

Stronger 441

Chapter 441: He's Actually an Artifact Refining Genius?

Ask Medicine Immortal Qu Wan'Er to intervene? She, like Flaming Blade Duan River, is a Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal. Unfortunately, Qu Wan'Er possesses no Immortal Artifact. While she could contend with him, her chances of victory are almost zero.

Lin Xuankong shook his head slightly. "While your master, Qu Wan'Er, can certainly mobilize the vast power of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, I've only recently learned that the Fire Spirit Sect might have infiltrated the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect with numerous spies. However, I'm still unsure of the exact number of spies, whether they are Immortal Sect Disciples or Earth Immortals of the sect, or even their identities."

Lii Xiaolan frowned. "That is indeed a problem. If we recklessly inform my master, Qu Wan'Er, that the Fire Spirit Sect has sent spies into the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, knowing her temperament, she'd likely cause a huge uproar immediately. The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect couldn't possibly use the Soul Searching Technique, which damages the Divine Soul and Cultivation, on every disciple and Earth Immortal. If we inadvertently alert the enemy, it will become impossible to completely root out those spies hidden within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. Furthermore, Flaming Blade Duan River possesses an Immortal Artifact of unknown Grade, and he has the backing of the Fire Spirit Sect, whose power rivals that of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. If we can't substantiate these claims, we absolutely mustn't act rashly; otherwise, it could very well trigger a massive war among the great Immortal Sects of the Western Region!"

Lin Xuankong nodded and said, "Let's wait a bit longer. During this period, I'll divide my attention and monitor the two of them. Since the Fire Spirit Sect has dispatched numerous spies to the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, it's impossible for them not to maintain contact with Flaming Blade Duan River. Moreover, it's possible that either Flaming Blade Duan River or Second Prince Chang Li of the Xianluo Dynasty possesses a list of spies and their contact codes. If we can uncover these, capturing all the Fire Spirit Sect spies in one fell swoop won't be a major issue. Crucially, we could then also leverage the power of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect to devise a way to eliminate Flaming Blade Duan River!"

Upon hearing this, Lii Xiaolan couldn't help but look at Lin Xuankong. "Hmm? Husband, a mere Ninth-Layer Perfection cultivator like you actually intends to eliminate a genuine Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal?"

Lin Xuankong laughed, a hint of bold confidence on his face. "When we first met, I was just an old man selling pancakes, on the verge of death. But the world is always changing; fortunes turn, you know! So

what if he's a Late-stage Third Grade Earth Immortal? Give me a few years, and perhaps I'll be able to suppress him with a mere flip of my hand!"

Lii Xiaolan took his hand, her beautiful eyes filled with admiration. "Indeed, so much has changed in these past three-plus years! If I hadn't met you, I might still just be that young girl at the Late Stage of the Third Layer."

Lin Xuankong smiled and said, "Come on, let's go back to the Secret Realm and find Yu Fei?"

"No way! You rascal, you're definitely not thinking of anything good. We've already bought enough Demon Pearls, and all the Spirit Grass needed for the three types of Immortal Ascension Treasure Pills. I won't go with you. I have things to do; I need to work on my Alchemy, and I need to cultivate..."

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「Ba Mountain Secret Realm, Flying Dragon Slope.」

Xiao Xiuyi watched as Lin Xuankong poured out over a thousand Demon Pearls from the Ghost Frog Pouch. Raising her eyebrows, she said, "Brother Lin, you never fail to surprise me. I expected you to acquire some Demon Pearls quickly this time, but this huge pile... there must be over a thousand here!"

Lin Xuankong nodded. "More than one thousand four hundred in total!"

Xiao Xiuyi sighed. "With so many Demon Pearls, combined with sufficient Geng Metal Crystal and Thick Earth Crystal, we could probably refine another eighty Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts. Refining your Immortal Capturing Array shouldn't be a problem at all! However, if we refine all of them into Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts, it would likely take over ten days. You might not make it back in time for the disciple recruitment ceremony!"

Lin Xuankong shook his head slightly. "I never said that all these Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts had to be refined solely by Miss Xiao!"

Hearing this, Xiao Xiuyi looked surprised. "Could it be that Brother Lin has found another Artifact Refiner capable of refining Immortal Artifacts? From what I've gathered recently from chatting with Yu Fei and Sister Lan, even across the entire Central Divine Dynasty, there are very few Artifact Refiners who can easily refine Immortal Artifacts! Only the First Immortal Sect, which governs the Central Divine Dynasty, has three such Artifact Refiners. And the most powerful Immortal Artifacts they can produce are, like mine currently, only third-Grade! Has Brother Lin managed to invite one of those Immortal Tier Refiners? Which of the three could it be?"

Lin Xuankong smiled. "Far across the horizon, yet right before your eyes!"

Xiao Xiuyi gave him a peculiar look. "Brother Lin, you can't be joking, can you? Are you planning to personally refine Immortal Artifacts with me? Although you've watched me refine Immortal Artifacts every time, it's by no means an easy task. The slightest fluctuation or error in True Qi during the Refining process will immediately render all previous efforts void. If it weren't so difficult, how could there be only three Immortal Tier Refiners in the entire Central Divine Dynasty, despite the large number of Artifact Refiners?"

"I'll give it a try!" Lin Xuankong stated.

Xiao Xiuyi frowned. "Each failed attempt at Refining wastes a full eighteen Demon Pearls! And not only that, the Profound Iron, Geng Metal Crystal, and Thick Earth Crystal will also be completely wasted!"

Lin Xuankong, however, took out eighteen Demon Pearls and then laid out the Geng Metal Crystal, Thick Earth Crystal, Profound Iron, and other materials before him. "How about this: let's have a little competition. We'll see who can refine an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact first."

Upon hearing this, an undeniably proud expression appeared on Xiao Xiuyi's face. "Hmph. Fine. They're your Demon Pearls and your materials, after all. If you're not afraid of wasting them, I certainly won't lose any sleep over it on your behalf, Brother Lin. Besides, competing with me on the speed of refining Immortal Artifacts? You'll have to actually succeed in refining one in the first place!"

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「More than ten hours later...」

Chapter 442: He's Actually an Artifact Refining Genius?_2

Dressed in black, Xiao Xiuyi gazed at the brand-new Initial Tier Immortal Sword in Lin Xuankong's hand, her expression kept changing. "This... this, you actually succeeded in refining an Immortal Artifact? But how is this possible? I've never seen you refine an Immortal Artifact; you haven't even attempted to refine Magical Artifacts or Battle Armors!"

Xiao Xiuyi, always confident in her Artifact Refining Talent, now felt her spirit taking a heavy blow. Even she had to be extremely cautious when she first refined an Immortal Artifact, undergoing a long period of simulations and practicing with Battle Armor and Magical Artifact materials before succeeding on her first attempt! Yet Lin Xuankong, who had never refined even a Magical Artifact, had just succeeded in one go! Could it be that this guy's Artifact Refining Talent is even greater than hers?

Lin Xuankong glanced at the two newly refined Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts beside Xiao Xiuyi. "Unfortunately, I'm still far from Miss Xiao's refining speed. I've only just refined my first Initial Tier Immortal Sword, yet Miss Xiao has already completed her second! Mm, there's quite a gap!"

Xiao Xiuyi:

AAAARGH! This guy succeeded in refining an Initial Tier Immortal Sword on his first try, and he's actually talking about a gap! That's like a child learning to fly before they can even roll over, crawl, or walk! And he still talks about a gap... I've been refining artifacts for decades, priding myself on my comprehension in Artifact Refining. Even if it's not outrageously strong, it can definitely compare with those Immortal Tier Refiners of the Central Divine Dynasty. Yet, I'm inferior to this fellow beside me? Why do I suddenly have the urge to ignore him!

