

Stronger 61

Chapter 61: Terrifying Talent, A Day to Construct the Thunder Root_2

After thinking for a bit, Lin Xuankong asked, "Steward Gu, how long did it take you to cultivate your second Divine Thunder Root?"

Gu Beicheng replied, "The second Divine Thunder Root? It took about five months!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong fell silent.

Comparing five months to the time of three cups of tea... Should I tell Steward Gu about my cultivation progress to give him a push? Maybe not, I don't want to overstimulate him. Besides, my cultivation speed is so frighteningly fast that no one would believe it if I told them. It's better to stay low-key!

Standing by, Gu Beicheng saw his silence and couldn't help but feel a bit concerned. Senior Brother Lin just visualized the jade and got dizzy... Is he silent now because his cultivation was frustrated? Did hearing that I cultivated two Divine Thunder Roots in five months crush his spirit? This won't do. Cultivating the Martial Dao heavily relies on one's state of mind. If the spirit is crushed, how can one successfully cultivate in the future!

He stroked his three long beards, smiled, and said, "Senior Brother Lin, you don't need to care about others' opinions, nor should you compare yourself to others! Even though you are older and your cultivation speed may be slower, you have an extraordinary Four-Seal Talent. So what if you cultivate the Divine Thunder Root slower than others in the future? You have the chance to cultivate eight or nine roots! In a few years, you could have Eight Thunders Surrounding your body or even Nine Thunders Surrounding Body. So, there's no need to be anxious, Senior Brother!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but laugh. "Rest assured, I'm not anxious."

At my current pace, in ten days at the earliest or twenty days at the latest, I'll reach the Initial Glimpse Realm of the Yin Talisman Technique. That's far faster than that genius Steward Gu's two and a half years. Why would I be anxious at this speed? If I rush too much, I might hurt myself!

Gu Beicheng was skeptical and looked at him several times. "Really not anxious? If you are uncomfortable, Senior Brother, just tell me!"

Lin Xuankong nodded. "Really not anxious!"

Gu Beicheng frowned. "It's good if you're truly not anxious!"

Gu Beicheng, if you keep this up, I'll tell you my cultivation speed! Lin Xuankong thought, feeling a bit speechless.

Seeing Lin Xuankong showed no sign of distress, Gu Beicheng finally felt at ease. He pointed to the upper left corner of the first jade piece and said, "Senior Brother Lin, actually, visualizing the jade isn't too difficult. These marks do follow a pattern. You just need to focus your sight here and follow these marks to start visualizing... But remember, do not exceed the time of three cups of tea!"

After listening to his explanation, Lin Xuankong nodded secretly. What Gu Beicheng explained about these marks aligned with what I had just observed. This Four-Seal Genius is indeed sharing some valuable cultivation insights with me.

After Gu Beicheng stopped his explanation, he looked at Lin Xuankong with some puzzlement. "Senior Brother Lin, I saw you were dizzy just now; you must have almost exceeded the time of three cups of tea! Did Steward Xu, as the Transmission Steward, not remind you that visualizing the jade should not exceed the time of three cups of tea? The jade contains the mysterious Thunder Power of our ancestor. Exceeding the time of three cups of tea when visualizing it could severely damage your Heart Spirit. Heart Spirit injuries are harder to heal than external injuries. Even a small mistake could render you unable to cultivate the Yin Talisman Technique for months. You must be cautious in the future!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong recalled Xu Bei's attitude at that time. His face darkened slightly, and he thought to himself, At that time, I didn't know any of this, and Xu Bei didn't remind me of the potential harm of visualizing the jade! Xu Bei, as the Transmission Steward, should be responsible for passing on techniques and preventing disciples from having problems during cultivation. His behavior... what a sinister heart! If it weren't for Gu Beicheng's timely arrival, my Heart Spirit might have been damaged by the Visualization Jade, leaving me unable to cultivate for months!

Seeing Lin Xuankong remain silent, Gu Beicheng considered it for a moment and couldn't help but stroke his three long beards again. "Senior Brother Lin, I will report this matter to Grand Chief Steward Wu Liangye. Steward Xu's behavior is a dereliction of duty!"

Lin Xuankong thought for a moment and firmly shook his head. "No need, Steward Gu. You will be working under Xu Bei in the future. Why make an enemy of him for my sake? Since you have reminded me, I'll be more careful next time when visualizing the jade. By the way, did you come here for something else, Steward Gu?"

I, Lin Xuankong, am no longer the old weakling that anyone can manipulate! The issue with Xu Bei doesn't need someone else's help. I'll keep this account in mind and settle it myself!

Seeing his determination, Gu Beicheng sighed deeply. "If the Sect had more magnanimous figures like Steward Ma Jiang and Steward Lin, how could we not thrive? But alas... Sigh, apart from matters of cultivation, I came to find you for another important matter today. The Demon-Suppressing Valley, located on the outskirts of the Boundaryless Mountain and controlled by the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, will open in two months. This will require disciples from various cities and sects to participate in the Demon Slaying Conference. Our Yin Talisman Sect has selected its participating disciples, and Senior Brother, you are among them!"

Lin Xuankong was slightly puzzled. "Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect? Demon Slaying Conference?"

Gu Beicheng explained, "It seems Senior Brother has been so focused on cultivation that you are unaware of the sect powers in the Great Xia Dynasty! The Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect is the National Guardian Divine Sect of the Great Xia Dynasty. Though the Sect consists entirely of women, in terms of the number of top Martial Artists and the profoundness of their techniques, it surpasses countless sects in Great Xia! The Demon-Suppressing Valley in the Great Marsh Prefecture is managed by Elder Hua of the Celestial Sect. It features a Grand Array spanning hundreds of miles. The demons confined within, even in high numbers, cannot escape and can only advance up to Tier Three."

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"But because some races of Demons have astonishing reproductive abilities, their numbers continuously increase. Every ten years, it's necessary to open the Grand Array and hold a Demon Slaying Conference to reduce the number of Demons and alleviate the array's pressure!"

Lin Xuankong frowned and said, "Since they are Second Layer and Third Layer Demons, why not send a few powerful Fourth Layer and Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators to massacre them? Wouldn't that be much easier?"

Gu Beicheng shook his head slightly.

"It's not that simple. The Demon-Suppressing Array is infinitely powerful. Any powerful Martial Cultivator who enters it would have their strength suppressed to a maximum of Third Layer Perfection! The number of Fourth Layer and Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators in each city and sect is very small. If they enter and their strength is suppressed to the Third Layer Realm, it would seriously destabilize the foundations of their sects if they were to fall! Therefore, the task of clearing out the Demons every ten years falls upon the talented disciples and Stewards of the Second and Third Layers!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but furrow his brows. He had fought the Demon People Race before, and the terrifying Recovery Power of the Marsh Python People left a deep impression on him. These were merely the Demon People controlled by Demons, possessing only weakened Demon Techniques! If facing true Demons, who knows how powerful and difficult to kill they would be with their vast Demon Qi and formidable Demon Techniques!

Seeing his furrowed brows, Gu Beicheng thought for a moment and continued,

"Participating in the Demon Slaying Conference is not without benefits. The blood and flesh of the Demon Race are great supplements for the Qi Blood of Martial Cultivators. The items on their bodies are rare materials for refining Divine Soldiers, Armor, Elixirs, and for Array Formation and beast nurturing!

"For example, the gall of a Tier Three Marsh Python is an excellent healing remedy. Just consuming a drop of its gall liquid can regenerate flesh and bones within a day for any injured Martial Cultivator, even if they've lost half their body. As long as they haven't vertically lost half their body, they can rapidly recover! My broken arm was restored by Chief Steward Jiang two days ago, using one of the last three drops of Marsh Python Gall Liquid remaining in the Great Marsh Hall!

"For example, a single drop of Heart Essence Blood from a Tier Three Evil Lizard Demon is equivalent to hundreds of Essence Blood Pearls from the Evil Lizard Demon People. With dozens of drops, one can cultivate a Tier Three Exotic Beast, whose combat power is comparable to that of a Third Layer Martial Cultivator!

"Most importantly, there is a vast number of Demons in the Demon-Suppressing Valley, but none surpass Tier Three. If one kills many of them, they might obtain a Demon Pearl formed by the Demons! That is a priceless Demon Pearl, a Treasure capable of influencing the rise and fall of a sect!

"Therefore, every Martial Cultivator who gains something and survives the Demon Slaying Conference will become famous throughout the dozens of cities in the Great Marsh Prefecture, enjoy unparalleled prestige, make a fortune, and pave a golden path for their future Martial Cultivation journey!"

Obtain a Demon Pearl?

Lin Xuankong's eyes lit up. He had easily found a Flying Thief thanks to a Demon Pearl and had also easily killed a stronger Bearded Guest with the Double Vine Demon's control. How could he not know the immense power and value of a Demon Pearl! If he could get an attack-specific Demon Pearl, summon an attacking Demon, and sustain it with his vast Qi Blood, then... HSSS... no matter how many Bearded Guests came, it would be a piece of cake!

Gu Beicheng continued,

"However, in a Demon Slaying Conference with a thousand participants, it's already good if a few dozen survive. It can be said that only one in ten makes it out alive. Most of the survivors are strong Third Layer Martial Cultivators of Mid-grade or Late Stage. Of course, there are occasionally talented disciples who enter with their elders' Demon Pearls; they can sweep through, gain plentiful rewards, and return victoriously!"

