, does that mean a Demon Venerable is a powerful Cultivator similar to an Earth Immortal?"

Chapter 357: Demon Venerable's Earth Immortal Power, Three Years of Covert Cultivation, Tremendous Increase in Strength

A hint of seriousness touched Lin Xuankong's previously relaxed face as he thought of the terrifying power of Earth Immortal Realm Cultivators.

Over the past three months, he had brought Cao Yu, the true Immortal Sect True Inheritance, into the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, where Cao Yu had become a 'diligent' medicinal herb planter. During this time, besides planting medicinal herbs, Cao Yu also had to spend considerable time informing Li Xiaohu about various matters concerning the Immortal Sect. This was to prevent Li Xiaohu from exposing

himself while impersonating Cao Yu. Of course, Lin Xuankong also frequently summoned Cao Yu to inquire about matters related to the Cultivation of Immortals and the Immortal Cave Mansions within the sect. As a result, Lin Xuankong had gained a relatively clear understanding of the terrifying aspects of Earth Immortal Realm Cultivators.

According to Cao Yu, Earth Immortal Realm Cultivators had long ago transformed their physical bodies and Divine Souls, merging them into a unified Immortal Body. The Immortal Body of an Earth Immortal Realm Cultivator is nearly indestructible and can change size with a thought. When shrunk, it can become as small as a grain of sand, allowing them to hide in the deepest abyss. When enlarged, it can then manifest Heaven and Earth. An Initial Tier Earth Immortal can transform into a terrifying body hundreds of zhang tall, possessing the power to move mountains and part seas with a mere gesture.

Furthermore, Earth Immortal Realm Cultivators have already condensed their Earth Immortal Golden Cores. They can use Immortal Dao Skills to control these nearly indestructible Golden Cores to attack opponents. The might of this Earth Immortal Golden Core increases with the Earth Immortal's realm, its power almost perfectly matching that of an Immortal Artifact of the same Grade. Of course, if an Earth Immortal possesses an Immortal Artifact, wielding both their Golden Core and the artifact simultaneously would naturally amplify their power severalfold. This is also why Immortals, apart from their Cultivation, greatly desire to obtain Immortal Artifacts. However, Immortal Artifacts are exceedingly rare. Thus, most Earth Immortals rely on Immortal Dao Skills and their Earth Immortal Golden Cores for attacks. Even so, this demonstrates that every Earth Immortal possesses power comparable to an Immortal Artifact of the Same Tier.

Lin Xuankong currently possessed the First-Grade Cyan Nether Immortal Sword. The power of his attacks was more formidable than that of an Earth Immortal who had just entered the Immortal Tier, and he even had a slight chance to suppress an Initial Tier Earth Immortal with long-range attacks. However, Lin Xuankong was not invincible against an Initial Tier Earth Immortal. At the very least, if he encountered an Initial Tier Earth Immortal at close range, the current Lin Xuankong would certainly be unable to defeat them; he could only rely on his Immortal Sword to create distance before re-engaging.

Therefore, when he heard Xiaoo Ying'Er mention that the one who had severely injured the Celestial Sect Leader was the Demon Venerable of the Fallen Crow Demon Sect from the Rakshasa Kingdom, he naturally grew wary.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er finished washing the grapes and handed them to Lin Xuankong. Then, she lifted his leg and moved his 'stinky' foot off the edge of the bed. "Don't bully me like this anymore!" she pouted. "Otherwise, next time, don't even think about having this princess personally wash grapes for you!"

Lin Xuankong chuckled.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er continued, "As for the Demon Venerable you mentioned, the Demon Venerable of the Rakshasa Kingdom cannot be compared to Earth Immortals. Even the Buddha Lords of the Buddhist Sects in the Rakshasa Kingdom, despite having reached Ninth-Layer Perfection, can only be considered Half-Step Earth Immortals."