Lin Xuankong watched Xiao Xiuyi's peculiar expression and couldn't help but chuckle inwardly. Haha, Miss Xiao, oh Miss Xiao, every bit of your insight into Artifact Refining has been passively absorbed by me!

Xiao Xiuyi frowned and said, "I suddenly don't feel like refining Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts for you anymore. Since you're so strong, do it yourself!"

Lin Xuankong:

Xiao Xiuyi was, of course, only speaking out of irritation! Lin Xuankong could provide her with a quiet, uninterrupted refining environment and continually supply her with a large amount of materials,

allowing her to constantly verify her new insights into Artifact Refining. Most importantly, Lin Xuankong had once gifted her his family's treasured Treasure Medicines, which had allowed her Artifact Refining skills to continuously improve since then. With these conditions, help, and acts of kindness, Xiao Xiuyi, this prodigy of Artifact Refining, would naturally spare no effort in repaying his generosity!

Thus, a dozen or so days later, Lin Xuankong, on Flying Dragon Slope, was surrounded by a pile of Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts! Most of these new Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts were refined by Xiao Xiuyi, while roughly a little less than half were refined by Lin Xuankong. Although Lin Xuankong's Artifact Refining skill wasn't far behind Xiao Xiuyi's due to the second talent from his Wives, Children, Elders, and Youngsters, in actual practice, Xiao Xiuyi's Artifact Refining Talent still slightly surpassed his, naturally allowing her to outpace him in refining speed!

Gazing at the ground now covered in Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts, Xiao Xiuyi, dressed in black, stood gracefully beside Lin Xuankong, a look of satisfaction on her face. For her, nothing brought more peace and joy than continuously refining various artifacts!

However, watching Lin Xuankong pick up one Initial Tier Immortal Artifact after another and swiftly nourish it, Xiao Xiuyi, despite being long accustomed to this sight, still felt a profound shock in her heart.

"To nourish an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact in just a few breaths... even cultivators in the Earth Immortal Realm might only be capable of this! Truly, I wonder, if you ascend to the Earth Immortal Realm one day, just how abundant would your Immortal Yuan be? How long could you activate these Immortal Artifacts?" Xiao Xiuyi couldn't help but say.

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong's eyes also revealed a touch of anticipation. Having arrived at Spiritual Crane Immortal City and met Lii Xiaolan, he now understood much more about cultivation in the Earth Immortal Realm.

According to Lii Xiaolan, cultivators in the Transcendence Realm could only channel True Qi. Thus, when nourishing Immortal Artifacts, they had to expend a large amount of True Qi each time and could only activate them for a very short period—typically two or three breaths at most!

Cultivators in the Earth Immortal Realm, however, are different. After their bodies are stimulated by Immortal Ascension Treasure Pills and Immortal Tribulations, their Sunflower Water Vein, Geng Metal Vein, Thick Earth Vein, Wood Vein, and Li Fire Vein merge to form an Earth Immortal Golden Core! Furthermore, the Divine Souls of Earth Immortal Realm cultivators also merge with their Immortal Body and Golden Core due to the effects of Immortal Ascension Treasure Pills, Immortal Tribulations, and

Immortal Yuan. At that point, Earth Immortal Realm experts could practically stand invincible, possessing nearly indestructible Golden Cores and infinitely versatile Immortal Bodies. As long as these are not completely annihilated, their Divine Souls will persist until their Lifespan is exhausted!

Simultaneously, as True Qi is converted into Immortal Yuan, which is countless times more condensed, the energy consumed to activate Magical Artifacts and Immortal Artifacts becomes minimal. Even an Initial Tier Earth Immortal, with the abundant Immortal Yuan in their Golden Core and Immortal Body, can easily activate an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact for thousands of breaths. For a First-Grade Immortal Sword that is several times heavier, they could activate it for hundreds of breaths. As for heavy Immortal Artifacts of Second and Third Grades, they could still activate them for dozens of breaths!

The Immortal Yuan of a typical Initial Tier Earth Immortal can already activate a Third-Grade Immortal Artifact for dozens of breaths. My Life Plate, on the other hand, can store over ten thousand times more Qi Blood than cultivators of the Same Tier. If I were to enter the Initial Tier Earth Immortal Realm, how long could I activate Immortal Artifacts? It would probably be for hundreds of thousands of breaths... Especially since Immortal Artifacts, unlike Magical Artifacts, can be controlled as easily as one's own limbs. With my Eight Gates Celestial Eye, my field of vision is countless times broader than that of Same Tier cultivators... If I could then continuously activate Immortal Artifacts for hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of breaths, I would absolutely become the most powerful long-range cannon!

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong smiled and said, "I just have a little more True Qi, so I'll just be able to activate them for a little longer than others!"

Xiao Xiuyi was speechless. "Mm-hmm, a little, a little!"

Then, her brows suddenly furrowed. "But there's one thing I still need to remind you, Brother Lin! The Central Divine Dynasty has numerous Earth Immortals, and they all possess their own powerful Immortal Techniques; they must not be underestimated. This time you are participating in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment ceremony. Firstly, do not underestimate your opponents. Even with Immortal Artifacts, you must not look down on the disciples from the various Immortal Sects. Secondly, unless it is absolutely necessary, do not reveal your Third-Grade Cyan Nether Immortal Sword. Also, when activating the Immortal Capturing Array, it's best not to casually use so many Immortal Artifacts, to avoid attracting unwanted attention and covetous eyes!"

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly. "I will certainly keep Miss Xiao's reminder in mind!"

With that said, he stored away the last nourished Immortal Sword, a hint of anticipation in his eyes.

This time, I must not only ensure I defeat my opponents and join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect to obtain a Sixth Celestial Vein! Moreover, since I have so many Immortal Artifacts, I should bring a few of my brothers into the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect as well! Aside from Third Princess Xiaoo Ying'Er, people like Li Xiaohu, Han Lu, and Yang Mountain all left their Wives, Children, Elders, and Youngsters to trek billions of miles with me to the Central Divine Dynasty Western Region. How could I possibly monopolize the chance to join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect? How could I monopolize the chance to obtain the Sixth Celestial Vein? They are all now at Ninth-Layer Perfection and have each acquired Celestial Demon Techniques from their Tier One or Tier Two Celestial Demon Bones. If I give each of them two or three Immortal Artifacts, defeating some so-called geniuses shouldn't be a big problem, right? After all, two or three Immortal Artifacts are like having two or three Initial Tier Earth Immortal Golden Cores! Furthermore, if these brothers of mine all join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, obtain various resources, and grow stronger, it will be extremely important for my future standing in both the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and the Central Divine Dynasty!

I just wonder, with my help this time, how many of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's twenty-one spots will they be able to secure?

Chapter 443: Lin Family Seven Tigers, Making Do with an Immortal Artifact?

「Two days later,」

Inside Lin Xuankong's residence in Spiritual Crane Immortal City.

Lin Xuankong looked at the seven individuals before him: Li Xiaohu, Han Lu, Hu Shuo, Yang Mountain, Li Er, Liy Ruofeng, and Liy Ruqing. In the days since their arrival in Spiritual Crane Immortal City, these seven had not been idle either; they were responsible for selling various products from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm.

The bodies of these seven had all been replaced with those of the seven Demon Venerables from the Six Demon Sects, and naturally, they now possessed Ninth-Layer Perfection.

Ninth-Layer Perfection, of course, didn't qualify one as a top figure in Spiritual Crane Immortal City, but it also wasn't considered weak. In Spiritual Crane Immortal City, not everyone was actually at the Ninth-Layer Realm. Ninth-Layer Cultivators from various Dynasties, along with their subordinates and servants, formed the majority of the resident population. These people included not only Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth-Layer Cultivators but also those at the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Layers, and even some First-Layer servants and laborers.

Additionally, there were merchant caravans from various Dynasties. The Cultivators in these caravans were unlikely to be very strong; at most, a few Ninth-Layer Cultivators among them served as leaders escorting the caravans.