At this point, he sighed and glanced at Lin Xuankong.

"Among the participants chosen by our Yin Talisman Sect are Senior Brother Lin, Steward Zhao Yufei, Steward Xu Bei, Steward Hu Shuo, and Steward Nalan Yunzhu. Although everyone is quite strong, except for Steward Zhao Yufei, as she has a full set of Exorcism Armor, most will have to rely on their Yin Talisman Technique. When the time comes, it might be... In my opinion, Senior Brother Lin, you should seek out Chief Steward Jiang to see if someone else can participate in your place! You've just achieved great merit for the sect and become a Silver Jade Steward, so Chief Steward Jiang will surely consider your request seriously!"

He cupped his hands and sighed, "I must go notify the other Senior Brothers and Stewards now." Then he departed.

Lin Xuankong returned the gesture. After Gu Beicheng left, he couldn't help but furrow his brows and ponder. The Demon Slaying Conference... it seems to have both advantages and disadvantages, and it's

still two months away... By that time, will my Exorcism Armor be ready from refining? And to what Realm can I cultivate? Most importantly, how many Divine Thunder Roots will my Yin Talisman Technique nurture within my body? Eight, nine, or... This will dictate the power of my Yin Talisman Thunder, significantly determining the strength of each Realm in the Yin Talisman Technique!

Chapter 63: Grand Ambitions Reach the Celestial Road, The Stream Before the Gate Still Flows West

Lin Xuankong pondered for a moment. Gu Beicheng just said that genius disciples who possess the Demon Pearl seem to have it easy in the Demon-Suppressing Valley, with a chance to sweep through... I wonder if that's true! But I've never fought Demons before, especially not Tier Two and Tier Three Demons. My heart is really in a flutter! Why not go find Steward Ma Jiang and chat? He should give me a fair suggestion! Besides, if I decide not to participate, having Big Brother Ma Jiang speak on my behalf would be better than going to the Charming Chief Steward alone!

Moments later, in a luxurious building of the Steward's Tower at the Mule Street Branch, Ma Jiang looked at Lin Xuankong before him, the White Jade Dice in his hand clicking softly as he idly turned them.

After a while, he sighed. "After hearing the news, I went to find Chief Steward Jiang. I even went to see Hall Master Xua, who was in seclusion for Cultivation. Unfortunately, Chief Steward Jiang and Hall Master Xua said that this is a decree issued directly by Ding Rui, a Fourth Layer disciple of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect. Even the Hall Master must follow it! Only the Prefect of Great Marsh Prefecture, leveraging Royal Family authority, or the Sect Leader using his old ties with Elder Hua, could make minor changes!"

Lin Xuankong frowned. "The Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect is quite imposing. A command from one of its disciples can make numerous powerful factions in Great Marsh Prefecture obey."

Ma Jiang sighed again. "After all, it is the National Guardian Divine Sect of the Great Xia Dynasty. Although it's composed entirely of women, experts are as numerous as clouds... But this time, you definitely have to participate in the Demon Slaying Conference!"

Joining a sect and enjoying various benefits certainly requires paying a price... Lin Xuankong thought to himself.

Ma Jiang stood up then and remarked with feeling, "Many people are unwilling to risk participating in the Demon Slaying Conference, but countless Martial Cultivators scramble to join! Of the thousand slots for the Demon Slaying Conference, two hundred are reserved for Independent Martial Cultivators from

various cities. For these two hundred slots... thousands of Martial Cultivators fight to the death on the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect's arena every time, just for a chance to participate!

"The Demon-Suppressing Valley contains countless Tier Two and Tier Three Demons. Marsh Python Gall juice, Evil Lizard heart blood, Evil Sheep spinal meat, Ghost Toad abdominal sacs, the eyes from beneath a Demon Fox's forehead—all of these are precious treasures. Especially the Demon Pearls that occasionally appear in the Demon-Suppressing Valley; those are extremely precious!

"So, some people think the Demon-Suppressing Valley is terrifying beyond measure, while others desire it intensely. Every ten years, the Demon Slaying Conference sees peerless prodigies or fortunate souls returning with great harvests, showcasing their prowess, and making a name for themselves across the dozens of cities under Great Marsh Prefecture's jurisdiction, treading a peerless, enviable Celestial Road!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong fell silent.

Ma Jiang paused, then looked at Lin Xuankong. "But on this Celestial Road, countless ambitious Martial Cultivators have perished. Without a full set of Exorcism Armor, it's hard to fight Demons of the Same Tier. In most cases, they are corrupted by Demon Qi and devoured by Demons wielding various Demon Techniques. If you have a powerful Treasure like a Demon Pearl, it would indeed be much easier, but as for getting a Demon Pearl, I can't help you with that!"

Ma Jiang touched the Wandering Dragon Exorcism Hand hanging at his waist and said, "When you participate in two months, I'll give you this other Wandering Dragon Exorcism Hand to use. I hope you, Steward Hu, Steward Zhao, and Steward Nalan can all come out alive!"

This Steward Ma Jiang, who had always held Lin Xuankong in high regard, didn't even remind Lin Xuankong to intensify his Cultivation. Obviously, in his view, the effect of last-minute preparations in the short span of two months would be minimal. The boost from an external item like the Wandering Dragon Exorcism Hand would be much greater!

It seems my boss truly thinks it's very unlikely I will survive the Demon Slaying Conference! Lin Xuankong mused. Yet, even though Ma Jiang believes my chances of survival are slim, he still promises to give me the Wandering Dragon Exorcism Hand he accumulated over half his life. Such generosity and loyalty are truly moving! I originally had other plans... The Demon Slaying Conference is so dangerous; I thought once the Exorcism Armor was successfully refined, I would take my Young Lady and leave Great Marsh Prefecture, leave the Yin Talisman Sect. Fleeing was the best of the Thirty-Six Stratagems! But Ma Jiang's

trust and regard... If I desert at the critical moment, I don't know how much ridicule Ma Jiang, who has always supported me, would suffer!

He stood at the entrance of Mule Street, watching the passersby who kept bowing respectfully towards him, and his thoughts deepened.

Gu Beicheng and Big Brother Ma both said that with a Demon Pearl, things would be much easier, and there's a chance for great gains. I don't just have one; I have two powerful Demon Pearls in my possession... Moreover, I have a chance to refine an Exorcism Armor that can block Demon Qi and possesses great power. I also have a chance to cultivate my Yin Talisman Technique to great power within two months. I equally have a chance to advance to the Late Stage of the Third Layer within two months. Thousands of Martial Cultivators, including those Loose Cultivators, dare to participate in the Demon Slaying Conference. So why can't I, who has the potential to surpass others in strength and equipment, take this plunge? Why should I be such a cowardly old fool? With my Vigorous in Old Age Life Plate, am I truly inferior to those so-called geniuses?

At this thought, a heroic spirit began to swell in Lin Xuankong's heart.

Suddenly, his eyes became resolute. He strode outwards, his silver hair flowing, his steps light and powerful.

I, Lin Xuankong, may be old, but I will compete with those young geniuses and prodigies! We shall see who can carve out a Celestial Road at the Demon Slaying Conference! Who says life cannot have a youthful spirit? Even the stream before the door can still flow westwards! Don't let white hair make you sing of fleeting time!

Lin Xuankong returned directly to his headquarters. He instructed the efficient Yang Mountain to help him gather information on the Marsh Python Forehead Scale, then began his Cultivation in his Steward's Tower.

He didn't plan to immediately tell his Young Lady about participating in the Demon Slaying Conference, lest the little foodie worry so much that her appetite increased dramatically!

However, he was clear that to survive and gain something in the Demon Slaying Conference, the most important things right now were his Martial Dao Cultivation and collecting materials for the Exorcism Armor.

He could delegate his subordinates to find sellers for the Marsh Python Forehead Scale. However, achieving the goal of reaching the Late Stage of the Third Layer before the Demon Slaying Conference could only be accomplished through his own persistent Cultivation!

At this moment, Lin Xuankong carefully sensed within himself. He found that the two Divine Thunder Roots, nurtured in his body and originally as fine as Lii Xiaolan's hair, were gradually growing stronger through the consumption of his Qi Blood. They were now about the thickness of three strands of Lii Xiaolan's hair, had become more agile, and pulsed with a profound divine power!

Sensing the Qi Blood consumption caused by nurturing the Divine Thunder Roots, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but smile. Nurturing two Divine Thunder Roots consumed about eight to nine points of Second Layer Late Stage Qi Blood per day. That calculated to over twenty points of Transcendent Qi Blood. Such consumption would certainly be significant for an average Martial Cultivator, equivalent to requiring a daily supplement of Nine Revolutions Qi Replenishing Soup to continue nurturing them... but for him, he barely felt it!

Four Turtle-Poria Elixirs continually replenished his Qi Blood, along with several portions of Qi Replenishing Soup daily. This kind of supplementation could increase his Transcendent Qi Blood by nearly three hundred points daily. Such a replenishment rate was incredibly potent; how could he care about that bit of consumption? That consumption was merely a drop in the ocean, a hair from nine oxen!

「In the blink of an eye,」

Three days passed.

At noon, Lin Xuankong walked to the backyard of the wooden building. He carefully sensed the Divine Thunder Root within him before starting his Cangsong Posture Cultivation.