Lin Xuankong raised an eyebrow. "What kind of realm is that? Half-Step Earth Immortal? Are there also quarter-step, tiny-step, or baby-step Earth Immortals then? Or perhaps cultivators who only managed to get halfway through their immortal ascension?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er was momentarily speechless. Shooting Lin Xuankong a glare, the peerless Third Princess sat on a nearby chair, frowned, and explained, "The reason they're called Half-Step Earth Immortals isn't because their advancement is incomplete. Their Cultivation is actually still at Ninth-Layer Perfection. However, these Buddhist Sects and Demon Sects possess special elixirs and methods. These allow them to use Demon Techniques and Buddhist Techniques to temporarily borrow a portion of an Earth Immortal's power, granting them the might of an Initial Tier Earth Immortal for a short duration. This enables them to form a Fake Elixir using their True Qi. That's why they are referred to as Half-Step Earth Immortals."

Lin Xuankong couldn't help but frown slightly. "They can borrow an Earth Immortal's power? If they possess such miraculous Demon and Buddhist Techniques, why don't they simply advance to the Earth Immortal Realm?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er shook her head. "Under the Central Divine Dynasty, there are three thousand dynasties with ten thousand years of heritage. As for those with shorter histories, like the Rakshasa Kingdom and our own Great Xia Dynasty, such small and medium-sized dynasties are countless. Among these thousands of dynasties, apart from the Immortal Sects and the Central Divine Dynasty, no Cultivator has ever managed to advance to the Earth Immortal Realm. The only way for Cultivators from these dynasties to reach the Earth Immortal Realm is to travel to the Central State after achieving Ninth-Layer Perfection, join an Immortal Sect, and receive various rewards from that Sect."

Lin Xuankong nodded. "I recall Cao Yu mentioning something similar. He said that after reaching Ninth-Layer Perfection, a Cultivator must consume an Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill, use an Immortal Sect's Immortal Yuan Cave Mansion for Body Refinement, and rely on the Sect's Immortal Artifacts to withstand the Immortal Tribulation to successfully advance to the Earth Immortal Realm. Only by

refining their body with Immortal Yuan, consuming breakthrough elixirs, and surviving the Immortal Tribulation can one enter the Earth Immortal Realm! So, these Demon Venerables haven't joined an Immortal Sect yet?"

Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned. "Indeed. These Demon Venerables are Cultivators who were rejected by the Immortal Sects, unable to join them and thus unable to obtain Immortal Yuan and Immortal Pills. Moreover, the Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill is incredibly precious. It's refined using a Demon King's Demon Pill and numerous other treasures. Even the Central Divine Dynasty and the Immortal Sects possess very few of them. Consequently, those Demon Venerables and Buddha Lords, as well as the experts from our Great Xia Xuanfeng Celestial Sect—including those from my father's and grandfather's generations—were never accepted by any Immortal Sect, despite seeking them out. They never obtained an Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill either!"

Chapter 358: The Demon Venerable's Earth Immortal Power, Three Years of Secret Cultivation, A Massive Surge in Strength_2

As she said this, her eyebrows slightly raised. "Anyway, we are both far from the Ninth-Layer Realm right now, so worrying about these things is just needlessly borrowing trouble. Let's wait until we reach the late stage of the Ninth Layer. Then we can consider traveling to the Central Divine Dynasty to visit famous mountains and rivers and seek opportunities to join an Immortal Sect!"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly upon hearing this. He had just advanced to the Seventh Layer and was indeed still a great distance from the late stage of the Ninth Layer. If it were other talented cultivators, it would usually take one hundred or two hundred years of hard cultivation to progress from the Seventh Layer to the late stage of the Ninth Layer.

At this moment, Xiaoo Ying'Er seemed to recall something, and a hint of doubt appeared in her eyes. "But... I discovered that ever since dealing with Cao Yu last time, my cultivation of the Blood Bath Divine Skill has been progressing very fast! I've recently advanced to the late stage of the Sixth Layer! This cultivation speed is really strange. Even with my Profound Phoenix Strange Vein, it shouldn't be this fast. Both my father and the Master Teacher are amazed time and again!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but laugh. "Maybe now that you have a husband, you're just feeling happy, and your cultivation speed has increased!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er shot him a sideways glance. "Hehe, I don't believe you at all!"