As they possessed Ninth-Layer Perfection, Li Xiaohu and the others found it relatively smooth to work in the shops of various merchant caravans and those established by the Dynasties. Furthermore, Lin Xuankong had allocated a number of capable and loyal commoners from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm to serve as their subordinates. Thus, during this period, they had already secured numerous storefronts and opened over a dozen shops, all operating under the name Seven Tigers Store.

One reason it was named Seven Tigers Store was, naturally, because its principal managers—Li Xiaohu and his companions—totaled seven people.

Although the reputation and scale of the Seven Tigers Trading Company currently seemed quite insignificant among the major trading companies and various powers within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, its development was advancing rapidly. This was thanks to the backing of Lin Xuankong's Tier Nine Celestial Demon Bone Secret Realm and the resources from the Celestial Demon Bone Secret Realms of Little Hu and his six companions.

Another reason was that, at Li Xiaohu's instigation, Han Lu, Yang Mountain, and the others finally couldn't restrain themselves any longer and had kowtowed, served tea, and formally acknowledged Lin Xuankong as their adoptive father.

Actually, this matter was inconsequential to him. He now possessed an increasingly profound Great Reincarnation Technique, which ensured the safety of the seven. Their loyalty was also guaranteed; whether they recognized him as adoptive father or not, they would undoubtedly work for him wholeheartedly.

The crucial point, however, was that by recognizing him as their adoptive father, they also benefited from his miraculous 'Wives, Children, Elders, and Youngsters' second Talent. This would greatly enhance their Cultivation Speed!

A thirty-fold bonus to Cultivation Speed, applied to any Cultivator, could bring an extremely terrifying boost!

Not to mention their own natural Talent wasn't considered too poor. Even if their Talent had been lacking, with the thirty-fold speed increase, their Cultivation Speed would still surpass that of most so-called geniuses!

After all, the disparity between individuals could be greater than that between a human and a dog, yet even the latter difference wouldn't amount to thirty-fold. According to some views from his previous life, dogs like Golden Retrievers were even considered smarter than five or six-year-old human children!

Moreover, this thirty-fold bonus didn't just apply to pure Cultivation Speed; it could also affect the efficacy of some Spirit Herbs and Elixirs. For instance, the Ghost Frog Eggs he had consumed, and the effects of Spiritual Objects he took, would have a success rate sixty times higher than for ordinary Cultivators!

Therefore, in his view, these seven fellows recognizing him as adoptive father meant they were truly getting a huge bargain!

If it weren't for the fact that his relationship with these seven fellows was now genuinely excellent, and that they were extremely serious and reliable in their work, he actually wouldn't have been willing to so casually accept adoptive sons!

"Adoptive Father, did you summon the seven of us today for something important?" Li Xiaohu asked, moving closer to Lin Xuankong with a cheerful smile and cupped hands.

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly. "Naturally, it's an extremely important matter."

He swept his gaze over the seven people before him. "In one more day, the disciple recruitment ceremony of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect will officially begin. Today, all of you should set aside your current tasks and participate in the preliminary trial of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. With your strength, obtaining the qualification for the preliminary trial should be no problem. After obtaining the preliminary trial qualification, you seven will participate in the formal tournament of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect with me!"

Lin Xuankong had already secured his qualification for the preliminary trial of the disciple recruitment ceremony some days ago.

The so-called preliminary trial was, in reality, just an identity verification conducted by disciples of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, along with a test of the Cultivation Techniques one possessed.

One purpose was to prevent an overwhelming number of participants by preemptively eliminating those with insufficient strength. The other was to prevent Cultivators from the Profound Yin Demon Sect and other Demon Sects from infiltrating the ceremony.

Although Li Xiaohu and the other six now inhabited bodies from a Demon Sect, they each possessed their own specialized Cultivation Techniques. Furthermore, with Demon Pearls and Celestial Demon Bones, they had numerous methods at their disposal. They could pass the preliminary trial without needing to use any Demon Sect techniques at all.

Upon hearing Lin Xuankong tell them to participate in the preliminary trial of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment ceremony, Li Xiaohu and the others were naturally somewhat surprised.

Han Lu frowned and said, "Adoptive Father, participating in the preliminary trial for the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment ceremony is no problem at all. After taking the Elixirs you gave us these past few days, our Cultivation Speed has been extremely fast. Both our own Cultivation Techniques and the Demon Techniques from our Celestial Demon Bones have improved significantly!"

Chapter 444: Lin Family Seven Tigers, Making Do with an Immortal Artifact?_2

"But even if we pass the initial test, the seven of us might not stand a chance against those geniuses from various dynasties and Immortal Sects!" Li Xiaohu said, scratching his head. "Godfather, you gave each of us seven brothers a Celestial Demon Bone and several powerful Demon Pearls, but compared to you, our strength is far too inferior. Moreover, those participating in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's initiation ceremony are all top geniuses from various dynasties. Even if they don't match the caliber of someone like Third Princess Xiao Ying'Er, they are still absurdly strong. Not only that, those disciples from the Immortal Sects probably each have a multitude of Magical Artifacts, and possibly even some Immortal Artifacts!"

Hu Shuo cupped his hands and said, "Godfather, it's already a great honor for us to accompany you to Spiritual Crane Immortal City and witness the talents from the Central Divine Dynasty. Just being able to follow you and assist in your endeavors is reward enough! If we were to truly compete in the ceremony alongside you, our chances of winning would be very slim. Of course, if you want us to participate, we'll certainly give it a try, even if it means defeat!"

Yang Mountain, Li Er, and the Li Family Brothers all showed varied expressions of surprise and hesitation; clearly, they lacked confidence.

Lin Xuankong shook his head and chuckled. "You are all my adopted sons, the people closest and most trustworthy to me. Now that there's an opportunity to join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect together and become true disciples, how could I let you miss it? Once you join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, you'll all be able to cultivate on its Spirit Peak. This will accelerate your Cultivation Speed, and you'll gain access to various resources, greatly increasing your chances of reaching the Earth Immortal Realm!

"Most importantly," he continued, "you must have all heard from Little Hu that the winner of this Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect initiation ceremony will obtain the Sixth Celestial Vein Spiritual Object. That object grants the opportunity to form the Sixth Celestial Vein. Then, upon advancing to the Earth Immortal Realm, one can cultivate the Six Paths Golden Core, possessing power far exceeding other Earth Immortals, and greatly increasing the chances of successfully Crossing the Immortal Tribulation!"

Li Xiaohu frowned and said, "I've already informed all seven of them about this! But since it's an opportunity to cultivate the Six Paths Golden Core, the competition will surely be even fiercer!"

Lin Xuankong raised his eyebrows. "What if each of you had an Immortal Artifact?"

"An Immortal Artifact for each of us? But there are seven of us!" Li Xiaohu exclaimed in surprise.

"I've heard that even within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, there are only a few Immortal Artifacts at most. As for the other Immortal Sects in the Western Region of the Central Divine Dynasty, most can barely scrape together a single Immortal Artifact! Godfather, you're not joking, are you?" Han Lu asked, his expression incredulous.

The others also looked puzzled. Of course, they had seen Lin Xuankong use Immortal Artifacts before and were well aware of their power. In the past, several powerful demons, whom even the First-Grade Earth Immortal Galo Bodhisattva could not vanquish, were no match for Lin Xuankong's Immortal Artifact!

But now, having spent so much time in Spiritual Crane Immortal City, Li Xiaohu and the others understood just how rare and difficult Immortal Artifacts were to obtain. Forget about the immensely powerful ones Lin Xuankong possessed; even Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts were exceedingly rare

treasures. This was precisely why they lacked confidence in competing in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's initiation ceremony. After all, those genius disciples from various Immortal Sects might very well bring their sect's Immortal Artifacts to such a critically important event.

