

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 461: What? The One Who's Overpowered Is Me?

What? The One Who's Overpowered Is Me?

Dongting Lake, the giant island in the lake.

Xu An followed Liu Qianhu. Just as the group from the Dao Court stepped onto the island, a proud-looking, armor-clad, weapon-bearing heroic youth came striding towards them.

This man had a burly physique, long and narrow eyes brimming with icy light. Between the thick locks atop his head grew a pair of dragon horns, and dense white scales were clearly visible around his neck. The moment he laid eyes on Liu Qianhu, his golden dragon pupils made cold sweat break out on Liu Qianhu's forehead.

But Liu Qianhu was not one to back down.

If he had encountered a True Dragon on any other day, yielding a bit wouldn't matter—but today, he came bearing an imperial decree. To show weakness now would be detrimental to his career!

“May I ask your name, fellow Daoist?”

Liu Qianhu bowed solemnly. The heroic youth smiled, baring his teeth: “I am Du Huan, grandson of the Dragon Monarch, descendant of the White Chi.”

Upon hearing this, Liu Qianhu's expression immediately grew serious.

The Dragon Monarch's grandson—a direct lineage of a Golden Core True Dragon. That status alone rivaled the Dao Court's crown prince, perhaps even more noble in a strict sense!

“Dragon King Du Huan, hear the decree!”

Gritting his teeth, Liu Qianhu directly unrolled a scroll of golden paper. In an instant, the previously fierce and imposing Du Huan retracted his ferocity.

He looked up to the heavens.

In that instant, as the imperial edict unfurled, the **【Immortal Nation Dao Law】** enveloping Jiangdong immediately responded—like a pair of icy eyes gazing down upon the land!

In the blink of an eye, the demonic aura across Dongting Lake was wholly dispelled. The previously overwhelming Du Huan suddenly seemed no different from an ordinary man. Meanwhile, Liu Qianhu's face glowed red, and his Dao position surged step by step, pressing Du Huan down instead!

“By mandate of Heaven, the Son of Heaven declares:”

In the next moment, Liu Qianhu spoke slowly:

“This True Dragon, Du Huan, has accumulated great merit. He is hereby appointed Dragon King, guardian of Dongting Lake, charged with public order and governance, ensuring the myriad islands of Dongting Lake enjoy favorable weather and live without want.”

Within Xu An's sea of consciousness, Lü Yang saw everything clearly.

With every word Liu Qianhu uttered, the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 responded, pressing down layer by layer upon the surface of Dongting Lake.

“Thus decreed!”

As these final words fell, the smile on Dragon King Du Huan's face vanished completely. After a moment of silence, he lowered himself and bowed respectfully:

“This humble servant accepts the decree.”

Seeing this, Liu Qianhu immediately revealed a smug expression. Watching Du Huan obediently accept his appointment filled his heart with a twisted satisfaction.

He had always harbored resentment toward those cultivators who could cultivate freely.

After all, they didn't need to report to the court, curry favor with superiors, or spend money on bribes—they advanced through cultivation on their own! Wasn't that basically treason?

Intolerable! Truly intolerable!

Now that's better. Once conferred, he becomes a Dao Court official. From now on, he's one of us. I'm a fifth-rank official, while you—Dragon King of Dongting—are still of lower rank than me. Remember to pay your respects during holidays, bring gifts now and then, or don't blame me for being rude!

“Too much bullying of dragons! Too much!”

After sending off Liu Qianhu and his party, Dragon King Du Huan went berserk in his private chamber, smashing everything in a fit of rage, his handsome face twisted with ferocity.

He was a True Dragon Bloodline, a noble of heaven and earth!

“If I were overseas, would I ever endure such humiliation? I'd have devoured that two-legged sheep already! But the old ancestor insisted on sending me to this damn place...”

Glaring at the official rank **【Dragon King of Dongting】** overhead, Du Huan became even more furious—this damned thing was only a sixth-rank post! Equivalent to late-stage Qi Refinement. Not even Foundation Establishment! Yet he, the Dragon King, had already reached early-stage Foundation Establishment cultivation. What kind of nonsense was this?

“This is clearly a deliberate insult!”