Lin Xuankong smiled without saying anything, but This little wife of mine, who hasn't even officially married into the family yet, truly deserves to be the one and only with the Profound Phoenix Strange

Vein among millions. She really is the foremost prodigy of Great Xia! With the thirty-times cultivation speed bonus I've given her, this girl's cultivation speed is actually a bit faster than mine. It's incredibly inhuman! If it weren't for the fact that this girl has been serving me so very well lately... sometimes I almost get a little jealous of her. I even feel tempted to temporarily suspend the cultivation speed bonus I gave her! TSK TSK! The foremost genius of Great Xia, plus thirty times the cultivation speed, is actually cultivating faster than me! If this continues, this girl might reach the Ninth Layer even earlier than I do!

"Alright, let's not talk about this. Mr. Mu, you are becoming less like a teacher lately!" The Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er picked up a grape and put it into his mouth.

Lin Xuankong, however, was still preoccupied with the matter of the Demon Venerables. He frowned, pondering for a moment, and then asked, "How serious were Sect Leader Hua's injuries from the Fallen Crow Demon Venerable?"

The Third Princess shook her head slightly and sighed softly. "With the Marsh Python Demon Pearl, those meridian injuries, though severe, can gradually recover. Moreover, when my Master fought the Fallen Crow Demon Venerable, she was severely injured. However, she managed to injure the Fallen Crow Demon Venerable as well, using the terrifying secret technique of the Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone. So, since that battle between my Master and the Demon Venerable of the Fallen Crow Demon Sect, those Demon Venerables from the Rakshasa Kingdom have been relatively quiet. I hope they can truly stay quiet! Hmm, do you want to eat some more fruit? I can wash some for you!"

Lin Xuankong casually replied, "Then bring me 30,000 pounds of Cloud Mist Fruit to replenish my Qi blood!"

The Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er looked shocked and forcefully patted him on the shoulder. "Fruits are for snacks, and you want to eat 30,000 pounds? Do you really plan to eat my Princess's Mansion into poverty? How am I supposed to afford you in the future?"

Lin Xuankong burst into laughter upon hearing this. However, a trace of worry lingered in his eyes. It wasn't about the Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill in the future—it would still take at least two or three years for me to advance to the late stage of the Ninth Layer! After all, for others to cultivate to the late stage of the Ninth Layer usually takes several hundred years! What I'm worried about now are those Demon Venerables who can temporarily possess the power of Immortals. The Demon Venerables of the Six Great Demon Sects are all after me, after my Immortal Artifact! Moreover, those Demon Venerables possess the Soul Searching Technique and other strange demon techniques. For example, Lady Yu Fei's Eight Gates Celestial Eye originated from a sect called the Dark Pupil Demon Sect. Many years have passed since then. It wouldn't be surprising if the Dark Pupil Demon Sect had produced another

powerful individual with the Double Pupil bloodline like Yu Fei. If that were the case, even if the other party had only cultivated to the Fifth Celestial Eye, I would absolutely need to be cautious! I must intensify my cultivation and improve my strength quickly! Although I am currently unparalleled in the Great Xia Realm, capable of defeating even the Celestial Sect Leader and Emperor Xiaoo of Great Xia in battle, I might still suffer against those Demon Venerables. If they temporarily advance to the Earth Immortal Realm by activating their demon techniques and then attack me with their bizarre and powerful abilities, I could be in trouble.

Thinking of this, he stood up and took Xiaoo Ying'Er into his arms. "I plan to focus on my cultivation for a while and might not come around often! If you need anything, contact me with the Communication Jade, or have Cao Yu notify me promptly!"

The Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er nodded slightly, then raised her eyebrows. "I'm advancing quickly too and was planning to go into seclusion. Humph, maybe by the time I come out, my realm will surpass yours!"

Lin Xuankong couldn't help but grind his teeth when he heard this, as if he wanted to devour this arrogant little one right then and there. Besides, should I stop her cultivation speed bonus for a while? Why does it feel like this girl has become so arrogant since we started calling each other husband and wife?