Lin Xuankong remained silent. With a wave of his hand, the Ghost Frog Pouch at his waist opened automatically. Instantly, numerous radiant beams shot forth from the pouch! These beams landed on the table beside Lin Xuankong, transforming into a dazzling array of Immortal Artifacts: Immortal Swords shimmering with cold light and Spiritual Qi; spears, over ten feet long and brimming with spiritual aura; bright long knives radiating chilling light and killing intent; and two imposing-looking giant hammers.

These radiant, Immortal Qi-infused artifacts numbered a staggering twenty-eight!

Lin Xuankong had specially created these Immortal Artifacts for the seven of them. Among them, Han Lu, Hu Shuo, and Li Xiaohu from the Yin Talisman Sect all excelled in Sword Techniques. Yang Mountain was skilled with long spears, often using them to channel Yin Talisman Thunder even after cultivating it. Li Er was proficient with hammers, while the Liy Family Brothers were adept with long knives. Although Cultivators generally employed Sword Aura or blade aura to activate Immortal Artifacts for ranged attacks, close combat with equally matched opponents was still a possibility. Hence, even when using Immortal Artifacts, it was best if they corresponded to the weapons the Cultivators were proficient with.

At this moment, seeing the glowing weapons on the table, Li Xiaohu and the other six were rooted to the spot. Their experience now far surpassed what they had in the Great Xia Dynasty. They could easily recognize these weapons as genuine Immortal Artifacts. Even if not as powerful as Lin Xuankong's own, they were vastly superior to any Battle Armor or Magical Artifact ordinary Cultivators used!

The crucial point wasn't just one or two items. There were twenty-eight real Immortal Artifacts right there, twenty-eight actual, honest-to-goodness Immortal Artifacts!

Dazzled by the sight, Li Xiaohu's eyes widened, his voice stuttering, "G-g-g-Godfather, are these all... all your Immortal Artifacts?"

Hu Shuo's mouth dropped wide open, almost large enough to fit Li Xiaohu's head inside. Yang Mountain and Li Er were stupefied, completely unable to believe their eyes. As much as they revered Lin Xuankong, they had never imagined he would casually produce twenty-eight Immortal Artifacts with a mere wave of his hand. These weren't mere kindling; they were true Immortal Artifacts that would make any Cultivator green with envy!

Han Lu was equally shocked. He glanced from the powerful and uniquely shaped Immortal Artifacts to Lin Xuankong, then swallowed hard. "Godfather, don't tell me you wiped out some mid-sized Immortal Sect and plundered their Immortal Artifact Storage Room? This many Immortal Artifacts... it feels like even a mid-sized Immortal Sect couldn't possibly possess this many! At the very least, a sect like the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect definitely wouldn't have so many! Forget one Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect; even with all the genius disciples from various Immortal Sects gathered in Spiritual Crane Immortal City right now, their combined Immortal Artifacts probably wouldn't add up to twenty-eight!"

Lin Xuankong shot Han Lu an exasperated look. "Wiped out a mid-sized Immortal Sect? Do you take their Earth Immortals for pushovers? A mid-sized Immortal Sect might have fewer Immortal Artifacts than I do, but they have dozens, even hundreds, of Earth Immortals. They're not so easily plundered. You think they're like those bandit lairs near Great Marsh Prefecture in the Great Xia Dynasty? I have my ways of acquiring these Immortal Artifacts, but the specifics must remain a secret from you all for now. Ahem, don't just stand there gawking. These Immortal Artifacts were crafted according to the weapons each of you excels with. I don't need to assign them, do I?"

The seven of them stood in astonished silence. Li Xiaohu's breathing grew rapid, his face flushing with excitement as he asked, "Crafted according to the weapons we excel with? Godfather, does that mean... these Immortal Artifacts are for us?"

Lin Xuankong nodded nonchalantly. "Yes, four Immortal Artifacts per person. Those adept with swords, pick four Immortal Swords. Those skilled with knives, pick four long knives. Those proficient with hammers or spears, take your respective weapons! Unfortunately, the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's initiation ceremony is about to start, so I could only manage to get four for each of you this time."

With that, Lin Xuankong looked at the seven, who were still stunned speechless. "What? You think four isn't enough? Make do with these for now. When I have more time, I'll get you more Immortal Artifacts!"

Chapter 445: One Person Can Withstand Thousands of Same Tier, Lin Family Eight Immortals?

Li Xiaohu stared blankly at Lin Xuankong. He looked at those Immortal Artifacts, listened to what Lin Xuankong had just said, and suddenly had an extremely absurd and outrageous thought!

Li Xiaohu took a few deep breaths to calm his pounding heart. "What do you mean by 'making do'? Adoptive Father, these are all Immortal Artifacts! Even some small Immortal Sects might not possess such artifacts, let alone some Initial Tier Earth Immortals or First-Grade Earth Immortals! Using Immortal Artifacts and calling it 'making do'?"

"Hmm, but they are just some Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts!"

Lin Xuankong sat by the table, picked up a cup of Spirit Tea, gently blew on it, used the lid to block the floating tea leaves, and leisurely took a sip.

It wasn't that Lin Xuankong was showing off to Li Xiaohu and the others. He genuinely felt that these Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts were merely for 'making do'!

After all, to him, four Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts really didn't amount to much. Nowadays, his body was currently nurturing forty-nine Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts and also a genuine Third-Grade Immortal Artifact, the Cyan Nether Immortal Sword. With these Immortal Artifacts in his possession, how could he possibly care too much about a few Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts!

However, while Lin Xuankong didn't care, Li Xiaohu, Yang Mountain, and Han Lu all showed expressions of astonishment.

Li Er couldn't help but shake his bald head vigorously. Having acquired the body of a Demon Venerable, he had promptly used a Magical Artifact to shave himself completely bald, claiming it was cooler and more comfortable that way. He continued to shake his bald head, exclaiming, "Hmm, calling a whole pile of Immortal Artifacts 'making do'... I'm afraid in this entire world, only you, Adoptive Father, could say something like that! If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I probably wouldn't have even dreamed of seeing twenty-eight Immortal Artifacts gathered together in my lifetime!"

For a moment, the seven were filled with deep emotions.

Since they began following Lin Xuankong and became more familiar with him, they felt that he had grown increasingly mysterious. The methods and resources he possessed were further and further beyond their comprehension!

This mix of familiarity and mystery really made the seven of them feel strange!

"Why don't you each pick your own Immortal Artifact? Of course, if you don't like any of the Immortal Artifacts, then don't take one, and I'll put them away!"

Lin Xuankong smiled and put down the teacup.

SWISH! SWISH! SWISH! SWISH! SWISH! SWISH! SWISH!

As soon as Lin Xuankong finished speaking, before his voice had even faded, seven figures shot forward with a series of air-rending sounds. Li Xiaohu and the other six did not hesitate for a moment, crowding eagerly around the table, each reaching out to grab the Immortal Artifacts.

Moments later, Li Xiaohu and the others had each picked out their four Immortal Artifacts.

Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts were different from common Magical Artifacts. Even at the Initial Tier, they were extremely heavy. If they hadn't all reached the Ninth-Layer Perfection Realm, it would have been impossible for the seven of them to lift four Immortal Artifacts!

Li Xiaohu was the first to circulate his True Qi, injecting it into an Immortal Sword.

As Lin Xuankong's most favored adoptive son, Li Xiaohu had recently acquired a great deal of resources. Whether it was various Spirit Herbs and Elixirs or Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs, he had received a great many of them. Especially under the influence of dozens of Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs, his body constantly generated a large amount of True Qi. With this True Qi as backing, nurturing Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts was naturally much faster for him. At the very least, compared to ordinary Cultivators at Ninth-Layer Realm Perfection, his speed in nurturing Immortal Artifacts was significantly quicker!