Chapter 64: Thunder Root Gains Again, Great Progress in Strength

At this moment in his Dantian, the first two Divine Thunder Roots had been nurtured to roughly the thickness of twenty of Lii Xiaolan's strands of hair twisted together. Moreover, after visualizing the

Visualization Jade four times over four days, his Dantian had increased to a total of eight Divine Thunder Roots. The latest two Divine Thunder Roots, after half a day's nurturing, had also grown to the thickness of four strands of hair!

These eight Divine Thunder Roots constantly roamed within his Dantian, twisting like dragons and snakes, filled with spirituality. The Qi Blood in Lin Xuankong's Dantian, influenced by the Divine Thunder Roots, was also slowly tempering his body. However, since Lin Xuankong was already at the Second Layer, the power of these not-yet-fully-grown Divine Thunder Roots wasn't enough to have much impact on his now powerful body, causing only a slight improvement—an increase at the level of mosquito legs! Of course, if the Divine Thunder Roots matured, with Divine Thunder tempering my body daily by striking myself from the inside out, the tempering speed would undoubtedly be very fast!

Moreover, due to the number of Divine Thunder Roots increasing to eight, the amount of Qi Blood Lin Xuankong needed to nurture them daily had risen to over thirty points of Second Layer late-stage Qi Blood. This terrifying consumption was equivalent to seventy or eighty points of Transcendent Qi Blood. If it were any other Martial Cultivator, they wouldn't be able to bear it at all; they might only be able to nurture one or two each day! Only someone like Lin Xuankong, a "super Blood Ox," could effortlessly nurture eight at once! This also made him marvel at his astonishing cultivation speed and the level of consumption that ordinary Martial Cultivators couldn't possibly endure.

Of course, most importantly, in just four days, he had cultivated eight Divine Thunder Roots! Such a terrifying cultivation speed! If those disciples who lamented Lin Changkong's impulsiveness and believed he shouldn't have offended the Transmission Steward knew, they would be shocked to the point of losing control of their Divine Thunder. Not just them; even the charming Chief Steward who loved drinking tea would probably be so shocked that she would spill her tea all over herself! Even the Four-Seal Genius Gu Beicheng took twenty-six months—a full seven or eight hundred days—to cultivate the eighth Divine Thunder Root! Lin Xuankong mused, A one-in-ten-thousand genius like Gu Beicheng needed 800 days, while I only needed 4... My diligent cultivation truly hasn't been in vain!

[Yin Talisman Technique: Uninitiated 8/20]

Looking at the progress of the Yin Talisman Technique on his Life Plate and thinking of how Xu Bei had once publicly humiliated him, saying that without his guidance, Lin Xuankong would probably take ten years, or even his whole life, to achieve Thunder Surrounding Body, Lin Xuankong found it utterly laughable. Ten years? I only need ten days to get an Initial Glimpse!

However, what puzzled him was that the cultivation before the Entry Level of the Yin Talisman Technique involved gestating and nurturing Divine Thunder Roots. Yet, he had already gestated eight

Divine Thunder Roots, with less than half of the pre-Entry Level progress completed. Is it possible that during the next phase of cultivation, I could gestate even more Divine Thunder Roots? That would make my future Yin Talisman Thunder Power immensely unparalleled, far surpassing others in the same tier! However, if my affinity talent is indeed only Four Seals, I probably won't have the chance to gestate a ninth or tenth Divine Thunder Root. The next phase of cultivation will likely only involve nurturing and strengthening the existing Divine Thunder Roots!

After some contemplation, anticipation flickered in Lin Xuankong's eyes. Will I have the chance to gestate a few more Divine Thunder Roots? The answer will be revealed tomorrow when I visualize the Visualization Jade... Hopefully, visualizing the Visualization Jade tomorrow will allow me to gestate two more Divine Thunder Roots!

Moments later, Lin Xuankong suppressed his restlessness and anticipation. His body moved, and he began circulating the Pine Skill Heart Method, assuming the Cangsong Posture. Two days ago, his Transcendence Realm had already advanced to Second Layer Perfection; he was only one step away from advancing to the Third Layer!

Time quietly passed. After more than half an hour, while cultivating, Lin Xuankong suddenly felt his Qi Blood rapidly decrease, then quickly surge, circulating rapidly through every part of his torso. Every bone, muscle, and inch of skin within his torso, deeply nourished by the Qi Blood, began trembling rapidly, as if the blood, flesh, and bones of his torso were cheering. After a while, when the urgent trembling stopped, Lin Xuankong's eyes lit up. He tore open his clothes and looked at his body.

His torso, which had previously been frail and shriveled with loose skin like dehydrated chicken skin, had already shown significant improvement from his earlier cultivation. While the skin still looked as unsightly as peeled chicken claws and was covered in age spots, at least the muscles had bulked up considerably! At this moment, however, looking down, he was amazed to find that his frail old torso had undergone a radical transformation during the Metamorphosis just now. Thick layers of fragmented dead skin had formed all over his torso. With a gentle touch, all the dead skin fragments sloughed off, revealing smooth and lustrous skin underneath, free of any spots, comparable to that of a vigorous man in his thirties. Furthermore, the muscles that had bulged from long-term cultivation of the Pine Skill were now even more swollen, completely full and rounded. With a slight exertion, those full muscles immediately tensed, becoming as hard as if cast from Profound Gold. Veins like Earth Dragons coiled and knotted over those extremely swollen muscles, looking filled with terrifying explosive power!

Martial Dao cultivation and the Pine Skill are indeed mysterious! Even an old man's torso like mine, upon advancing to the Third Layer, can have muscles as if cast from Profound Gold, filled with a violent beauty! The physique now boasts a tiger's powerful back, a bear's sturdy waist, and an ape-like chest,

with fluid, sculptural lines—utterly flawless! This kind of Metamorphosis... how much strength has it added? he wondered.

Lin Xuankong bent down and picked up the Wandering Dragon Exorcism Hand from the ground. Casually weighing it with one hand, he was surprised to find that the three-hundred-pound Wandering Dragon Exorcism Hand, which used to feel just right when worn, now felt as light as a feather. After some thought, he pinched the three-hundred-pound Wandering Dragon Exorcism Hand between his pinky and ring finger and swung it slightly. Only then did he feel a slight heaviness, a bit of pressure on his pinky and ring finger!

Lin Xuankong's face lit up with joy. As expected! After advancing from the Second Layer to the early Third Layer and undergoing this Metamorphosis, my strength has increased several times! Now, if I encountered that Bearded Guest from before, I wouldn't need to hit his head nearly three hundred times. Twenty hits would probably be enough to smash his entire body into the rocky ground and kill him on the spot! The body-transforming effect of Martial Dao cultivation is indeed extremely profound. The further one progresses, the greater the increase in physical strength!

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong focused his Heart Spirit on the Life Plate in his Brain Mansion. How much has my lifespan increased now that the Pine Crane Longevity Technique has reached the Entering the Hall Realm? And, after the Pine Crane Longevity Technique reached Entering the Hall, what will the required proficiency be? Will I have a chance to reach the late Third Layer of the Transcendence Realm within two months by relying on the Pine Skill?

Chapter 65: Where Exactly Are My Limits

Lin Xuankong: Remaining Lifespan of 40 years and 50 days

Life Plate: [Vigorous in Old Age]

First Talent of Life Plate: [Old and Wise] Age 59, Cultivation Speed increased by fifty times

Realm: Transcendence, Third Layer Early Stage

Perfect Qi Blood: 1,649/100,000

Cultivation Technique: [Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Entering the Hall 1/15,000]

The next moment, accompanied by the purple-golden glow of [Vigorous in Old Age], [Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Entering the Hall 1/300].

A look of joy appeared on Lin Xuankong's face. With the Pine Crane Longevity Technique advancing to the Entering the Hall Realm, his Lifespan had directly increased by a whole fifteen years. Fifteen years... how many fifteen years does an ordinary person's life have?

Most of the citizens of the Great Marsh Prefecture could only live to about fifty years old, passing away early due to overwork. Their whole life amounted to just three or four of these fifteen-year spans! Yet, he had increased his Lifespan by a full fifteen years in just a month of Cultivation!

Moreover, his Second Layer Late Stage Qi Blood had condensed once again, becoming Perfection Level Qi Blood. His Realm had also ascended to the Third Layer of Transcendence, the same Realm as the Stewards of the Yin Talisman Sect. People like Xu Bei, the red-faced Steward Hu Shuo, and Elder Ma Jiang were all at the Third Layer, though some were in the Early Stage, some Mid-grade, and some Late Stage. Most importantly, he had taken a significant step towards his goal of reaching the Late Stage of the Third Layer before the Demon Slaying Conference!

"Ah, you've already reached the Early Stage of the Third Layer? It seems to be just as I predicted, not bad!" Lii Xiaolan's voice came from behind.

Lin Xuankong turned around joyfully and saw Lii Xiaolan, elegant in her green robe, her beauty like a flower with a moon-like face, standing charmingly.

For some reason, her white fingers were rubbing together oddly, and her pretty embroidered shoes on the ground seemed to be tapping slightly as if her small toes were scratching something.

Lin Xuankong sighed, "The Pine Crane Longevity Technique taught by the Young Lady is truly magical. I don't know how to thank you!"

Seeing Lin Xuankong turn around, Lii Xiaolan, who had been blinking her large eyes, suddenly froze and quickly turned her pretty face away. "You rascal, how did you tear your clothes to shreds?"