“These shameless bastards...” Du Huan gritted his teeth, but couldn’t bring himself to curse aloud—his words stuck in his throat.

After all, who could he curse?

His own ancestor, the Golden Core Dragon Monarch? That’d be a death wish. But to curse the Dao Court’s emperor in Jiangdong? That’d also be suicide.

He could only stew in impotent rage.

In a flash, Du Huan’s expression cycled through many emotions, fluctuating wildly—so much so that he failed to notice the Qi permeating the air as he slipped into a trance.

It wasn’t until much later that he suddenly snapped back: “Who’s there!?”

Just as he tried to resist, an overwhelming pressure crashed down like a blizzard, freezing all his mana and divine powers instantly.

【Solemn Profound Frost】 !

Only now did Lü Yang—who had long been lurking—reveal himself. Beside him stood Ancestor Tingyou, who was at peak Foundation Establishment.

“No need to struggle.”

Lü Yang spoke gently, in a soft voice: “You’ve done your best. Leave it to me now... from here on, I’ll take over and avenge you against those loathsome people.”

【Seizing the Nest of Another】 !

Under Ancestor Tingyou’s suppression, Du Huan had no power to resist. Very quickly, his essence, fate, karma, and bloodline were all stripped by Lü Yang. His body slowly faded until it vanished from the world entirely.

Only then did Lü Yang nod in satisfaction.

From this moment on, he was “Dragon King Du Huan.”

This was a talent acquired directly from **【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】** —even if the Dragon Monarch arrived in person, he’d mistake him for his own grandson!

The reason for taking over “Dragon King Du Huan” directly was because Lü Yang had discovered, quite unexpectedly, that this royal grandson cultivated the same art— 『Dragon Chapter of Heavenly Speech and Radiant Flame』 .

Since that was the case, there was no need to waste time building his Foundation—direct possession was far more efficient.

“The Dao Foundation formed through the 『Dragon Chapter of Heavenly Speech and Radiant Flame』 is called the 【Brilliant Spirits Interweaving Radiance Foundation】 .”

“And the natal divine ability formed from this 【Brilliant Spirits Interweaving Radiance Foundation】 is called 【Grand Command of Mountains and Seas Under Double Radiance】 , associated with four supreme arcane principles.”

In short:

“Ancient sagely kings governed by setting the right laws, recruiting talents, bestowing rewards, and strengthening armies.”

As the name suggests, the four associated mystical principles are 【People Without Guile】 , 【Merit Self-Cultivates】 , 【Rise and Fall Affairs】 , and 【Sage-King Governance】 .

Perfectly aligned with the symbolism of 【Heavenly Fire Above】 .

‘In combat, I only need to manifest the Dao Foundation and trap the enemy inside the 【Grand Command of Mountains and Seas】 —then cycle through the four principles.’

‘ 【People Without Guile】 sets the rules.’

‘Whoever is hit by this principle cannot violate the rules I impose—and I can keep adding rules over time, until the enemy dies.’

‘ 【Merit Self-Cultivates】 enhances subordinates. Anyone I designate as my subordinate can have one of their divine abilities forcibly elevated. It can also enhance techniques and divine arts, boosting power and effects—an all-round utility ability.’

Next is 【Rise and Fall Affairs】 .

Used on myself, it senses danger ahead of time and helps avoid it. Used on others, it makes them surrounded by disaster.

Finally, 【Sage-King Governance】 .

What does Sage-King Governance mean? “All under Heaven belongs to the king, and all who dwell upon it are his subjects.” Hence, this principle allows “seizing” from others.

Seize divine abilities. Seize flesh.

Seize mana. Seize position.

As long as the conditions are met, 【Sage-King Governance】 can snatch it all—and make it his own. It's scoundrel logic from start to finish.

Seeing this, even Lü Yang couldn't help but sigh:

“Supreme Fruitional Rank... really is in a league of its own!”

Previously, his 【City Head Soil】 Dao Foundation already had an absurdly powerful natal ability. Now, with 【Heavenly Fire Above】 , it's another clear case of being wildly overpowered.

What? The one who's overpowered is me?

Then it's all good!

I love it!

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Chapter 462: Falsely Holding the Fruition of an External Dao!

Falsely Holding the Fruition of an External Dao!