Yang Mountain, Li Er, Hu Shuo, Han Lu, and the Liy Family Brothers were the same. They might have received slightly fewer Treasures and Spirit Medicines than Little Hu, but when it came to Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs, the quantity they received was definitely no less than Li Xiaohu's.

So, the Lin Family Seven Tigers each took their Immortal Artifacts and, after thanking Lin Xuankong, began nurturing them.

The nurturing of Immortal Artifacts could only rely on one's own True Qi. Lin Xuankong could not help them by nurturing the artifacts in advance.

After nurturing their Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts for a while, the seven suddenly furrowed their brows.

Li Xiaohu said somewhat dejectedly, "Adoptive Father, these Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts are indeed very good, very valuable, and very powerful. However, the disciple recruitment ceremony of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect is about to begin. It officially starts tomorrow. Although we have the Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs you bestowed upon us as supplements, I fear there isn't enough time to properly nurture these Immortal Artifacts!"

Hearing this, the others also nodded in agreement.

Although they had a large amount of True Qi provided by the Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs, the Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts they received were still extremely difficult for Cultivators at the Transcendence Realm to nurture!

Even Lin Xuankong, in his earlier days, would have needed several dozen breaths to fully nurture an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact. For them to nurture their artifacts properly, it would likely take at least a few days!

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly, then stood up. "You start nurturing your artifacts now. I will infuse True Qi into your bodies. You only need to quickly convert the True Qi I infuse into your own, and you will naturally speed up the nurturing of your Immortal Artifacts!"

After saying this, he stepped forward, arriving beside Li Xiaohu, and placed a palm near Li Xiaohu's Dantian. In the next moment, Lin Xuankong's vast True Qi was rapidly injected into Li Xiaohu's Dantian!

Currently, Lin Xuankong's True Qi reserve had reached a terrifying nine million points. The amount of True Qi needed to nurture an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact was typically around two to three hundred thousand points. Helping Li Xiaohu and the others nurture these Immortal Artifacts was completely manageable for him.

Chapter 446: One Person Can Withstand Thousands of Same Tier, Lin Family Eight Immortals?_2

As for replenishing his expenditure?

With his Blood-Burning Secret Technique continuously improving, his appetite had become increasingly terrifying. A single meal could consume hundreds of thousands of pounds of medicinal materials! Moreover, Young Lady Lii Xiaolan had recently helped him refine thousands of Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixirs. The replenishing effect of the Dharma-tier Gui Ling Elixir on True Qi was immensely stronger than that of the Lower Grade Turtle-Poria Elixir Lin Xuankong had once consumed! With these endless resources—difficult even for Earth Immortal Cultivators to obtain—and the support of the Blood-Burning Secret Technique, Lin Xuankong now needed barely any time to replenish millions of points of True Qi!

At this moment, Li Xiaohu sensed the surging True Qi from Lin Xuankong being channeled into him. He dared not be distracted and quickly guided that pure True Qi, rapidly converting it into his own True Qi before channeling all of it into an Initial Tier Immortal Sword in his hand, swiftly nurturing it!

Simultaneously, True Qi surged from Lin Xuankong's entire body, transforming into six streams of pure True Qi that connected to six individuals: Yang Mountain, Han Lu, and four others.

The six felt the vast amount of True Qi approaching and, like Li Xiaohu, focused their Heart Spirit to nurture the Immortal Artifacts in their hands!

The residence instantly fell silent. As time ticked by, the Immortal Artifacts held by Li Xiaohu and the other six were quickly exchanged for new ones. After a few dozen breaths, they exchanged them again, and after a few dozen more, they each took up a third. This continued until Lin Xuankong's True Qi was depleted, consumed at a terrifying rate of over eight million points. By then, the seven Tigers of the Lin Family had each successfully nurtured their four allotted Immortal Artifacts!

Li Xiaohu touched the nurtured Initial Tier Immortal Artifact in his hand, now shrunk to the size of a toothpick. His face once again showed a look of shock. "Godfather, I heard that for a Transcendence Realm cultivator, compared to an Earth Immortal who has achieved the rank of Immortal, it is extremely difficult to nurture an Immortal Artifact. It usually requires tens or hundreds of days to accumulate sufficient True Qi to nurture an Immortal Artifact! But how long has it been? You actually helped the seven of us nurture a full twenty-eight Immortal Artifacts! This... Godfather, just how much True Qi is within you? With such an amount, you alone could probably match the True Qi amount of thousands of Ninth-Layer Perfection cultivators of the same tier!"

Yang Mountain looked at Lin Xuankong seriously, then bowed and cupped his hands, saying, "Being able to recognize you as my godfather is indeed the greatest fortune of my life! If I hadn't experienced it myself, even if you beat me to death, I wouldn't believe that someone in this world could possess such a terrifying amount of True Qi!"

"Yes! If we seven had to nurture these four Immortal Artifacts on our own, it would probably take us an extremely long time, at least a year! But with Godfather's help, with your vast amount of True Qi, it only took a little over a hundred breaths for the seven of us to simultaneously nurture our four Immortal Artifacts..." Li Er, Hu Shuo, and the Li Family Brothers also expressed their astonishment one after another, looking at Lin Xuankong with both curiosity and reverence.

Lin Xuankong looked at the seven and smiled. "Now that you seven each have four nurtured Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts, there should be no issue for you to participate in the disciple selection ceremony of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect!"

After saying this, he looked at the seven with a hint of expectation in his eyes.

No matter how great the power of one individual, it is ultimately limited! Especially since he was currently only at Ninth-Layer Perfection, a level hardly considered significant in Spiritual Crane Immortal City! He could rely on the forty-nine Immortal Swords of the Immortal Capturing Array and the Third-Grade Cyan Nether Immortal Sword to withstand several attacks from Fourth-Grade, and perhaps even Fifth-Grade, Earth Immortals. However, if it truly came to a life-and-death struggle, just two Fourth-Grade Earth Immortals would be far beyond his capabilities. His only escape would be to retreat into a Secret Realm! However, with the 'Lin Family Seven Tigers' each possessing four Immortal Artifacts, they might just be able to hold their own against two Fourth-Grade Earth Immortals if they joined forces! Furthermore, if he continued to collect a large number of Demon Pearls and refine another one to two hundred Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts, then each of the 'Lin Family Seven Tigers,' equipped with an Immortal Capturing Array, might even be able to resist a terrifying Fifth-Grade Earth Immortal! Of course, the most crucial aspect was that all seven of them benefited from his thirtyfold cultivation speed bonus. If they could also succeed in the disciple selection ceremony, secure places in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, and obtain the Sixth Celestial Vein Spiritual Object, he might even be able to forge the 'Lin Family Eight Immortals'—each possessing a Six Paths Golden Core! Hmm, by then, at the very least, he would not be so easily dealt with within Spiritual Crane Immortal City!

As Lin Xuankong pondered, Li Xiaohu grinned and said, "Godfather, our initial worries about not being able to compete with those Immortal Sect disciples were mainly because we were concerned they would have the sect's Immortal Artifacts, which are comparable to the terrifying treasures of Earth Immortal Golden Cores! Now, not only do we possess Immortal Artifacts that only Immortal Sect disciples might have, but each of us has four! With such formidable equipment, how could there be any problem in the disciple selection ceremony?"

Han Lu also looked excited. "If you wish to do a good job, you must first sharpen your tools. With the Immortal Artifacts Godfather gave us, even if it means breaking a leg or splitting our heads open, I will take on these so-called prodigies from the various Immortal Sects and Dynasties!"

Li Er laughed heartily. "Exactly! To hell with those so-called Immortal Sect geniuses! My Immortal Artifact hammer will smash them flat—I'll kill them, but I won't be burying them!"

The others also laughed heartily at the bald man's arrogance, clearly thrilled to possess the Immortal Artifacts!

These were Immortal Artifacts that even the so-called prodigies from various dynasties might not possess; Immortal Artifacts that even Initial Tier, First-Grade, and Second-Grade Earth Immortals might not possess!