Lin Xuankong looked down at his exposed strong muscles, feeling a bit embarrassed. He clumsily tugged at his tattered clothes. "I've finally reached the Third Layer. In my excitement, I accidentally tore my Daoist Robe!"

Lii Xiaolan turned her face aside, frowning. "This time you tore one set. Are you going to tear down the house next time you get excited?"

She complained, but she was too shy to look at Lin Xuankong. Beside them, the long willow branches of the Old Willow Tree swayed gently. It was the turn of spring and summer, and the early summer breeze brought a slight warmth that was quite intoxicating.

Lii Xiaolan suddenly waved her hands repeatedly. "Hurry and wash up, then change out of those torn clothes, or people will think I've been mistreating you!"

When Lin Xuankong entered the wooden building, Lii Xiaolan listened to the sound of water coming from inside and couldn't help but raise her eyebrows slightly.

This old husband of hers! Though she was praised by the Young Mistress as the first genius of the Great Marsh Prefecture, her Cultivation Speed couldn't compare to his. Although it was partly because she didn't treat the Pine Skill as her main Cultivation Technique... He had reached the Third Layer in just two or three months, which was just too, too, too, too, too, too, too excessive! He's really an unadulterated old monstrous Talent! At this rate, in some time, he might really catch up to her Cultivation. By then, what would her position in the household be... Fortunately, her Talent was unique. Even if he caught up to her in Cultivation, he might not necessarily be able to beat her, so he'd still have to obediently buy her pastries and cook for her, hmph! But then again, he was, after all, her husband, the person closest to her in this world besides the Young Mistress... Lii Xiaolan's clear eyes suddenly became a bit dazed. After some contemplation, her figure flickered and disappeared on the spot!

Moments later, Lin Xuankong finished washing, changed into a fresh Daoist Robe, and went to the backyard, only to find it empty. He was a bit surprised.

At that moment, a shadow flickered beside him, and it was Lii Xiaolan holding a pair of boots.

Lin Xuankong looked at the new boots Lii Xiaolan was holding, somewhat surprised. "My clothes were torn. Why did you bring boots, Young Lady?"

Lii Xiaolan glanced at him.

"The Cultivation of a Third-Layer Martial Cultivator mainly involves deep tempering of internal organs and legs, enhancing Explosive Power and Qi Blood Amount, and improving lightness skills!

Now that you've advanced to the Third Layer, your Explosive Power has greatly increased. Ordinary boots will break with a single step, so how could you wear them? Would you change shoes every day?

The pair of boots I just brought are not ordinary. They are made from the Python Skin of a Tier Two Marsh Python Demon and are incredibly durable! Most importantly, these Marsh Python Boots help Third-Layer Cultivators guide Qi Blood. This speeds up the tempering of their legs and enhances the rate at which their Explosive Power and Qi Blood Amount increase. They are essential Treasure Boots for Third-Layer Cultivators!"

She frowned. "The materials you brought back last time, apart from the Essence Blood Pearl and Forehead Scale, were sold for just five thousand taels. These boots cost fifteen hundred taels, enough to buy hundreds of thousands of leek-stuffed pastries!"

Lin Xuankong frowned. "So expensive! Didn't you say we shouldn't spend lavishly for the Battle Armor Refining costs recently?"

Lii Xiaolan handed the boots to him. "We can figure out the Refining costs slowly! Besides, buying items to help you improve your Cultivation Speed can't be considered lavish spending!"

Spending it on me isn't considered lavish? Lin Xuankong felt a warmth in his heart. "Thank you, my dear!"

Calling me 'my dear' already, and he hasn't even treated me to a single dish? Hmph! Lii Xiaolan originally wanted to retort, but seeing his sincere face, she couldn't get the words out. She stomped her embroidered shoe and turned around, running away.

Lin Xuankong gazed at the Python Skin Boots in his hands, feeling touched.

At this moment, the breeze gently swayed the Old Willow Tree beside them. The long willow branches moved lightly, and the tree trunk, riddled with holes, made strange whimpering sounds in the wind...

「....」

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

Inside the Great Marsh Hall, in a spacious, square Cultivation Room, over two hundred disciples were sitting upright on their meditation mats, listening to Transmission Steward Xu Bei explain for about half an Hour. Then, they began to silently visualize the first piece of Visualization Jade.

Xu Bei sat leisurely beside them. He felt quite pleased as he stroked the several exquisite Silver Tokens on the belt of his blue Daoist Robe—the Steward Silver Token, Merit Transmission Silver Token, Merit Silver Token, and others. Each Silver Token symbolized his honor, representing his strength and contributions. Stroking these Silver Tokens, his eyes carried a hint of coldness and contempt as he looked at Lin Xuankong.

Lin Xuankong, sitting on a meditation mat among the leading disciples, ignored Xu Bei's gaze. After adjusting his breath, he calmed his mind and looked at the first Visualization Jade.

After three cups of tea's time, Lin Xuankong withdrew his Heart Spirit from the visualization and sensed the new eleventh and twelfth Divine Thunder Roots in his body. He raised his eyebrows slightly, showing surprise and joy.

In fact, during his Cultivation yesterday, he had already nurtured the ninth and tenth Divine Thunder Roots within his body.

Ten Divine Thunder Roots meant that once his Yin Talisman Technique reached the Initial Glimpse Realm, he could have ten thunders around him, becoming the most talented Cultivator in the Yin Talisman Sect in decades, second only to Jiang Yuran! However, after visualizing today, he had nurtured two more Divine Thunder Roots within his body!

This meant his compatibility with the Yin Talisman Technique was even stronger than Jiang Yuran's. In the future, if he reached the Same Tier as Jiang Yuran, his Yin Talisman Thunder's power would also surpass Jiang Yuran's by a considerable margin! Even though Lin Xuankong had expected this, sensing those Divine Thunder Roots within him still made him excited and incredibly joyful!

Now, with twelve Divine Thunder Roots, if he visualized the Jade again tomorrow, would he have a chance to further increase the number of Divine Thunder Roots? What is my limit? Thirteen? Fourteen? Fifteen? Or more?

Chapter 66: Peerless Talent, Surpassing the God of Thunder

If it were fourteen, that would already be Seven-Seal Talent! If there were even more, wouldn't my Yin Talisman Technique talent catch up to the five powerful ancestor masters recorded in the Yin Talisman Sect's annals, or even approach the founding ancestor who alone could contend with the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect?

Thinking of this, Lin Xuankong's heart was filled with eager anticipation. He wished time would fly by, bringing tomorrow or the day after sooner, so he could quickly find out where his limits truly lay!

Of course, many days of Yin Talisman Technique cultivation had not only increased his Divine Thunder Roots.

[Yin Talisman Technique: Not Entry Level 11/20]

With the emergence of the twelfth Divine Thunder Root, the progress of the Yin Talisman Technique had also improved slightly.

Suppressing the immense joy in his heart, Lin Xuankong stood up and walked out with a calm expression.

Around him, the disciples who had stopped their cultivation immediately stood up and respectfully saluted him.

After Lin Xuankong had walked some distance from the Cultivation Room, he heard murmuring from within. Although these voices were faint due to the distance, his hearing, already at the third level, was incredibly sharp, allowing him to hear everything clearly.

One disciple's voice was filled with envy, "Senior Brother Lou Yi, have you really cultivated the third Divine Thunder Root? It's only been just over three years!"

"Senior Brother Lou Yi is so powerful! In another year or two, you will surely have Four Thunders Surrounding Body and directly advance to the first level of Transcendence!"

Lou Yi's voice replied, "Among our martial brothers, there are seven or eight with Two-Seal Talent. My being a step ahead is just a fluke! As long as everyone trains diligently, I'm sure you can all elevate your cultivation soon!"

Someone sighed, "Ah, it's not that easy. I've been in the sect for over two years and have only just cultivated my first Divine Thunder Root!"

All the disciples sighed in response.

At this moment, someone said quietly, "That Steward Lin has Four-Seal Talent. How many months do you think it will take him to cultivate his first Divine Thunder Root?"

Another sighed, "Our sect's Yin Talisman Technique is so exquisite, and the jade patterns are so complicated to visualize. Without guidance, it's too difficult for Steward Lin to cultivate a Divine Thunder Root!"

Xu Bei's voice suddenly interjected, "You lot, when comparing cultivation speed, why don't you dare compare yourselves with Steward Gu Beicheng? Why only pick on Steward Lin? He's fifty-nine, practically with one foot in the grave. At his age, it would be normal if he couldn't achieve Thunder Surrounding Body even in ten years. You are all in your prime youth; how can you compare yourselves to an old man on the verge of death? You should all spend less time gossiping and more time mastering the Heart Method, practicing your sword techniques, and nurturing your Divine Thunder Roots!"

When Xu Bei spoke, the disciples immediately quieted down. Xu Bei then walked to the doorway of the Cultivation Room. He gazed at the distant, receding figure of Lin Xuankong, then touched the Silver Tokens at his waist, a cold smile appearing on his face.

So what if he's the Chief Silver Jade Steward? It's still inferior to my Steward position. He only got that Jade Belt Silver Token through sheer luck! I, Xu Bei, entered the Yin Talisman Sect in my childhood and achieved these honors solely through my own struggle; this is true glory! As for cultivating the Divine Thunder Root within the body? The Demon Slaying Conference is less than two months away... he probably won't have the chance to cultivate a Divine Thunder Root in his lifetime! In this Demon Slaying Conference, if I join hands with Zhao Yufei, how could we not reap some rewards? As for him, who knows which unlucky demon will end up eating his old, tough flesh! Still, we are fellow sect members. If he faces a crisis and this old codger kneels and begs me and Steward Zhao, we might let him kneel and watch how we slay demons!