Dongting Lake, within the quiet chamber of the Dragon Palace.

Lü Yang sat cross-legged, his entire body flowing with a brilliance like that of the sun. Behind him, the glow slowly interwove, condensing into a phantasmal light and shadow.

【Xuandu Blessed Land】 !

This blessed land, built at great expense by the Dragon Palace for Lü Yang, had now expanded to an unimaginable scale, even reaching the brink of a critical threshold.

‘Once I complete this life’s Foundation Establishment, and fuse the 【Fiery Spirit Interweaving Light Dao Foundation】 into it, I can immediately use this blessed land to seek 【Heavenly Fire Above】 . The only things hindering me now are flaws in my Dao cultivation and the ritual of 【Govern All Under Heaven】 to draw the gaze of 【Heavenly Fire Above】 .’

At this thought, a writing brush suddenly appeared in Lü Yang’s hand.

This was the brush he had taken from the Dragon Palace during its sacking—part of the Four Treasures of the Study needed to cultivate 【Heavenly Fire Above】 , each corresponding to a Heavenly Gang Earth Fiend.

The brush corresponded to 【Wu Earth】 .

“Let’s refine one first.”

Lü Yang held it in his hand without hesitation, directly sending 【Wu Earth】 into his Dao Foundation to refine it—he had already mastered this Heavenly Gang Earth Fiend to a deep degree.

After all, when he cultivated 【City Head Earth】 before, it too had begun with 【Wu Earth】 .

But this time was different. Last time, the innate divine ability 【Embracing the Mountain】 he refined from 【Wu Earth】 essentially corresponded to the 【City Head Earth】 fruit position.

Now, he aimed for a different concept.

‘ 【Wu Earth】 is like clouds at sunset, borrowing the sun to appear—what remains of the sun. It corresponds to 【Heavenly Fire Above】 . ’

‘When spring and summer energies stir, it spreads forth; in autumn and winter when energies rest, it collects inward. Thus 【Wu Earth】 is the minister of all things... This divine ability—’

‘—shall be named 【Imperial Fate Master】 . ’

As this thought emerged, within his Foundation Establishment realm, Lü Yang’s 【Fiery Spirit Interweaving Light Dao Foundation】 suddenly lit with a point of golden light, flooding his divine sense and soul in an instant!

After a long while, Lü Yang formed a seal and slowly opened his eyes—his once-plain gaze now shone with brilliant golden rays. This divine ability named 【Imperial Fate Master】 was no mere boast; it truly could govern fate and make lives resonate with its will!

‘If paired with my innate divine ability 【People Without Guile】 ...’

‘With 【People Without Guile】 to define the rules, and 【Imperial Fate Master】 to determine destinies, I could likely push the binding power of rules to their utmost limit!’

If the gap between them was large enough, he might even cause someone to commit suicide with a single sentence.

When the ruler wants the subject dead, the subject cannot but die!

“Amazing.”

Lü Yang exhaled deeply, withdrew all his divine powers, and turned to the Ancestor Tingyou who had been guarding him. Smiling, he asked, “Ancestor, how goes your comprehension?”

Before his reboot, he had asked Ancestor Tingyou to help comprehend a way to fuse 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】 with the 【Sword Dao Fruitional Rank】 , even temporarily lending the 【Yama Palace】 falsely-held golden position for use. With Ancestor Tingyou’s insight, he ought to have made progress by now.

As expected—

“There’s a lead.”

Ancestor Tingyou’s expression was grave as he spoke in a low voice, “But it’s just a rough draft. To truly cultivate it into a second-grade true art will still take time.”

“But I’ve come up with something else along the way—something that’s far more useful to you right now.”

As his words fell, Ancestor Tingyou extracted a wisp of divine sense. Lü Yang accepted it, swept through it with his divine awareness—and was briefly stunned.

“This is...”

The method of the 【Yama Palace】 .

However, the content had been greatly revised. Though it still required nine Foundation Establishment cultivators at perfection, it no longer demanded golden nature, and had lowered the standard for false holding.

The revised 【Yama Palace】 could no longer falsely hold local fruit positions.

In exchange, it could now falsely hold external fruit positions!

“I recall you once mentioned the idea of falsely holding external positions, so I helped deduce it. External Dao positions are far easier than local ones.”