Seeing the confidence on everyone's faces, Lin Xuankong nodded approvingly. He then spoke seriously, his expression solemn, "With Immortal Artifacts in hand, your combat prowess has definitely increased by more than tenfold! But you seven must remember one thing: Immortal Artifacts are extremely precious. Even an Initial Tier Immortal Artifact is something countless cultivators dream of obtaining! Giving you each four Immortal Artifacts is not for you to show off at the disciple selection ceremony; these four Immortal Artifacts are your ultimate trump cards and your strongest tools for ensuring your safety! Unless you encounter a truly formidable opponent, you should use the Magical Artifacts I previously provided. Even in an extreme situation, it is best to use only one Initial Tier Immortal Artifact!"

Upon hearing this, Li Xiaohu exchanged glances with the other six, and they all nodded. Li Xiaohu also adopted a serious expression. "Godfather, rest assured. Although I usually joke around with you, I can distinguish the importance of matters. It is said that possessing a valuable item makes one a target. Now that we, the Lin Family Seven Tigers, have significantly increased our strength due to the Immortal Artifacts, we are far from being able to act unscrupulously. I promise, Godfather, that unless we encounter an extremely powerful opponent, I will never use these trump cards!"

Hu Shuo and the others also made their pledges to Lin Xuankong, promising not to use these precious treasures lightly!

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong nodded slightly, his face filled with anticipation. "Now everything is ready; we just need the disciple selection ceremony of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect to commence! This time,

let's hope that all eight of us can emerge victorious in the ceremony. Then we'll all enter the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and live freely as Immortals!"

"Yes, living freely as Immortals, hahaha!" Li Er's face also showed a look of anticipation.

Yang Mountain, Little Hu, and the others also had anticipation sparkling in their eyes, their faces alight with excitement.

Among them, only Elder Steward Hu Shuo, originally from the Yin Talisman Sect, was filled with deep emotion. He touched the toothpick-sized Immortal Artifact in his hand and then looked at Lin Xuankong, his heart overwhelmed. Previously, he had only considered Lin Xuankong a Nine-Seal Genius, one with a definite chance to lead the Yin Talisman Sect to become a powerful force in Great Marsh Prefecture. Who could have predicted that in just over three years, not only Great Marsh Prefecture but even the entire Great Xia Dynasty would prove too small to contain this truly astonishing and unfathomable talent! But now, facing countless prodigious disciples from myriad dynasties and Immortal Sects, could Lin Xuankong truly lead the seven of them to join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, the abode of true Immortals?

Chapter 447: Apprenticeship Ceremony, Fire Spirit vs. Seven Tigers

「The next day, morning.」

At the entrance of the Immortal Sect Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, Lin Xuankong, Li Xiaohu, Hu Shuo, and the others gazed around. Near the Martial Arts Arena's gate, Cultivators riding various Exotic Beasts and Spirit Birds were flooding towards the arena.

Today was the official disciple recruitment grand contest of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. The number of Cultivators gathered here was even greater than what Lin Xuankong had witnessed at the auction in Spiritual Crane Immortal City a few days prior! Not only had the Cultivators preparing to participate in the recruitment contest arrived, but many of their servants, friends, and family members had also come!

Any Cultivator who could pass the preliminary test of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect was at least at the late stage of the Ninth Layer. Such Cultivators, whether in terms of strength or influence, were far from ordinary. Naturally, they had many friends gathered around them! Of course, anyone able to come here—even the servants of those Cultivators, those with low Cultivation Realms, or even those merely present to watch the excitement—was at least at the Sixth or Seventh Layer!

After all, entering the Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect to watch the competition was not free. Every Cultivator who wished to enter had to submit one Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade. A Cultivator of low strength and little influence wouldn't be willing to spend a Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade just for a glimpse. The value of one such Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade was enough to purchase several pieces of Exorcism Equipment!

At this moment, Li Xiaohu tilted his head back to look at the grand and magnificent gate of the Martial Arts Arena, towering over ten zhang high. He then glanced at the countless, densely packed Cultivators surrounding them and couldn't help but swallow hard.

He exclaimed in amazement, "The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect is indeed worthy of being one of the strongest Immortal Sects in the Central Divine Dynasty Western Region! Just this Martial Arts Arena, occupying hundreds of thousands of acres, is utterly astonishing! Before coming to Spiritual Crane Immortal City, I never even dreamed of such immense and grand structures! The works of Immortals are truly beyond the imagination of ordinary Cultivators!"

Gazing at the scene before him, Lin Xuankong also felt a stir of emotion in his heart. He possessed the magical Eight Gates Celestial Eye, so looking inward from this point, he could naturally perceive the entirety of this colossal Martial Arts Arena with clarity. This huge Martial Arts Arena covered tens of thousands of acres. It was roughly circular, its general shape resembling the massive stadiums Lin Xuankong had seen on Earth in his previous life. On its sloped viewing stands, tens of thousands of extremely spacious jade seats were arranged at intervals. Of course, this Martial Arts Arena was many, many times larger than even the largest stadiums on Blue Star from his previous life! Moreover, the dozens of martial arts stages in the arena's central area were all inscribed with profound Runes, evidently forming Arrays designed to reinforce the grounds and prevent damage.

Actually, it was quite normal for an Immortal Sect's Martial Arts Arena to be this large. The stadiums from Lin Xuankong's previous life primarily hosted events like track and field, basketball, or soccer, with ordinary human participants. How could such competitions compare to the impending battles between Tier Nine Cultivators? A late-stage Ninth Layer Cultivator, even with only a piece of Exorcism Equipment in hand, could have an attack range of seven to eight hundred zhang. If they wielded a Magical Artifact, their attack range and devastating power could extend to thousands, or even tens of thousands, of zhang! An attack range measuring thousands or tens of thousands of zhang is equivalent to tens of miles. If the Martial Arts Arena were too small, Ninth Layer Cultivators simply wouldn't have enough space to unleash their full capabilities!

Furthermore, the Cultivators spectating in this Martial Arts Arena, even the weakest among them, were at the Sixth or Seventh Layer. Their Eye Power was far superior to that of ordinary people. Although they couldn't compare to Lin Xuankong with his Eight Gates Celestial Eye, seeing the martial arts stages

clearly from a distance of over ten miles was no problem for them! This was why the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's Martial Arts Arena was constructed on such a grand scale!

Li Er vigorously shook his bald head and laughed. "Little Hu, you're not the only one who hasn't seen such a scene. If we hadn't followed our adoptive father, none of us would have had the chance to reach our current level, let alone come to a place like this!"

Little Hu nodded repeatedly. He looked at the endless stream of people around and sighed, "For this disciple recruitment contest of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, I estimate there are hundreds of thousands of Cultivators here just to watch! Tsk tsk, with tickets at one Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade each, they'll probably earn hundreds of thousands of Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jades from this event alone... If they held a few events like this every year, I can't even imagine how much Profound Truth Jade the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect must earn! So many Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jades... one Ghost Frog Pouch probably couldn't hold it all! Good heavens, if someone managed to rob the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's treasury, they'd likely need hundreds of Ghost Frog Pouches to carry away all their Treasures!"

Upon hearing Li Xiaohu say this, Hu Shuo, Han Lu, Yang Mountain, and Li Er were all rendered speechless. The passing Cultivators who overheard Li Xiaohu also stared at him in astonishment, looking at him as if he were a madman.

This was the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's territory, yet someone actually dared to speak of robbing the sect... He was either audaciously foolish or had gone mad thinking about Profound Truth Jade!

Lin Xuankong, seeing this fellow spouting nonsense again, couldn't help but chuckle and tap Little Hu on the head.

"You little tiger, have you gotten arrogant after obtaining a few Treasures? Do you think the dozens of Earth Immortals of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect are people a little tiger like you can covet? You should first figure out how to join the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect!"