「A few days passed in the blink of an eye.」

That morning, Lin Xuankong completed his Pine Skill cultivation early.

[Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Entering the Hall 27/300]

As Lin Xuankong had predicted, since advancing to the third level and his Pine Crane Longevity Technique reaching the Entering the Hall Realm, his diligent cultivation had maintained a steady progress of four points per day for the Pine Skill. If this progress continued, he had a good chance of reaching the Late Stage of the third level in just over forty days!

Of course, this wasn't just due to his diligence; his wife had played a key role!

During these past few days, there was one day when he needed to wash his Marsh Python Skin Boots, so Lin Xuankong didn't wear them during cultivation. He was shocked to find that his cultivation progress for that day was only three points. After realizing this, in the following days, he decisively wore the Marsh Python Skin Boots every time he cultivated.

Indeed, these Treasure Boots made a critical difference to his third-level cultivation! If making these boots didn't just require the skin of a Tier Two Marsh Python Demon, who knows how much these Treasure Boots, capable of affecting cultivation speed, would sell for!

Lin Xuankong felt especially grateful. If not for his wife, this 'wife-teacher' of his, he would have taken so many detours!

Filled with gratitude, Lin Xuankong decided he would definitely order eight extra dishes for dinner tonight... On second thought, just one extra. Best not to let his wife think he was being wasteful!

After finishing his Pine Skill cultivation, he went to the residence, arranged affairs, then headed straight to the main hall.

Entering the main hall, Lin Xuankong observed the bustling Yin Talisman Sect Members coming and going. He then sensed the Divine Thunder Roots within his Dantian, and his heart suddenly surged with excitement.

At that moment, there were a full twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots swirling and coiling within his Dantian. Twenty-two of them were already as thick as one-fifth of a pinky finger; only the Divine Thunder Root newly conceived yesterday was slightly more slender!

Twenty-four! That's twenty-four! A full twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots! Throughout the entire Yin Talisman Sect, with its thousands of members, from the Sect Leader down to the disciples, no one possessed the talent to nurture twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots in their Dantian! Not just in the current Yin Talisman Sect, but even looking back a thousand years, among the countless Great Powers and prodigies during the sect's most prosperous times, including the five Eight-Seal Ancestor Masters who once suppressed billions, none had ever nurtured twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots! And Ancestor Jiang, the founder of the Yin Talisman Sect, who was said to have single-handedly contended with numerous powerful figures of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect a thousand years ago using the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique—he allegedly possessed Nine-Seal Talent and nurtured eighteen Divine Thunder Roots, but even that was still far from twenty-four! This meant that as long as Lin Xuankong nurtured and strengthened the last two Divine Thunder Roots, upon entering the Divine Thunder Control Realm, his Yin Talisman Thunder Power would far surpass that of any Yin Talisman Sect member of the same tier, and be vastly stronger than even the founding ancestor's Divine Thunder!

In Lin Xuankong's memory, it seemed only the Thunder God in the Heaven-Interpreting Stone illusion had twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots, as thick as mountains, wrapped around him. In the illusion, those twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots, driven by the Thunder God, transformed into millions of lightning bolts, crushing innumerable world-devouring demons to dust!

Of course, I'm soberly aware that I'm worlds apart from that Thunder God, perhaps separated by the distance of three thousand Great Thousand Worlds. In the illusion, even a casual glance from the Thunder God nearly shattered my soul! But since both the Thunder God and I possess twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots, doesn't this imply that if I continue to cultivate, I might one day also be able to unleash millions of lightning bolts to destroy worlds and slaughter colossal demons as easily as crushing

ants? Most importantly, I possess a compatibility with the Yin Talisman Technique comparable to the Thunder God, complemented by my [Vigorous in Old Age] Life Plate. Perhaps even the Thunder God's cultivation speed for the Yin Talisman Technique wouldn't match mine... Am I getting a bit carried away?

After this stirring reverie, Lin Xuankong strode quickly towards the Cultivation Room. According to the information imprinted in his mind from the Transmission Jade Butterfly, his Divine Thunder Roots were now sufficient, and he could immediately begin cultivating the Divine Thunder Control Technique of the Yin Talisman Technique!

If I recall correctly, the limping Steward Han Lu has Five Thunders Surrounding Body. When he activated his Divine Thunder, it was already incredibly fierce, allowing him to completely dominate the same-tier Marsh Python Demon People leader in battle! Once I finish nurturing my Divine Thunder Roots today and master the Divine Thunder Control Technique, with twenty-four Divine Thunders surrounding my body, what kind of spectacle will that be? What incredible divine might will I possess!

Chapter 67: The Ultimate Thunder Technique: Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Decision

In the hall, Lin Xuankong was walking towards the Cultivation Room, his heart pounding with excitement. Three people approached him; one was Steward Hu Shuo, a ruddy-faced man and one of the chosen participants for this Demon Slaying Conference.

Another was the Daoist Nun Nalan Yunzhu, who had distinguished herself in the battle against the Demon People Race.

Nalan Yunzhu was a comely woman of about twenty-eight or twenty-nine, and she was relatively quiet. Standing beside her was a burly man in his thirties with thick eyebrows, large eyes, and a wide mouth. His name was Lin Jiao, also a Steward with Second-Layer Late Stage Cultivation, and he too was a participant in the Demon Slaying Conference.

Upon seeing Lin Xuankong, the expressions of all three changed slightly. They cupped their hands in greeting, and Steward Hu Shuo spoke first, "Steward Lin, I've been meaning to find you these past few days, but unfortunately, I've been too busy. I finally ran into you today!"

Seeing his solemn expression, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but speculate. "Steward Hu is looking for me? Is it about the Demon Slaying Conference?"

Hu Shuo nodded, his expression somber. "Yes! The Grand Array in Demon-Suppressing Valley harbors countless Demons, and dangers abound. We, as fellow sect members, must work together and strategize carefully to have even the slightest chance of survival!"

Lin Xuankong said, "I heard that Steward Hu has already reached the Mid-grade of the Third Layer and possesses the Four Thunders Surrounding Body Talent. With such strength, you are already top-tier among the many Martial Cultivators participating in the Demon Slaying Conference. Are you still worried about unexpected dangers in the Demon-Suppressing Valley?"

Before Hu Shuo could respond, Lin Jiao, standing beside him, grinned broadly and said loudly, "If we're just talking about my master, Steward Hu, he would have at least a fifty percent chance of surviving the Conference! But Steward Lin, Yun Zhu, and I, we are all at Second-Layer Cultivation! Don't blame me for being blunt. With our Second-Layer Cultivation, we might be considered capable individuals out in the world, but against Demons, our chances of survival are incredibly slim!"

Lin Xuankong fell silent upon hearing this.

Hu Shuo then spoke up. "In the Demon-Suppressing Valley, we need to guard against more than just Demons! In recent decades, our Yin Talisman Sect's members have always gone to the Demon Slaying Conference well-prepared and in high spirits. Yet, the result has always been complete annihilation, with no survivors. If it were only about dealing with Demons, it wouldn't have come to this!"

"However, in this session, we have Steward Zhao Yufei, who is in the Late Stage of the Third Layer and possesses a complete set of Exorcism Armor and a Dragon Blood Treasure Dog. Plus, Steward Xu Bei has a fine weapon. If we could coordinate with them, the six of us working together would greatly improve our chances of survival!"

Lin Jiao suddenly showed a look of indignation. "Master, why do you still bring up those two? Yesterday, when you took me to Zhao Yufei and Xu Bei to discuss the Demon Slaying Conference, HMPH, that Zhao Yufei completely ignored you! Xu Bei did speak. He said we should just follow his arrangements, claiming that as long as we obeyed, he would ensure your survival! Those two are truly arrogant... If they only looked down on me, Lin Jiao, that would be one thing. But to speak to you like that, Master, I swear, even if I die in the Demon-Suppressing Valley, I will not associate with them!"

Steward Hu Shuo, who had originally worn a solemn expression, couldn't help but frown, a hint of embarrassment on his face. Clearly, Lin Jiao was telling the truth!

Nalan Yunzhu gently tugged on Lin Jiao's sleeve and whispered, "Husband, why bother getting so angry? Those two have always been arrogant. Just bear with it."

Lin Jiao glared. "Bear with it? Hmph! I've cultivated to my current level using the medicinal resources of our Yin Talisman Sect. I respect the Hall Master and Chief Steward, and I'm willing to lay down my life for them! What business is it of those two? Even if I die in the Demon-Suppressing Valley this time, I won't team up with them!"

He paused and looked at Nalan Yunzhu. "Don't worry. Before I die, I will protect you and won't let any Demon harm a single hair on your head!"

Hearing this, Nalan Yunzhu's gaze softened. She moved closer to the burly man, but a trace of melancholy touched her face.

Hu Shuo's expression turned stern. "We haven't even entered the valley, and you're already talking about life and death! Lin Jiao, shut up."

Lin Jiao glared but didn't dare say anything. He clearly held considerable respect for his master, Hu Shuo, and would never dare to talk back.