「...」

「Time flew by.」

In the blink of an eye, the old willow tree in the backyard of the Lin Residence had withered and flourished three times.

In the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, Lin Xuankong, who had gone into seclusion to cultivate several times over two and a half years, stepped out of a cave. At this moment, True Qi swirled around him, and he looked invigorated, appearing much younger than before he went into seclusion—seemingly only around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old.

Standing at the cave entrance, Lin Xuankong took a deep breath of the fresh, cold air in the secret realm, then looked at his Life Plate.

Lin Xuankong: Remaining lifespan: 4,972 years and 60 days.

Life Plate: [Vigorous in Old Age]

First Talent of Life Plate: [Old and Wise] Cultivation speed increases with age. Current age sixty, cultivation speed increased by sixty times.

Second Talent of Life Plate: [Wives, Children, Elders, and Youngsters] Can continuously gain the cultivation techniques and skills of wives and children...

[True Qi: 8,999,999/9,000,000]

[Realm: Mid-Ninth Layer of Transcendence]

[Yin Talisman Technique: Perfection (Cannot be advanced for now)]

[Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Perfection (Lifespan increased by a total of 1,500 years, cannot be advanced for now)]

[Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique: Perfection (Explosive Power increased by twenty-four times, cannot be advanced for now)]

[Eight Gates Celestial Eye: Seventh Layer 4,487/5,000]

[Blood Bath Divine Skill: Peak of Perfection 4,386/5,000]

[Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique: Perfection, Explosive Power increased by sixteen times]

[Blood Eating Technique: Peak of Perfection 368/12,000]

[Blood-Burning Secret Technique: Perfection, Explosive Power increased by sixteen times]

[Divine Protection Elixir: Dharma Tier Alchemy Skill 469/3,000]

[Heart Thought: Ninth Grade of the Mortal Tier 499/500]

[Third Spirit Puppet Technique: Perfection]

[Tier Nine True Spirit Bone: Mastery Level: 26,898/10,000,000,000]

[Great Reincarnation Technique: Mastery Level: 26,898/10,000,000,000]

[Cyan Nether Immortal Sword: Growth-type Immortal Artifact, can grow up to Third Grade of the Immortal Tier. Nurturing complete, can be activated for three breaths' time.]

[Nurturing Level: True Qi 300,000/300,000]

[Third Grade 276/1,000]

Sensing the surging and immensely condensed True Qi within his body, and looking at the realms of the various cultivation techniques in his Life Plate, a sense of fulfillment rose in Lin Xuankong's heart. Now, my lifespan limit has already been directly increased to 4,972 years by the effect of the Pine Crane Longevity Technique and the Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixir! With such a lifespan, if I could safely 'live until I die,' I could indeed live for more than five thousand years. By then, how terrifying would the cultivation speed bonus be? Such a lifespan, if placed in my previous world, would be equivalent to living from the time of Yu the Great's flood control to the 21st century... Even in this world with Immortals, according to the rumors I've heard, not many people can live this long. After all, even though Immortals have long lifespans, they might face various tribulations. The longer one lives, the more good things one encounters, but disasters and Immortal Tribulations also become more likely. At least, in the Great Xia Dynasty and the Rakshasa Kingdom, no one has ever lived over five thousand years! Looking at my Life Plate's long lifespan at this moment, I almost feel the urge to just hide away in this secret realm, eat Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs every day, practice the Blood-Burning Technique with my wives daily, and just live out my days in leisure!

Just then, a figure flew toward him from afar—it was Zhao Yufei, who had advanced to the late stage of the Seventh Layer. However, at this moment, Zhao Yufei's pretty face carried a slight look of concern.

Chapter 359: Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill Secret Technique, Two Great Demon Venerables Arrive Together

In these past two years, the Ba Mountain Secret Realm had already taken in millions of citizens previously ravaged by demons!