Chapter 448: Apprenticeship Ceremony, Fire Spirit vs. Seven Tigers_2

Li Xiaohu rubbed his head and chuckled. "I was just marveling at the wealth of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect! If I were to really rob them, I wouldn't dare, even if I were given a hundred guts!"

Lin Xuankong looked at the majestic Martial Arts Arena and the bustling crowd before him, shook his head slightly, and said, "According to Lan, this Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect is mostly used for sparring among the sect's disciples and has never been used for a disciple recruitment ceremony before. This time, the disciple recruitment ceremony of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect could attract so many people because of special reasons. Under normal circumstances, the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect only recruits outstanding talents within their sphere of influence, usually no more than a hundred disciples each year. It's impossible for so many people to be attracted every time! The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect can't possibly rely on recruitment ceremonies every year to earn such a large amount of Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade. Do you really think everyone is so wealthy, casually treating Profound Truth Jade as if it's not money? If the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect could collect such a large amount of Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade annually just by holding disciple recruitment ceremonies, it would already be the undisputed First Immortal Sect in the Central Divine Dynasty Western Region. That's hundreds of thousands of Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jades! Even a Mid-grade Earth Immortal might not be able to produce that much!"

"Then they've really hit it big this time!" Li Xiaohu exclaimed.

Han Lu stood next to Li Xiaohu, equally excited. "And this is just the Outer Sect Martial Arts Arena of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect! I can't imagine how grand the main Sect could be, and what kind of spectacle its construction would be!"

Upon hearing his words, Lin Xuankong and the others couldn't help but turn their heads eastward. In that distant direction, amidst an endless shroud of spiritual mist, a massive transparent barrier covered an expansive area of unknown vastness. That was the main Sect of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, and the edge of the barrier formed the perimeter of the equally majestic Spiritual Crane Immortal City.

Lin Xuankong gazed for a while and then said, "If the few of us can win the competition this time, we will all be able to enter the Immortal Mountain Sect of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and witness firsthand what an Immortal Mountain, an Immortal Sect, and an Immortal Yuan Cave Mansion are truly like!"

Li Xiaohu and his companions' eyes once again lit up with anticipation upon hearing this.

"Hmph, you make it sound so easy. There are eight thousand talented Cultivators participating in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's disciple recruitment tournament this time, all top talents from various dynasties. Many of them are also outstanding disciples from small and medium-sized Immortal Sects! Even I, Chang Li, dare not say I will certainly be the victor among these eight thousand talents. And you few Cultivators from the remote Great Xia Dynasty... where does your confidence come from?"

A voice suddenly came from not far away. Lin Xuankong turned his head and saw a red cloud floating over. It stopped near them, and standing on top of it was Second Prince Chang Li of the Xianluo Dynasty.

At this moment, Chang Li was squinting, gazing at Lin Xuankong with hostility. In front of him stood Flame Saber Duan River, a powerful late Third Grade Earth Immortal, enveloped in an aura of illusory flames. Besides the two of them, there were more than a dozen other distinguished-looking Cultivators. These Cultivators were all dressed in golden robes embroidered with red flames, each holding a peculiar, flame-shaped Magical Artifact.

Upon hearing Chang Li's words, a hint of coldness flashed in Lin Xuankong's eyes. Hu Shuo, Yang Mountain, Li Er, Han Lu, Liy Ruofeng, and Liy Ruoqing all turned grim. If Chang Li had only targeted them, Hu Shuo and the others might have endured it. However, for Chang Li to disrespect Lin Xuankong so openly in front of countless Cultivators was something they found difficult to tolerate.

Li Xiaohu, the youngest, though clever, was somewhat impulsive and couldn't tolerate anyone disrespecting Lin Xuankong. Even though he sensed the terrifying Immortal Yuan Fluctuation emanating from Flame Saber Duan River, Li Xiaohu stubbornly stared at Chang Li. "Whether we can win or not isn't up to you! What, is the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect owned by your family?"

Upon hearing this, Second Prince Chang Li's face immediately darkened. He sneered, "Fine, fine, fine! I hope you don't run into me in this tournament. Otherwise, I will definitely 'teach' you a lesson!"

"Hah, 'teach' me what lesson? *I* won't be teaching *you* anything!" Li Xiaohu tilted his head.

Seeing Li Xiaohu confronting him so defiantly, Hu Shuo, Yang Mountain, and the others couldn't help but show a trace of worry, each secretly channeling their True Qi.

Floating in mid-air, the killing intent in Chang Li's eyes surged. Flame Saber Duan River glanced at Li Xiaohu and sneered, "Being so arrogant in front of Cultivators from my Fire Spirit Sect? It seems my Fire Spirit Sect has killed too few people these years; everyone has forgotten our methods! However, if I, Flame Saber Duan River, were to act personally, others would laugh at me for bullying the weak! Since you are so confident, why not have one of the disciples from my Fire Spirit Sect challenge you right here instead of waiting for the tournament?"

No sooner had Flame Saber Duan River spoken than the dozen or so Cultivators in flaming robes beside Second Prince Chang Li instantly activated their True Qi. The tallest among them leaped down from the cloud. He lightly caressed the flame-shaped Magical Artifact in his hand, fixed his gaze on Li Xiaohu, and said, "I am Yang Ding, a 109th-generation disciple of the Flame Sect. Since this Daoist friend is so confident, why don't we have a sparring match? We can determine not only who is superior but also decide matters of life and death!"

Chapter 449: Apprenticeship Ceremony, Fire Spirit vs. Seven Tigers_3

After he finished speaking, his eyes flashed with killing intent. The True Qi within his body surged violently, and a large amount of pale red True Qi instantly appeared around him. This True Qi carried a terrifyingly high temperature, distorting the surrounding air. The ground rapidly hardened, CRACKLING continuously from the scorching heat!

Lin Xuankong's expression changed, and he was about to shield Little Hu behind him, but Li Xiaohu shook his head at Lin Xuankong. "Foster father, this Cultivator from the Fire Spirit Sect insulted you, which means he insulted me, Little Hu! If you can tolerate it, I absolutely cannot! Let Little Hu duel him. I want to see whose technique is stronger—the Fire Spirit Sect's or my Yin Talisman Thunder!"

Lin Xuankong carefully observed Li Xiaohu, noting his determined eyes brimming with fighting spirit. He recalled that he now possessed two complete sets of the Immortal Capturing Array, Little Hu and the others each had Immortal Artifacts, and the Great Reincarnation Technique was sufficient to ensure Little Hu's safety. With these thoughts, Lin Xuankong's mind was set. Last time, at the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect auction, this Duan River and Chang Li had plotted against Lan! The grudge was already deeply rooted; he absolutely had to eliminate Flaming Blade Duan River. Letting Little Hu clash with a Fire Spirit Sect disciple now would also allow him to probe the characteristics of their Cultivation Techniques!

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong nodded slightly at Little Hu and patted his shoulder. "Be careful, exercise restraint, and don't casually harm anyone."

Li Xiaohu chuckled. "Foster father, don't worry!"

Opposite them, the Fire Spirit Sect disciple, Yang Ding, sneered coldly upon hearing this. "Such big words! Don't harm my life? Come, come, come! I'd like to see if you can even touch me!"

Li Xiaohu had already decided to fight, so he wasted no more words with him. He reached to his waist and drew a Tier Nine Longsword-type Magical Artifact.

This was a weapon Lin Xuankong had previously given to Little Hu, Hu Shuo, and the others. Although they all possessed Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts, it wasn't practical to immediately reveal their trump cards against every opponent. Naturally, they had to test the waters with Tier Nine Magical Artifacts first!

Seeing that Cultivators were actually about to fight here, those who had been continuously flying towards the entrance of the Martial Arts Arena all stopped.