Lin Xuankong, watching from the side, felt somewhat speechless.

These three are just complaining and displaying affection here, but they haven't proposed any constructive suggestions! Do they expect me to negotiate with Zhao Yufei and Xu Bei? Forget it. Xu Bei clearly has a vendetta against me, acting as if I stole his wife... I wonder if he even has a wife!

Lin Xuankong shook his head. "Given the situation... Steward Hu, do you have any ideas?"

After a moment of contemplation, Hu Shuo said, "If the four of us could join Steward Zhao and the others, it would naturally benefit the three of you. But if we act separately... Although there are many Demons in the Demon-Suppressing Valley, it's not entirely hopeless! I recently received news that the officials' auction house will soon be selling a dozen or so Demon-avoiding Bats. These Spiritual Beasts are highly sensitive to danger and can sense Demons and Martial Cultivators from a considerable

distance, allowing us to avoid powerful opponents. However, as they are rare Spirit Bats and extremely difficult to cultivate, the auction price will undoubtedly be very high. My plan is for the four of us to pool some silver taels and jointly purchase a few. At the very least, with these Demon-avoiding Bats to help us evade strong teams and powerful Demons, your chances of survival in the Demon-Suppressing Valley could increase to twenty or thirty percent!"

Lin Xuankong was somewhat surprised. There are such Exotic Beasts? If I prepare thoroughly and can kill Tier Three Demons... couldn't I use these Demon-avoiding Bats to specifically hunt Tier Three Demons?

Chapter 68: The Ultimate Thunder Technique: Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Decision_2

"Good, then it's settled. If you need any silver taels, just come to me!"

After finishing their discussion, Lin Xuankong walked towards the Cultivation Room, only to see Hu Shuo and the other two heading there as well.

Lin Xuankong asked, "Aren't your Yin Talisman Techniques at the Integration level? Why do you still need to go to the Cultivation Room?"

Steward Hu Shuo replied, "Visualization Jades always offer new insights. Contemplating them every few months brings new revelations. After all, they contain Divine Thunder imprints left by the founding patriarch!"

The heavy door of the Cultivation Room was already closed. The new disciples who were cultivating there had already left, leaving only a few Yin Talisman Disciples guarding the side of the heavy door.

Seeing the Silver Jade Steward and the other stewards approaching, the eight disciples immediately bowed and stepped aside. One of them opened the massive door, allowing Lin Xuankong and the others to enter the rather spacious Cultivation Room.

Once inside, Lin Xuankong headed straight to the second Visualization Jade. His Divine Thunder Root had already reached twenty-four pieces, and the first Visualization Jade would no longer yield any more insights. Today, he planned to contemplate the second Visualization Jade.

At this moment, the towering figure of Hu Shuo, with his solemn red face, stood before the four Visualization Jades and said with a hint of emotion, "According to sect records, hundreds of years ago,

during the prosperity of our Yin Talisman Sect, there were many unparalleled geniuses with talents of Five Seals or more. And those unparalleled geniuses, including the five Eight-Seal Ancestor Masters who once dominated millions, all could contemplate the third Visualization Jade, thus cultivating the mystical Aurora Heaven-Brightening Technique! But now, throughout the entire sect, only Chief Steward Jiang can contemplate the third Visualization Jade and cultivate the Aurora Heaven-Brightening Technique! All other disciples can only contemplate the second Visualization Jade, and can only cultivate and use the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique!"

While he spoke, Nalan Yunzhu and Lin Jiao were already sitting cross-legged by the second Visualization Jade, silently contemplating.

This second Visualization Jade is used to cultivate the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique. The so-called Divine Thunder Illusion Technique is actually what the Yin Talisman Sect members refer to as the Four Thunders Surrounding Body, Five Thunders Surrounding Body, and Nine Thunders Surrounding Body!

The Divine Thunder Illusion Technique can stimulate the Thunder Root within the body to generate lightning, which follows the body and weapons to attack opponents. This technique increases in power as the cultivator's Transcendence Realm and the nurturing level of their Divine Thunder Root improve. The higher the Transcendence Realm, the thicker and stronger the generated lightning. For example, someone like Han Lu, who is at the early stage of the Second Layer, has nurtured his Divine Thunder Root for years. The Divine Thunder he generates is already as thick as a little finger. Once it strikes an enemy, the rampaging lightning is terrifying. Martial Cultivators below the early stage of the Second Layer are unable to contend and would be severely injured in an instant! Even mid-stage or late-stage Second Layer Martial Cultivators would suffer rapid losses in Qi Blood after being struck, at a rate more than ten times faster than the Martial Cultivator using the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique! If cultivated to a higher Realm, the power of the lightning becomes even more ferocious... This kind of profound Martial Dao that can control lightning is truly like an Immortal Technique!

Lin Xuankong came to the Cultivation Room this time intending to learn the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique. However, upon hearing Steward Hu Shuo's words, he couldn't help but look at the other two Visualization Jades.

According to the Cultivation Technique records, the third Visualization Jade allows contemplation and cultivation of the Aurora Heaven-Brightening Technique! The fourth Visualization Jade allows contemplation and cultivation of the Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill! These two Divine Thunder Control Martial Skills should be fiercer than the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique!

Lin Xuankong thought for a moment and said, "Indeed, Steward Hu is absolutely right! However, both the Aurora Heaven-Brightening Technique and the Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill are extremely difficult to cultivate, requiring a high level of talent. Fortunately, their power is also considerably greater than that of the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique!"

Hearing this, the red-faced Steward Hu couldn't help but look at Lin Xuankong with a hint of surprise. Even Nalan Yunzhu, who was silently contemplating, stopped her cultivation and frowned at Lin Xuankong.

Seeing their expressions, Lin Xuankong was puzzled. I was just agreeing with Steward Hu, praising those two Thunder Techniques. What did I say wrong?

While Lin Xuankong was confused, Lin Jiao couldn't help but widen his eyes and spoke up, "Silver Jade Steward, what you said is very wrong, extremely wrong, especially wrong! It's not just 'considerably greater'!

"The Aurora Heaven-Brightening Technique grants an overwhelming advantage during combat. It is the strongest auxiliary Thunder Technique! When Chief Steward Jiang first entered the early stage of the Fifth Layer, she was not strong enough to easily suppress Demons. If she hadn't used the Aurora Heaven-Brightening Technique, how could she have seriously injured a Late Tier Four Demon?

"As for the unparalleled Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill, it is known as the undefeated attack technique!

"Though it consumes a lot of Qi Blood, once activated, its power surpasses even that of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect's three great, world-dominating Divine Techniques by a notch!

"But... because the Yin Talisman Technique requires extremely high talent, only the founding patriarch has ever been able to cultivate the Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill! That is why our Yin Talisman Sect has gradually declined over the generations!

"To say such supreme Thunder Techniques are merely 'considerably greater' than the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique is very wrong, especially wrong!"

Hearing this, Lin Xuankong's face showed surprise. The Yin Talisman Sect was confined within the Great Marsh Prefecture, barely maintaining its foundation with the aid of the sect's Grand Array in Four-direction City, and even the Black Tiger Gang could suppress it... Who knew the ancestors once had such formidable legacies? They possessed powerful Thunder Techniques comparable to the Divine Techniques of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, the number one Celestial Sect in the world?

At this moment, Nalan Yunzhu nodded slightly. Having remained silent throughout, she evidently couldn't hold back any longer and said, "According to the sect's records of the terrifying power of the Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill, if the talent requirement were slightly lower... our Yin Talisman Sect would have long stood side by side with the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, dominating countless other sects. These two Thunder Techniques, compared to the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique, are like the difference between clouds and mud! It's truly a pity that no one can cultivate them..."

Listening to Lin Jiao's loud, rapid-fire speech, Lin Xuankong's ears were already buzzing... Now, hearing Nalan Yunzhu say the same, his heart suddenly throbbed with excitement.

Such powerful Thunder Techniques, right before my eyes...

Nearby, Steward Hu pointed to a round imprint on the Fourth Jade and said, "Steward Lin, don't blame Lin Jiao for his blunt words. He may sound harsh, but he speaks the truth!

"The imprint of the Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill on this Fourth Jade was left by the founding patriarch, Ancestor Jiang.

"In the thousand years since, our Yin Talisman Sect has had only him, with his Nine-Seal Talent, who could cultivate the Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill and leave the Divine Skill's Celestial Thunder imprint on this Fourth Jade!

"It's lamentable that in the millennia that followed, among the thousands, even tens of thousands of disciples per generation—totaling perhaps hundreds of thousands, if not millions—no one else has ever managed to cultivate the Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill!

"If the heavens are merciful and a disciple of the Yin Talisman Sect can one day master the Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill again, Sect Leader Jiang herself would probably worship that

disciple! At that time, our Yin Talisman Sect would begin its glorious rise, stepping into the ranks of the major peak sects!"

Speaking of this, a glimmer of anticipation appeared in the eyes of Hu Shuo and the other two.

Hu Shuo, a dignified mid-grade Third Layer Steward, walked up to the Fourth Jade. With incomparable respect and admiration on his face, he gazed at the round imprint on the jade stone... Moments later, this Steward, who clearly had deep affection for the Yin Talisman Sect, knelt with utmost reverence before the Celestial Thunder imprint left by the founding patriarch!

Lin Jiao grinned broadly and lamented, "It's a pity. A Nine-Seal Talent as world-defying as the founding patriarch's might not appear again even in ten thousand years..."