With so many people, managing them was naturally quite taxing, but Lin Xuankong, the hands-off proprietor, was quite relaxed. In contrast, Zhao Yufei, the Second Lady, serving as the Secret Realm's chief administrator, was swamped daily with various affairs, leaving her little time for cultivation!

However, with Lin Xuankong's thirtyfold cultivation speed boost, even though Zhao Yufei devoted herself to helping Lin Xuankong manage the Secret Realm, she still managed to elevate her cultivation to the late stage of the Seventh Layer. She also incidentally helped Lin Xuankong's Eight Gates Celestial Eye advance to the Seventh Layer. This allowed that fellow Lin Xuankong to gain numerous insights just by lying around every day!

The Seventh Layer of the Eight Gates Celestial Eye is called Demon Reflected Hundred Pupils. With a single thought, it can emit a hundred strands of red light, easily controlling the vision and five senses of a hundred targets!

One hundred strands of red light... This terrifying cultivation technique practically enabled Lin Xuankong to control any cultivator he wished!

As for Young Lady Lii Xiaolan, due to possessing the Primordial Strange Vein, her cultivation speed was even faster. She had long since advanced to the Early Ninth Layer and had already cultivated the Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique to the Perfection Realm!

At this realm, the explosive power of her Primordial Technique was incredibly fearsome, capable of enhancing it twenty-fourfold!

Most importantly, the concealing effect of the Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique was exceptionally superb; even cultivators at Ninth-Layer Perfection couldn't detect someone approaching while using it!

His betrothed, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, cultivated even faster!

Her cultivation speed made even Lin Xuankong a little jealous... but ultimately, Lin Xuankong couldn't bring himself to revoke the cultivation boost for his little sweetheart.

As a result, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er had astonishingly advanced directly to Ninth-Layer Perfection in just two and a half years.

This terrifying cultivation speed made Emperor Xiaoo of the Great Xia Dynasty and Profound Sect Celestial Sect Leader Hua extremely excited, repeatedly urging Xiaoo Ying'Er to go to the Central Divine Dynasty. Both wanted her to quickly find a way to join an Immortal Sect and become the Great Xia Dynasty's first Immortal!

However, Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er always held Lin Xuankong and the Great Xia Dynasty in her heart. Worried about an invasion from the Rakshasa Kingdom's Demon Sect, she had yet to depart for the Central Divine Dynasty!

It was Young Lady Lii Xiaolan, however, who convinced Lin Xuankong. After advancing to the Ninth Layer, she left the Ba Mountain Secret Realm and traveled to the Central Divine Dynasty, joining the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, which possessed the secret technique for refining the Immortal Ascension Treasure Elixir!

Of course, Lin Xuankong didn't want Lii Xiaolan to leave. In this world, if he had to choose the one he cared about the most, it would undoubtedly be Lii Xiaolan! Without Lii Xiaolan, the weeds on his grave would probably have been harvested several times over by now. Without Lii Xiaolan, he would never have embarked on the Martial Dao path or achieved his current accomplishments! So, Lin Xuankong was reluctant to let Lii Xiaolan leave. In the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, Lin Xuankong could guarantee Lii Xiaolan's safety, but that wasn't certain in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. Although the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect possessed only one Grade-Entered Immortal Artifact, it was home to a full thirty-two Immortals, each occupying one of the sect's Immortal Mountains! Those were all terrifying powerhouses of the Earth Immortal Realm. Even if Lin Xuankong possessed an Immortal Sword nearing the Third Grade, he could only guarantee remotely suppressing Initial Tier and First-Grade Earth Immortals; he was far from capable of confronting Earth Immortal powerhouses head-on!

However, Lii Xiaolan was a bit stubborn. She hoped Lin Xuankong wouldn't become complacent and stop at the Ninth-Layer Realm! Upon joining the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, she had told Lin Xuankong with a radiant smile that she would definitely master the refining technique for the Immortal Ascension Treasure Elixir. Then, she would find an Immortal Yuan Cave Mansion for her husband, enabling him to become the Great Xia Dynasty's first Immortal!