In the blink of an eye, thousands to tens of thousands of Cultivators gathered at the entrance of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's Martial Arts Arena. Upon seeing the Immortal Yuan Fluctuation emanating from Flaming Blade Duan River, who floated in the clouds, these Cultivators showed looks of apprehension. They dared not approach closely, instead congregating hundreds of zhang away, huddling together and discussing in low voices.

At this moment, the Fire Spirit Sect disciple, Yang Ding, with killing intent in his eyes, channeled True Qi into the Flame Magical Artifact in his hand. Instantly, the Flame Magical Artifact transformed into a Flame Round Tripod over sixty zhang large. Its body was covered in flame Runes, and from its top, crimson flames rose tens of zhang high. These flames continuously condensed, gradually forming a Flame Sparrow tens of zhang long!

Meanwhile, Li Xiaohu continuously infused True Qi into the Longsword in his hand. In the blink of an eye, the Thunder Sword grew to a hundred zhang in size, hovering horizontally above him. Hundreds, even thousands, of bright lightning bolts coiled around its body. These bolts constantly darted about, emitting CRACKLING sounds, causing the surrounding air to issue BOOMING sounds and release a scorched smell!

The Fire Spirit Sect disciple Yang Ding, who initially wore an expression full of killing intent, saw this scene, and his eyes flickered, revealing a hint of greed. "Oh, a hundred-zhang Longsword! To think a little thing from a remote, small country actually possesses a Tier Nine Magical Artifact... Not bad, not bad! It just so happens I've also cultivated Thunder Technique! Once I slaughter you, little thing, I'll take this Tier Nine Magical Artifact for myself!"

The Magical Artifact in this Fire Spirit Sect disciple's hand could only transform to a size of over sixty zhang, clearly indicating it was merely a Tier Seven or so Magical Artifact. Now, suddenly seeing Li Xiaohu use a Tier Nine Magical Artifact, his heart naturally itched with desire!

The thousands to tens of thousands of Cultivators gathered in the distance also showed changed expressions upon seeing Li Xiaohu's Tier Nine Magical Artifact, their eyes filled with envy.

For Lin Xuankong, who had Xiao Xiuyi's assistance, even Initial Tier Immortal Artifacts could be produced in abundance, so it was natural for him not to consider Tier Nine Magical Artifacts a big deal. Little Hu, now possessing four Immortal Swords given by Lin Xuankong, similarly didn't regard Tier Nine Magical Artifacts as particularly valuable Treasures.

However, how many Immortal Artifacts, or even Tier Nine Magical Artifacts, had the thousands to tens of thousands of surrounding Cultivators ever seen? For them, such a sight was truly astonishing!

Chapter 450: The Prestige of the Fire Spirit Sect, Expert of the Number One Sect

At this moment, more and more Cultivators were gathering. Among them, quite a few had already recognized Duan River of the Fire Spirit Sect. Everyone greatly envied the Tier Nine Spiritual Artifact Li Xiaohu effortlessly wielded. However, when they considered the notorious dominance of the Fire Spirit Sect and the power of their Cultivation Techniques, many couldn't help but shake their heads in pity as they looked at Li Xiaohu.

"That's a disciple of the Fire Spirit Immortal Sect. Without any Magical Artifacts, simply wearing the Exorcism Armor is enough to trade blows with a Cultivator using Magical Artifacts. Moreover, this Fire Spirit Sect disciple is already wielding their famous Fire Spirit Cauldron Magical Artifact! Where did this Cultivator come from, to be so audacious!"

"Haha, the tickets we bought this time were worth it! The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's recruitment competition hasn't even started, and there's already an exciting battle to watch!"

"Sigh, that young man doesn't seem very old, but he's certainly fiery. Of all people to provoke, he had to provoke the Fire Spirit Sect. I bet he's going to be killed on the spot!"

"That's a disciple of the Fire Spirit Immortal Sect? The Fire Spirit Sect, hailed as one of the top three Immortal Sects in the Western Region!"

"Keep your voice down! Didn't you see the famous Flame Saber Earth Immortal from the Fire Spirit Sect over there?"

The crowd's discussion clearly showed they were not optimistic about Li Xiaohu's chances. After all, even with a rare Tier Nine Spiritual Artifact, a Cultivator's own strength was crucial; moreover, the Fire Spirit Sect disciple also possessed a Magical Artifact!

Just then, a few Cultivators suddenly flew over from a distance. One figure flashed and landed right between Li Xiaohu and the Fire Spirit Sect disciple, Yang Ding. This Cultivator activated a large amount of True Qi to protect his entire body. After the True Qi manifested, it formed a vivid Spiritual Crane. Simultaneously, he drew the Longsword from his waist and shouted, "Everyone, halt! This is the Cultivation Field of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect! Today is also the day of our Sect's recruitment competition! Are you two planning to ruin our grand event and show such disrespect to the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect?"

Li Xiaohu, who was already prepared to strike first, glanced at the newcomer and then helplessly looked at Lin Xuankong. "Foster father, this..."

Yang Ding, the Fire Spirit Sect disciple, calmly responded, "Fellow Daoist of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, we from the Fire Spirit Sect haven't even entered your Cultivation Field, nor have we formally participated in your Sect's grand event. This fellow Daoist and I are just having a friendly spar. Is that not allowed? Your Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect is quite domineering!"

The Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect disciple's expression turned unsightly upon hearing this, and he was about to retort when, from the clouds above, Flaming Blade Duan River spoke coldly,

"Heh, a disciple of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, are you?"

"Even if the Earth Immortals from your Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect were here, they would come to greet me, Flaming Blade Duan River. Even your Sect Leader must show me some respect!"

"And you dare to accuse my Fire Spirit Sect disciple of intending to ruin your recruitment competition without any basis?"

Upon hearing this, the disciple of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect looked towards Flaming Blade Duan River in the clouds. Recognizing his appearance, the disciple's expression changed slightly. After a moment of silence, he bowed and cupped his hands, "So, it is the Vice Sect Leader of the Fire Spirit Immortal Sect. I am Huang Xishang, a disciple of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, acting on my

Master's orders to maintain order at the entrance of the Cultivation Field! Well... I saw someone intending to cause trouble and, in my haste to intervene, failed to notice Vice Sect Leader Duan's presence. My apologies for the disrespect!"

Flaming Blade Duan River sneered again. "Since you know who I am, then stand aside! My Fire Spirit Sect disciple and this arrogant fellow are merely sparring; they will not ruin your Sect's grand event!"

Upon hearing this, Huang Xishang, the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect disciple, looked uncomfortable. However, feeling the immense pressure from the abundant Immortal Yuan radiating from Flaming Blade Duan River, he could only clench his teeth and retreat step by step.

Seeing this, the surrounding Cultivators couldn't help but exchange looks, their expressions shifting. When they looked at Flaming Blade Duan River again, their eyes showed intense fear.

Previously, some of these Cultivators from various Dynasties and Immortal Sects might not have known of Flaming Blade Duan River. But after witnessing this scene, the tens of thousands of Cultivators present palpably felt this man's domineering and unyielding power! This was the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's territory, and their recruitment competition was about to begin. Yet, Flaming Blade Duan River showed no regard for their disciples! Did this not mean that the dignified Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect wasn't even worthy of Flaming Blade Duan River's attention? This clearly demonstrated his formidable background and strength!

For a moment, the Cultivators, stunned by Flaming Blade Duan River's dominance, fell silent, not even daring to discuss him further!

At this moment, Yang Ding, the Fire Spirit Sect disciple facing Li Xiaohu, displayed an extremely smug expression.

"Did you see that?"

"This is the might of my Fire Spirit Sect!"

"So what if it's the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect's recruitment competition? So what if they are disciples of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect? They still have to behave before us!"

"As for you, I'll give you a chance. In front of these tens of thousands of Cultivators, kneel and kowtow in apology to me, and I might consider sparing your life!"

Upon hearing this, Li Xiaohu's eyes narrowed.