Kneeling before the Fourth Jade, Steward Hu's expression turned stern. He turned and glared fiercely at Lin Jiao. Lin Jiao faltered, scratched his head, and dared not speak further.

The three were engrossed in their emotions and failed to notice the intense anticipation gleaming in Lin Xuankong's eyes—an anticipation far more fervent than what they had just shown!

Divine Thunder Illusion Technique!

Aurora Heaven-Brightening Technique!

Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill!

Today, I will learn them all!

That Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill, the one with the highest talent requirement—doesn't it just demand a Nine-Seal Talent and Eighteen Divine Thunder Roots?!

I want to see...

this Thunder Technique, described by Steward Hu and the others as so mystical,

this Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill they spoke of with such admiration,

this Soul-Devouring Heavenly Thunder Divine Skill that Steward Hu knelt and kowtowed to—is it truly that formidable? Is it really unparalleled in the world, invincible in attack?!

Once I master it, there's no need for Steward Hu to kowtow to me! The Charming Chief Steward kowtowing to me once will suffice... Hmm? Don't get carried away. Stay calm. Time to practice!

Chapter 69: The Majestic Might of the Fantom Lightning, Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Reemerges

Hu Shuo, Nalan Yunzhu, and Lin Jiao came to this Cultivation Room for visualization, but it was merely to refresh their memories, so after a brief moment of reflection, they visualized for only a short time before departing.

Lin Xuankong, however, sat cross-legged near the second Jade, beginning his visualization. With his previous experience visualizing the Jade and the powerful effect of his "Vigorous in Old Age" Life Plate, Lin Xuankong's current visualization was countless times smoother than with the first Jade. Moreover, this Thunder Technique Jade was not one for nurturing Divine Thunder Roots, so it consumed less Heart Spirit. In just the time it took to drink a cup of tea, Lin Xuankong had already gained numerous insights from his visualization!

Quickly, he retracted his Heart Spirit, a joyous expression appearing on his face. Through the insights he had just gained, he was now one hundred percent confident that after nurturing and strengthening the twenty-third and twenty-fourth Divine Thunder Roots, he would be able to directly activate the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique!

With the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique in hand, next up would be the Aurora Heaven-Brightening Technique!

Lin Xuankong's eyes glinted with anticipation. He turned his gaze away from the second Jade and moved to sit cross-legged before the third Jade.

Another cup of tea's time passed. Lin Xuankong's eyes sparkled, and his face once again showed a joyful expression. Without hesitation, he moved directly to sit before the fourth Jade.

The few guards in the Cultivation Room, seeing Lin Xuankong moving around, couldn't help but look surprised. Was this Silver Jade Steward trying to find which cushion was the most comfortable? Or perhaps the Silver Jade Steward had recently encountered an issue in his Cultivation and injured his lower body, making sitting uncomfortable? After all, even the genius Steward Gu Beicheng had accidentally charred his own beard and lips with Divine Thunder!

How could these guards have guessed that in merely the time it took to drink three cups of tea, the "Vigorous in Old Age" Lin Xuankong had already comprehended all three Thunder Techniques! Even if Lin Xuankong told them personally, they would likely think this Silver Jade Steward's old mind had gone awry.

When Lin Xuankong walked out of the Cultivation Room, a guard disciple kindly reminded him, "Silver Jade Steward, did you encounter any issues in your Cultivation? The medical hall in the branch is on your left, just two hundred steps away!"

Lin Xuankong was stunned. Issues? Too fast, is that also an issue? Then my problem is truly huge!

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

On this day, Lin Xuankong stood in his backyard, looking at the several lines of text in his Brain Mansion Life Plate:

[Yin Talisman Technique: Initial Glimpse: 17/60]

After these five days of Cultivation, the Divine Thunder Roots within him had grown progressively stronger. Their thickness had increased from that of twenty of Lii Xiaolan's hairs to a quarter of a pinky finger's width. Right now, the Divine Thunder Roots, containing even more formidable Thunder Divine Power, wriggled through his Dantian like miniature Divine Dragons! His Realm in the Yin Talisman Technique had advanced to the Initial Glimpse Realm four days ago.

What made him happiest was that he could already skillfully use the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique!

At this moment, Lin Xuankong's eyes gleamed with anticipation. He secretly began to operate the Yin Talisman Technique Heart Method. Instantly, his twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots in his Dantian all trembled. Immediately, electric light continuously flashed from Lin Xuankong's right arm as twenty-four Divine Thunders suddenly appeared. These Divine Thunders all circled his arm, brilliantly dazzling, as if his entire right arm had turned into lightning! Each Divine Thunder was full of Spirituality and power, each a quarter of a pinky finger thick. Under the guidance of Lin Xuankong's Heart Thought, they sometimes circled together, sometimes chased one another, sometimes twisted together, and sometimes separated.

After controlling the Divine Thunders for a while, Lin Xuankong's eyes focused. He slightly bent his knees and pressed his right hand to the ground.

In an instant, the twenty-four fierce Divine Thunders transformed into hundreds of tiny lightning bolts, rapidly spreading in all directions.

Many objects in the yard—a carrying pole, willow basket, hoe, shovel, wooden stick, and so on—were all covered in fine lightning. They constantly produced "POP POP POP POP" sounds as they quickly exploded, twisted, and deformed.

Among them, items forged of iron, such as shovels, hoes, iron chains, and a large iron rod, swiftly softened and melted into slowly flowing hot liquid under the Divine Thunder Power! In the blink of an eye, every object around had burst into rising flames under the Divine Thunder Power. Only then did he stop, waving his palm to send out a gust of wind that extinguished the flames.

Such a scene, such terrifying power! It was as if the backyard had been turned into a desolate wasteland ravaged by hundreds of Celestial Thunders!

The most mystical part was that Lin Xuankong could not only control those twenty-four Divine Thunders but also the hundreds of dispersed lightning bolts.

At this moment, if any ordinary Early Stage First or Second Layer Martial Cultivators stood within the range of his Illusionary Thunder Technique, even without his deliberate targeting, they would surely die instantly and be turned into charred remains.

Such a Thunder Technique, comparable to Immortal Techniques, had power far surpassing the Spiritual Crane Finger of the Pine Crane Longevity Technique. After all, the core of the Pine Crane Longevity Technique was not combat but the Metamorphosis of the body and extending Lifespan.

At this moment, except for the Old Willow Tree he had deliberately spared, even the ground had turned pitch black. Seeing the backyard turned into a wasteland, Lin Xuankong's heart was filled with joy.

His Divine Thunder Illusion Technique, after just a few days of Cultivation, already possessed power surpassing the genius Gu Beicheng many times over. And he had yet to master the even more terrifying Aurora Shining Heaven and the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique. Once those two Thunder Techniques were brought to bear...

If he encountered that Bearded again now, would he still need the Twin Vine Demon Pearl to control him? Would he still need the Demon Pearl's assistance? Just the rampage of thunder would rapidly deplete the Bearded's Qi Blood, nullifying his powerful defense, and allowing for an easy, instant kill!

「From the second-floor window,」

Lii Xiaolan, nibbling on melon seeds, furrowed her delicate brows helplessly. This guy tore his clothes last time after a major power increase. As expected, after another power increase this time, he demolished the house! I really don't know what he'll do after his next significant power increase; it's truly giving me a headache! Previously, I thought I had some special Talent. Even if his Cultivation caught up to mine, he could never defeat me. But now, seeing how fierce his Divine Thunder is, if he secretly jolted me, it would probably be very uncomfortable... No, I need to eat a few more melon seeds quickly and then go cultivate!

「In the backyard,」

Beside the Old Willow Tree with its slightly trembling branches, Lin Xuankong's initial joy gave way to a slight frown.

The Divine Thunder Illusion Technique is already quite proficient! Unfortunately, if I perform Aurora Shining Heaven here, it would cause too much commotion, making it unsuitable for Cultivation. As the Silver Jade Steward, I should probably find a larger courtyard and build a sealed Cultivation Room for myself and Lan. But my hands are itching right now; I just want to cultivate Aurora Shining Heaven and

Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique immediately so I can quickly master these two Thunder Techniques that far surpass the Illusionary Thunder Technique! Just by using the Divine Thunder Illusion Technique, my Attack Techniques have undergone a Metamorphosis, advancing several great steps! If I could master those two Thunder Techniques entirely...

After a slight contemplation, Lin Xuankong's gaze shifted, looking towards the Mule Street Branch.

According to the Cultivation Technique, years ago, the founder of the Yin Talisman Sect had obtained the technique, the Heaven-Interpreting Stone, and twenty-four Visualization Jades through a fortunate encounter. The four Visualization Jades in the Great Marsh Hall were made of special jade material. Although small in size, they were incredibly sturdy, weighed several hundred tons, and were capable of absorbing endless Thunder Power.

Cultivating in the Cultivation Room would be ideal. That place is empty at night, and the Visualization Jades can absorb Thunder Power, so there's no fear of causing too much noise and disturbing others.

「Moments later,」

After dodging the patrols within the hall, Lin Xuankong opened the door and stood in the extremely spacious and quiet Cultivation Room. Important items such as the Transmission Jade Butterfly had already been collected and removed, leaving only the four Visualization Jades.

Lin Xuankong thought for a moment, then directly stood before the fourth Jade, activating a spark of thunder to illuminate the marks on its surface.