As Ancestor Tingyou finished, Lü Yang’s emotions surged.

He had mentioned it—but hadn’t expected Ancestor Tingyou to remember it silently, and even proactively deduce it before he had to ask.

Truly worthy of my world-shaking brilliance!

“The new 【Yama Palace】 method lets you falsely hold 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】 . Now that it’s complete, it can support the Fruitional Rank of a True Lord.”

Ancestor Tingyou explained fluently, “Since 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】 is an external Dao position and golden nature pertains to local ones, external positions aren’t as stringent. So with the new 【Yama Palace】 , you no longer need to expend your golden nature—but in return, it will place immense strain on you.”

At this point, Ancestor Tingyou’s face turned solemn.

He then raised one finger. “Only once. With the current strength of your Dao Foundation, you can falsely hold only once. Afterwards, it can be mended.”

“Second time, at best your foundation shatters and your Dao path is severed; at worst, you drop dead on the spot.”

“Third time—certain death!”

Ancestor Tingyou spoke gravely, and Lü Yang solemnly nodded. “I understand. Once is already plenty—at a critical moment, it could be a miracle!”

In an instant, Lü Yang felt much more at ease.

After his reboot, his cultivation returned to square one. Especially losing the omnipotent sense of falsely holding the golden position left him uneasy.

But now—his confidence had returned.

Stowing away Ancestor Tingyou, Lü Yang tidied his appearance, left the quiet chamber, and after a moment’s thought, quickly devised his next move.

‘This is the good thing about the Dao Court...’

‘Without backing, one can never rise. With backing, three promotions in one day and soaring success are just routine—all depends on the ones above.’

That made things simple.

Lü Yang planned to present the Dao Court a grand gift—one great enough to earn him immense merit and propel him straight into a high position!

But before that, he needed a sponsor.

Dao Court, Southern Suppression King’s Estate.

Wu Taian was meditating within a quiet chamber when a servant arrived to report something unexpected: “The Dragon King of Dongting is here to visit?”

As the Southern Suppression King of the Dao Court, the Heavenly Son’s own brother, and a rank-one prince, he was well aware of the cooperation between the True Dragon Clan and the Dao Court. But he couldn’t fathom—what business did they have with him?

Surely they weren’t trying to pull strings through him?

At that thought, Wu Taian immediately revealed displeasure.

Not because they sought favors—such things could be done discreetly! But to visit openly—how was he supposed to accept the bribe now?

What of my good reputation?!

‘Barbarians from overseas, lacking all decorum...’

Wu Taian grumbled inwardly, but maintained a well-mannered facade, instructing that the guest be brought to the reception hall. He decided to see what the dragon race was up to.

Moments later, footsteps echoed outside the door.

“Hmm?”

Instantly, the previously casual Wu Taian’s brows rose. A sudden premonition stirred within his Foundation Establishment-perfected senses—a hint of danger.

He immediately became serious.

Then, a heroic young man entered. His features carried a draconic ferocity, yet his face bore a gentle smile.

“Sorry to keep the Prince waiting.”

Before Wu Taian could speak, Lü Yang proactively bowed with full courtesy, lacking any trace of the pride of a heavenly noble or True Dragon.

With such behavior, Wu Taian couldn’t keep his stern face and quickly rose to return the greeting.

After all, while the other party could be humble, he stood behind a mid-Golden Core Dragon Monarch. If Wu Taian didn’t show respect in return, he’d be showing his lack of decorum.

“I wonder what brings the Dragon King to seek this prince?”

“Replying to Your Highness,”

Lü Yang’s tone was solemn as he directly produced the incense-path cultivation method of 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】 , and declared with gravity, “I have found a Dao method of great benefit to the Dao Court.”

“I wish to present it to the Dao Court Heavenly Son!”

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“『Incense-Fueled Deification Method』.”

Looking at the cultivation method offered by Lü Yang, Wu Taian's first reaction was: disdain.

Great benefit to the Dao Court?

What a joke. Our Dao Court is rich across the Four Seas, overflowing with gold and silver, with enough wealth to last forever! Do we need a destitute member of the True Dragon Clan to offer us a cultivation method?