As an alchemy prodigy, Lii Xiaolan, under the introduction of 'Cao Yu,' easily joined the Immortal Medicine Hall of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and became a disciple of Qu Wan'Er, the Immortal Medicine Hall Master.

At the time, Lin Xuankong had also considered joining the Immortal Medicine Hall, but unfortunately, it only accepted female disciples... As for the other Earth Immortal Peak Masters, they only accepted disciples at Ninth-Layer Perfection, and Lin Xuankong didn't qualify yet!

With no other choice, Lin Xuankong had to return to Great Xia and continue his secluded cultivation.

「At this moment,」

When Lin Xuankong saw Zhao Yufei flying towards him with a solemn expression, he went to greet her, somewhat surprised, "Yufei, what happened? Why do you look so serious?"

Zhao Yufei frowned and said, "Husband, it's about Sister Lii..."

Hearing it concerned Lii Xiaolan, Lin Xuankong's heart couldn't help but skip a beat. "What happened to Lan?"

These days, everything was proceeding smoothly for him, and his cultivation had greatly progressed. His only worry, his sole source of unease, was Lii Xiaolan, who had joined an Immortal Sect and was now tens of thousands of miles away.

Zhao Yufei wore a solemn expression, biting her lip. "Sister Lii just sent a message... *Sigh*..."

Lin Xuankong frowned tightly. "Hurry up and tell me!"

Zhao Yufei suddenly burst out laughing. "Sister Lii said her relationship with her master Qu Wan'Er has grown closer recently, and that Third-Grade Earth Immortal Qu Wan'Er is preparing to pass on the most precious refining method for the Immortal Ascension Treasure Elixir to her!

"In the message, Sister Lii said you should wait a bit longer. Once she masters the refining method for that Immortal Ascension Treasure Elixir, she'll definitely refine the first Treasure Elixir for you. She even said she'll make several more for you, ensuring you can steadily advance to the Earth Immortal Realm!"

Lin Xuankong: ...

He looked at Zhao Yufei with a less than pleasant expression. "So that's why you had such a solemn expression just now?

"Demoness Zhao, without Sister Lii around to keep you in line, you're getting more and more mischievous, aren't you?

"Hmph, follow me into the cave! I'll let you experience just how ferocious the sixteenfold Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique can be!" Lin Xuankong declared with a fierce expression.

Chapter 360: Immortal Ascension Treasure Pill Secret Technique, Two Great Demon Venerables Arrive Together_2

Zhao Yufei's expression changed slightly upon hearing this. She retreated continuously, waving her hands.

"No, no! I was just joking with you, dear husband! I still have a mountain of affairs in the Secret Realm to deal with today! If you want to activate the Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique, you can play with it yourself! Oh, right, Sister Lii sent a message. She said that once you achieve Nine-Tenths Perfection, you should immediately head to the Central Divine Dynasty. She'll find a way to help you obtain an Immortal Yuan Cave Mansion, aiding your breakthrough to the Earth Immortal Realm!"

Lin Xuankong wrapped an arm around Zhao Yufei and, while walking towards the mountain cave, said, "I already asked Little Hu to make arrangements for the Immortal Yuan Cave Mansion long ago. However, most of the thirty-two Immortal Yuan Cave Mansions in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect currently have disciples inside attempting to break through to the Earth Immortal Realm. It's unlikely anyone will be coming out soon! No, those Secret Realm affairs can wait. Today, you must learn your lesson!"

Zhao Yufei shook her head repeatedly and quickly said, "Sister Lii mentioned that the Yuqing Sect Marketplace in the Central Divine Dynasty will have Immortal Yuan Cave Mansions for rent soon. She's currently inquiring about the rental process and pricing! Besides, wait, I have something else very important to tell you!"

Lin Xuankong raised an eyebrow. "Speak. If you dare lie to me again, you won't be leaving this mountain cave for three days!"

My husband is truly ruthless! Ever since Sister Lii left, I've been all alone here. How can I possibly endure this? I must find a way to marry another young lady off to him!