According to the Cultivation Technique and the insights gained from visualization, mastering the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique required forming a highly complex Rune with over eighteen Divine Thunder Roots within the Dantian. Lin Xuankong could naturally control the Divine Thunder Roots very proficiently. The challenging part was forming the Rune; it was exceedingly complicated, with intricate structures more complex than hundreds of threads entwined together.

The degree of complexity and difficulty, for Lin Xuankong who had been a web novel author in his past life, was like having to publish a hundred Chapters in one go!

Nevertheless, Lin Xuankong's eyes still held intense anticipation.

Standing before the Visualization Jade, he tried again and again to form that Rune with his twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots.

The tenth try: failed.

The thousandth try: failed...

First day: failed.

Second day: failed.

On the night of the sixth day, a flash of light suddenly appeared before the fourth Visualization Jade...

「On the seventh day, in the morning,」

Over two hundred new disciples entered the Cultivation Room one after another.

Lou Yi, with his thick black eyebrows, spotted a skinny disciple in the crowd and said, "This Junior Brother is new, right? I haven't seen you before!"

Li Xiaohu adjusted his Daoist Robe and cupped his hands towards Lou Yi, saying, "Senior Brother, I am Li Xiaohu. I am indeed a new disciple. I was fortunate to complete twelve disciple tasks at the Cow and Horse Street outpost, so I am now able to cultivate the Yin Talisman Technique!" After speaking, a hint of a smile appeared on Li Xiaohu's face.

After joining the Yin Talisman Sect some time ago, Uncle Lin had me transferred to the Cow and Horse Street outpost. Although Uncle Lin has been busy and rarely spoken to me during this period, he instructed Second Vice Steward Li to assign me disciple tasks properly. After all, I have a Two-Seal Talent. Even with no foundation in Cultivation, completing twelve disciple tasks allowed me to start cultivating the Yin Talisman Technique directly, without waiting three months.

Lou Yi nodded. "I am Lou Yi. We'll be cultivating together from now on. If you encounter any problems and find it inconvenient to consult Steward Xu, feel free to ask me!"

Seeing this Senior Brother Lou being so kind, Li Xiaohu quickly cupped his hands with a smile. "Thank you, Senior Brother!"

After chatting for a bit, they each stood near a meditation cushion. Li Xiaohu curiously looked around.

Soon, his gaze fell on the four Visualization Jades. After observing them for a moment, he asked softly, "Senior Brother Lou, are these the Visualization Jades you and the other senior brothers mentioned? But why do the other three Jades have so many marks, while the fourth Jade only has two circular marks?"

Lou Yi began to explain, "The marks on these four Jades are different because... huh? What did you say? Two circular marks?"

He turned his head in surprise. His body stiffened, his face changed, and even his thick black eyebrows jumped high.

Lou Yi's voice rose significantly. "This... how has an additional mark of the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique appeared on the Fourth Jade! Could it be that someone in the Sect, like our founder, can now activate the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique?"

At this moment, before Lou Yi's eyes, the Fourth Jade, which originally had only one mark of the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique, now clearly bore an additional circular mark. The intricate patterns within this new circular mark were identical to the one above it!

Lou Yi's considerably louder voice reached the ears of every disciple in the Cultivation Room.

Instantly, the over two hundred disciples who had been chatting softly all stopped their conversations and looked towards Lou Yi and the Fourth Jade. When the disciples saw the second circular mark, their faces also changed, their eyes filled with intense confusion and astonishment.

A few moments later, Xu Bei, clutching the Silver Token at his waist, walked into the Cultivation Room. He frowned at the disciples, who were all staring intently at the Fourth Jade, and shouted in a deep voice, "Today, you lot aren't gossiping for a change. But with those dumbfounded looks... have you seen a ghost?"

"N-no! Steward Xu, look... just look at the Fourth Jade!" a disciple stammered.

Transmission Steward Xu Bei, putting on airs, sneered at the disciple's stuttering manner.

Chapter 70: Demonic Genius Stunned by Yin Talisman, Charming Chief Steward Presents Treasure Elixir

"Look at you all, with your lack of knowledge, it's truly embarrassing me as the Transmission Steward!"

Xu Bei scoffed, then turned his head to look in the direction of the Fourth Jade. But when the two marks on the Fourth Jade came into his view, in an instant, the hand touching the Silver Token on his waist froze. His eyes widened, and he leaped more than ten zhang, landing in front of the Visualization Jade. He examined the two circular marks closely for a long while, muttering in a trembling voice, "How... how could there be an extra mark? Could it be that someone in our Yin Talisman Sect has cultivated the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique?"

"How is that possible! Isn't it said that only the Nine-Seal Talent of the Ancestral Master could cultivate this technique? But... these two marks are identical!"

After murmuring for a few more sentences, his face changed again, and he shouted, his voice sharp with excitement, sounding like Eunuch Cao's, "Guard, quickly go and get Chief Steward Jiang! Tell him that the Fourth Jade has shown a second mark of the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique!"

Several guard disciples at the door heard this and had just turned to leave quickly, but Xu Bei leaped out the door, shouting shrilly, "I'll go find Chief Steward Jiang myself! You notify every Steward and Grand Chief Steward, tell them to come here immediately! Tell them that a huge event is happening in the Sect, a tremendous event!"

At this moment, the ever-proud Xu Bei had no trace of arrogance left on his face, only extreme shock and amazement!

Inside the Cultivation Room, over two hundred new disciples looked at the scene in bewilderment. Li Xiaohu, in the corner, swallowed a bit dejectedly. Could the two round marks he had just mentioned to Senior Brother Lou be something significant?

「A moment later,」

Chief Steward Jiang, dressed in a Moon White Daoist Robe, along with all the Stewards and Grand Chief Stewards of Great Marsh Hall, dropped all their tasks and rushed to the Cultivation Room!

At this moment, everyone stood dumbfounded inside the Cultivation Room, all standing before the Fourth Jade, their expressions constantly shifting!

As for those disciples who were supposed to be cultivating... they were, of course, driven outside to stare wide-eyed along with the several guard disciples!

No wonder these high-ranking figures of the Yin Talisman Sect reacted so strongly. The appearance of a second Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder mark on the Fourth Jade was an earth-shattering event for the entire Yin Talisman Sect! Even if the Sect Leader himself were here, his reaction wouldn't be much different from theirs!

"Exactly the same, indeed exactly the same! If I hadn't seen it myself... Let me take a closer look!"

"Indeed exactly the same! But wasn't the Ancestral Master's Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique only cultivable by those with the Nine-Seal Talent?"

"There's no way the Ancestral Master's teachings are wrong! This mark could only have been made by a disciple with the Nine-Seal Talent!"

"A mark made by a disciple with the Nine-Seal Talent! After a thousand years, has our Yin Talisman Sect finally produced another disciple with the Nine Seals and Eighteen Thunder Roots Talent? Who is he?"

"Our Yin Talisman Sect has a disciple with the Nine-Seal Talent? Heaven has indeed opened its eyes; the Yin Talisman Sect will rise again!"

Dozens of Stewards and Grand Chief Stewards discussed excitedly. These were esteemed individuals, each commanding at least dozens of powerful Martial Cultivators. They had weathered countless storms, and most of them were typically quite composed. However, at this moment, none of them could maintain their composure as they gazed at the Fourth Jade.

The bustling atmosphere in the spacious Cultivation Room was akin to a vegetable market; it was almost chaos.

Some Stewards, who had been with the Yin Talisman Sect since childhood and were deeply attached to it, even knelt before the Fourth Jade, overcome with joy and excitement, their eyes fixed on the second mark made by Lin Xuankong!

Lin Xuankong stood among the crowd, looking slightly conflicted at their reactions. He didn't want to expose his alarming talent so soon...

The Yin Talisman Sect was currently in decline. Within its territories, the sinister Black Tiger Gang and Spirit Snake Gang harbored ill intentions, while powerful Demons lurked outside. Although revealing his remarkable talent could gain him resources from the Sect for cultivation, who could guarantee that these rival factions wouldn't see him as a thorn in their side? Who could ensure they wouldn't secretly try to cause the premature demise of this genius? A tall tree attracts the wind, as they say.

It wasn't that he couldn't reveal his talent; he just wanted to wait a bit, until he was strong enough to protect himself in the Great Marsh Prefecture. With his Cultivation Speed, it wouldn't take long—just two or three months!

However, with everyone's reaction being this intense... Hmm, Steward Hu even knelt. What about the Charming Chief Steward? He turned to look at Jiang Yuran.

Jiang Yuran, dressed in a Moon White Daoist Robe, listened to the discussions of the Stewards around her, her pretty face expressing a whirlwind of emotions. After a wave of excitement, she frowned in thought for a good while before finally speaking,

"There's no need for further doubt! There must be a peerless genius with the Nine Seals and Eighteen Thunder Roots Talent hidden in the Great Marsh Hall of our Yin Talisman Sect. He must have his reasons for not revealing his talent!"

Grand Chief Steward Gao Yunchao said, "That's possible... but every disciple of our Yin Talisman Sect is tested for talent upon entry. The Heaven-Interpreting Stone cannot be wrong!"

Ma Jiang walked to the jade and examined it for a while, then said, "Perhaps this hidden genius didn't continuously infuse his Qi Blood during the test, stopping halfway, so his true, remarkable talent wasn't revealed?"