However, for the sake of the Dragon Monarch's face, he still swept over it with his divine sense.

“Hmm?”

Feeling uncertain, he swept over it again.

“.Tss.”

The next second, just as Lü Yang had expected, the previously indifferent Wu Taian abruptly sat up straight and took the method to scrutinize it carefully.

Only after a long time did he raise his head and look at Lü Yang in disbelief. He hadn't been mistaken—this 『Incense-Fueled Deification Method』 was indeed of great use to the Dao Court! It gathered collective cultivation and used incense to become a god. If combined with the Dao Court's official rank system, it could explosively grow the Dao Court's power!

This was a great merit! Monumental merit!

But very quickly, Wu Taian realized a problem: this method had sound theory, but there was no soil in this world where it could take root.

It lacked the Fruition Position!

“Which Realm Heaven?” Wu Taian asked directly.

A completely new system never before seen must have originated from beyond the heavens. At the very least, it had formed the prototype of a Fruition Position. This Realm Heaven was a prize the Dao Court had to seize!

However, in response to his inquiry, Lü Yang merely smiled and said:

“I want to meet the Emperor.”

These simple four words immediately calmed Wu Taian down. He gave Lü Yang a deep look. “...It seems the True Dragon Clan truly has sincerity.”

Yes, to him this was the sincerity of the True Dragon Clan—the sincerity of that mid-Golden Core Dragon Monarch. After all, a Realm Heaven that had at least formed the Fruition Position prototype could never be something a mere mid-Foundation Establishment Dragon King could offer. Pure fantasy. Only as a gift from the Dragon Monarch would it make sense!

‘What a pity...’

Thinking of this, Wu Taian couldn’t help but sigh again. He knew there was no hope of privately claiming this monumental merit for himself—not even putting his name on it.

If it had been someone else, he would’ve swallowed the merit without hesitation.

After all, he was the Dao Court’s King of Southern Suppression, the emperor’s own brother. His position in the Dao Court was second only to the True Lords. If he took your merit, it meant you were worthy of it!

But not the True Dragon Clan.

Today, the True Dragon Clan was a key target of the Dao Court’s recruitment. Given that the old Dragon Monarch had offered such a great gift, it showed just how sincere he was.

Who would dare to steal such merit?

Whoever did so would be courting death!

With that in mind, Wu Taian once again scrutinized Lü Yang, then a bright smile quickly surfaced on his face. “This king congratulates Dragon King in advance.”

‘This True Dragon... is about to rise to greatness!’

After all, such monumental merit could not be rewarded to the old Dragon Monarch. In that case, the only ones who could receive great reward would be this group of True Dragons who had now entered Jiangdong!

With that thought, Wu Taian’s smile became even more sincere.

“Meeting the Emperor will be simple. I’ll vouch for the Dragon King personally and deliver the message to Tianwu City myself. His Majesty’s decree should arrive before long.”

“Many thanks, Your Highness.”

Upon hearing this, Lü Yang cupped his hands respectfully, then changed the subject: “But speaking of which, Your Highness, there is one thing this little king would like explained.”

With that, he pointed upward.

There, the sixth-rank title of **【Dongting Dragon King】** shimmered radiantly.

“I came bearing the sincerity of the True Dragon Clan, yet the Dao Court gave me this kind of title. Does Your Highness think this is appropriate?”

“...” Wu Taian’s pupils contracted.

Lü Yang didn’t even need to explain. One glance and he understood—clearly someone in the Dao Court wanted to put pressure on the True Dragon Clan, give them a show of force, so these destitute heavenly nobles wouldn’t cause trouble in Jiangdong. That’s why they were granted a mere sixth-rank position, not even for Foundation Establishment.

There wasn’t anything inherently wrong with that.

But no one expected that there wouldn’t be a need for pressure. The True Dragon Clan had voluntarily shown great sensibility and brought forth a heavy show of sincerity like the 『Incense-Fueled Deification Method』 .

This exchange, however, had now backfired.

Since the True Dragon Clan had been so sincere, this originally mild form of pressure now appeared as a vicious insult—worthy of a beheading!

In an instant, Wu Taian made a decision.

Sever ties! Must sever ties!