She waved her hands again. "I really do have something important! I'm not joking this time! It's a message from Little Hu. He said that recently, quite a few disciples from the Rakshasa Kingdom's Demon Sects have been spotted near the Sealing Demon Mountain Range. These disciples are from different Demon Sects; it seems both the Rakshasa Kingdom's Fallen Crow Demon Sect and White Bone Demon Sect have sent people here!"

Hearing her mention the Demon Sects of the Rakshasa Kingdom, Lin Xuankong's brow furrowed.

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er should have departed for the Central Divine Dynasty long ago to seek her opportunities. Given her age and talent, joining the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect wouldn't have been an issue. She had delayed her departure, firstly because she wanted to travel with him, and secondly, she worried that after she left, the Demon Sects of the Rakshasa Kingdom would once again harass Great Xia, slaughtering countless citizens and Cultivators, and destabilizing the foundations of the Great Xia Dynasty.

To counter the Rakshasa Kingdom's Demon Sects, Lin Xuankong and Xiaoo Ying'Er had decided to continue with their existing ruse by further spreading the rumor that an Immortal Cave Mansion was about to appear and open in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range.

However, ever since the Fallen Crow Demon Venerable was injured by Celestial Sect Leader Hua, the Six Great Demon Sects had made no further moves. Even though news of the Immortal Cave Mansion had spread throughout the Great Xia Realm, the Rakshasa Kingdom's Demon Sects remained inactive.

Have the Demon Sects finally lost their patience this time? And not only have disciples from the Demon Sects appeared, but they're from two different sects, both sending people to the Sealing Demon Mountain Range?

Lin Xuankong placed Zhao Yufei on the ground. "I'll spare you today. But if you dare to be mischievous again, it'll be seven days and seven nights!"

Zhao Yufei's pretty face paled slightly, and with a SWOOSH, she flew away.

Lin Xuankong's figure flickered as he flew towards the Secret Realm Gate.

As he flew, he gazed upon the vast Ba Mountain Secret Realm, a sense of deep satisfaction welling within him. After more than two years of nourishment with countless streams of True Qi, the Ba Mountain Secret Realm's diameter had reached over twenty thousand miles, approaching nearly thirty thousand miles. Such an expanse already surpassed any Secret Realm that could be nurtured by a Tier Three Celestial Demon Bone and was not much smaller than the entire Great Xia Dynasty. If it continued to be nurtured for another two and a half years, its area would likely exceed that of the Great Xia Dynasty several times over.

At this moment, Lin Xuankong looked down at the wide, crisscrossing roads and the various Profound Iron Machinery constantly moving across the land. His heart swelled with satisfaction, and a surge of heroic pride filled his chest.

Thirty thousand miles of territory, all under my sole command. Thirty thousand miles of territory, and I am its true master! Within these thirty thousand miles of territory, I can fly anywhere in an instant; with a single thought, the earth can rise, and rivers can change their course! How could I not be satisfied? How could I not be filled with heroic pride!

After flying for a while, he couldn't help but look towards Flying Dragon Slope. Xiao Xiuyi, the Artifact Refining Genius, had recently advanced her Cultivation to the Late Stage of the Sixth Layer. Moreover, she had already begun to conceptualize new Immortal Artifact designs. According to Xiao Xiuyi, the next Immortal Artifact she could create should be capable of evolving into a Sixth-Grade Immortal Artifact. A Sixth-Grade Immortal Artifact was a terrifying weapon capable of injuring a Sixth-Grade Earth Immortal—even in the Central Divine Dynasty, Sixth-Grade Earth Immortals were not numerous.

The strongest Earth Immortal in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, where Young Lady Li Xiaolan resided, was only a Late Fifth-Grade Earth Immortal. Her master, Qu Wan'Er, was a Third-Grade Earth Immortal. According to Cao Yu, after entering the Earth Immortal Realm, the difficulty of Cultivation and enhancing one's Immortal Body was countless times greater than in the Transcendence Realm. Often, an Earth Immortal might enter seclusion for hundreds or even thousands of years without advancing a single Grade. Yet, Xiao Xiuyi planned to refine an Immortal Artifact that could reach Sixth-Grade. This truly showed how terrifying the talent of this Artifact Refining Genius was.