With a solemn expression, he said in a grave tone: “Please rest assured, Dragon King. I will definitely give you a proper explanation for this title. This was absolutely not His Majesty’s intention.”

“So someone within the court is stirring trouble?” Lü Yang pressed on.

“Exactly!”

Wu Taian nodded firmly. “Dragon King, rest assured. I will report this matter to the court and investigate it thoroughly. I will not allow meritorious officials to suffer injustice!”

“I see!”

At these words, Lü Yang’s expression also became righteously indignant. With a face full of pain, he said, “I knew it! His Majesty’s intentions must be good. It’s just the subordinates who failed in execution! Damn it, how did the Dao Court end up like this? Do they even deserve His Majesty’s grace?”

Wu Taian: “...”

Good heavens... You, a member of the True Dragon Clan, are getting into character this fast? For a second there, I thought it was some loyal minister giving a patriotic speech.

Still, it seemed the True Dragon Clan hadn’t exploded in rage.

There was still room for discussion. That meant the situation wasn't too bad. At worst, just compensate a little more afterward.

With that thought, Wu Taian quickly said, "I will make arrangements right away. Soon, I'll escort you and your fellow clansmen to Tianwu City."

"Many thanks, Your Highness."

Lü Yang nodded and said warmly, "You and I hit it off right away, Your Highness. No need to be so formal. Just call me Duhuan in the future."

Wu Taian paused at those words, then took the opportunity to go along, cupping his hands: "Then I greet Daoist Duhuan. May we have many dealings in the days to come."

"Definitely! Definitely!"

Moments later, as Lü Yang walked out of the Southern Suppression King's estate, he instantly put away his smile.

'As expected... From the start I thought the Incense Deification Path of the 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】 matched well with the Dao Court. Now, it seems they are indeed very greedy for it.'

That was enough.

After all, he never intended to hand over his complete 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】. What he planned to offer was the version that still remained beyond the heavens!

'In any case, Hongyun doesn't need it anymore.'

'I'll make use of it on his behalf.'

'Come to think of it... If I replicate Chong Guang's path to verifying the 【Boundless Heaven】 in this life, with all the True Lords in hiding, maybe I'll be able to once again defy fate and slay Hongyun?'

As Lü Yang pondered, he suddenly stopped in his tracks.

Straight ahead, a gentle breeze passed by, revealing a middle-aged man in black robes. His face was fierce and rugged, but his mouth bore sharp, protruding fangs.

'A demon cultivator...'

Lü Yang raised his brows slightly. Across the world, if any place had the most demon cultivators, it would be either overseas where the True Dragon Clan reigned—or Jiangdong Dao Court.

After all, under the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】, all were equal. Demon cultivators could compete too, and with their superior physiques, could outperform humans. Excellent labor force... Yet even so, as far as Lü Yang knew, demon cultivators still ranked at the very bottom of the social chain in the Dao Court.

No wonder he wore black.

“Little demon greets the Dragon King.”

The next moment, the man in black bowed respectfully to Lü Yang and said, “We have long admired the True Dragons’ name. Might you honor us with your presence?”

Lü Yang’s thoughts shifted slightly, then he nodded calmly:

“Lead the way.”

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Chapter 464: Loyalty! Devotion!

Jiangdong, Tianwu City.

This place was the Dao Capital of the Dao Court, the residence of the Tian Wu Royal House. Its vast expanse alone could rival that of an entire mortal nation in other regions.

Its subordinate population exceeded one hundred million.

At a glance, tiered pavilions and layered palaces surrounded a grand hall that rose along the mountain’s slope, stacking in nine tiers, piercing straight into the heavens.

From the entrance of the Xuanwu Gate, jade steps stretched high as a thousand fathoms, coiling dragons and crouching chi serpents meandered upward from the cinnabar platform below, like a reverse-flowing celestial river, reaching directly to the majestic palace. On either side of the cinnabar platform, along the jade steps, auspicious beasts stood in rows—some lifting their heads in disdain, others glaring with fury—all exquisitely carved from profound stone. Weathered by wind and rain, their divine might remained undiminished.

Occasionally, a few cold crows would sweep past in flight.

Whenever the twilight drum echoed, its deep, muffled waves spread out from the depths of the palace complex, reverberating through the jade towers and celestial halls, casting a feeling of desolate solemnity.