Furthermore, over the past two years, Xiao Xiuyi had trained nearly a thousand female disciples, all of whom possessed considerable talent in Artifact Refining. With these thousand female disciples forming the backbone, a Profound Iron Factory, dedicated to refining various Profound Iron Equipment, had long been established in Lin Xuankong's Secret Realm under Zhao Yufei's supervision. Every day, precision-made Profound Iron Equipment rolled out, providing powerful assistance to the nearly ten million people under Lin Xuankong's rule and greatly improving their efficiency. With the help of this Profound Iron Machinery, although the Secret Realm currently housed fewer than ten million people, the land they cultivated far exceeded that of the outside world. A rough estimate indicated that the total output of medicinal herbs already surpassed the combined production of all medicinal lands in the Great Xia Dynasty by about thirty percent.

If I didn't consume nearly half of the medicinal herbs myself, the output from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm alone could probably cultivate a force far surpassing the Great Xia Dynasty!

Most importantly, the number of people migrating into the Secret Realm was constantly increasing, the variety of Profound Iron Machinery was continually growing, the area of the Secret Realm's medicinal lands was constantly expanding, and the production of medicinal herbs was soaring.

Of course, Lin Xuankong's current primary goal was to enhance his own strength and the nurturing level of the Celestial Demon Bone. Otherwise, if he focused solely on cultivating his forces, it was almost unimaginable what scale of powerful faction he could build within this Ba Mountain Secret Realm. At the very least, surpassing the Great Xia Dynasty would definitely not be a difficult task!

「Half an hour later, Great Marsh Prefecture·Inner City·Linshui Pavilion.」

Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er glanced at Lin Xuankong as he walked into the meeting hall, and he went straight to sit beside her. The surrounding figures, including Ouyang Qinglan and the five Grand Elders of the Celestial Sect, felt a distinct pang of frustration watching this scene.

Especially Ouyang Qinglan. She had watched Xiaoo Ying'Er grow up. Now that Xiaoo Ying'Er had achieved Ninth-Layer Perfection and had a promising chance of becoming an Immortal, she naturally hoped Ying'Er would become an Immortal and choose a High-Grade Earth Immortal as her Dao companion! This Mu Shiba... although he's not bad, and even Cao Yu treats him courteously, he's still a far cry from a High-Grade Earth Immortal!

However, despite their frustration, Ouyang Qinglan and the other Grand Elders couldn't voice their objections.

「Moments later.」

Li Xiaohu, who had already reached Ninth-Layer Perfection, floated in and directly took the seat of honor.

Actually, Li Xiaohu had reached Ninth-Layer Perfection two years ago and could have returned to the Immortal Sect to prepare for his breakthrough to the Earth Immortal Realm. However, he chose not to, partly because he didn't want to leave Lin Xuankong's side. More crucially, he wasn't confident he could return to the Immortal Sect without revealing his true identity, especially since the Sect Leader of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect had personally taught Cao Yu for over a decade. Therefore, after discussing it with Lin Xuankong, Li Xiaohu decided to remain with him for the time being. Lin Xuankong would help him advance to the Earth Immortal Realm once he himself achieved Ninth-Layer Perfection and became an Earth Immortal.

"Since Cao Yu and Mr. Mu have arrived, let's head to the Sealing Demon Mountain Range now!" Xiaoo Ying'Er stood up and cupped her hands towards Lin Xuankong and Cao Yu. "According to the latest news from the border today, the Rakshasa Kingdom's Demon Sects seem to have mobilized at least two Demon Venerables this time. They are definitely planning to forcibly breach the Five Elements Extermination Immortal Array in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range! My father and Celestial Sect Leader Hua have already led the experts from various Prince Mansions to set up an ambush near the Sealing Demon Mountain Range! This time, we hope to slay one or two Demon Venerables and thoroughly intimidate the Six Great Demon Sects!"