【Tianwu Hall】

This was the residence of the Son of Heaven. At all hours, hundreds to thousands of inner court guards, eunuchs, and palace maids either stood vigil or bustled about.

Suddenly, a eunuch stepped briskly out from the crowd.

He clutched a jade slip in his hand, looking frantic and in haste, hurrying into 【Tianwu Hall】. As he approached, he dropped into a sliding kneel:

“Your Majesty! An urgent message has arrived from the Southern Suppression King’s Estate.”

After speaking, the eunuch respectfully waited for a moment. At length, a voice came from behind the heavy curtains, carrying a hint of curiosity:

“Sent by Taian?”

“Present it.”

Only then did the eunuch breathe a sigh of relief. With a thread of divine sense, he levitated the jade slip, carefully delivering it beyond the curtain, where it was gently grasped by a slender hand.

It belonged to a young man, tall and elegant in appearance. As the Son of Heaven of the Dao Court, he was not adorned in a regal dragon robe but wore a simple Daoist garment. Behind the curtain was not a dragon throne but a Dao altar, surrounded by curling sandalwood incense.

“Hmm?”

Soon, a faint grunt of surprise escaped his nose. Holding the jade slip, he pinched his fingers in calculation, then revealed a calm and composed smile.

“Not bad, not bad.”

“It truly was discovered by the True Dragon Clan. It really is a grand gift. I initially thought the Dragon Monarch agreed to cooperate out of ulterior motives, scheming rebellion.”

But now it seemed... perhaps he had overthought it?

At the very least, this 『Xianghuo Shendao』 was of immense value to the Dao Court.

If he could locate a corresponding Realm Heaven, even if it were only a budding Fruition Position, he would spare no effort in carefully nurturing it to perfection!

“However... this Fruition must remain in my hands.”

“If the Fruition stayed with the True Dragon Clan, then in developing the Xianghuo Shendao, I’d merely be sewing a wedding dress for them.”

“An audience request?”

The Dao Court Son of Heaven smiled meaningfully, unsurprised. To him, this was no more than the True Dragon Clan bargaining for more benefits.

At this thought, he frowned slightly.

Because in Wu Taian's report, the matter of the 【Dongting Dragon King】's official position had also been raised. It wasn't exactly trivial—nor was it insignificant.

Especially at such a sensitive juncture, it clearly provided the True Dragon Clan additional bargaining leverage.

“Nonsense.”

The Dao Court Son of Heaven lightly rebuked. Although he had indeed hinted at pressing the True Dragon Clan a bit, he had not specified how.

Clearly, someone below had misinterpreted his intent.

But it was easily resolved—whichever acted wrongly would be dealt with. The Dao Court never lacked people. If one failed, another could easily replace them.

“By decree, the Left Pacification Commissioner of the Dutian Division—dismissed from office.”

As soon as the words left his mouth, the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 shuddered. At that very moment, a burly middle-aged man far away in the Dutian Division office suddenly widened his eyes.

“Impossible!?”

In an instant, magical power surged through his body, divine abilities flickered, and the official position above his head—【Left Pacification Commissioner of the Dutian Division】—trembled violently.

This was a Fourth-Rank position.

Mid-Foundation Establishment!

Yet this resistance lasted less than a breath. The middle-aged man's expression wilted. In the end, he trembled as he removed the official hat from his head:

“Grateful to Your Majesty for stripping my rank. I accept the decree with thanks!”

“Boom!”

Even before the words had faded, his entire aura dissipated. His title was removed, his official robes fell away, and all that remained in place was a powerless mortal!

Inside 【Tianwu Hall】.

After demoting a mid-Foundation cultivator to a commoner with a single word, the Dao Court Son of Heaven's expression remained unchanged—instead, a trace of interest flashed in his eyes.

“For the old Dragon Monarch to show such sincerity...”

“And even know how to leverage an official title to seek more benefit... seems he's not just some savage beast. Could it be overseas demon cultivators have their own heroes?”

The next moment, a glimmer flickered in his eyes.

Those were emerald pupils—the divine anomaly of the Tian Wu Royal House's bloodline. As they activated, the Dao Court Son of Heaven's gaze instantly spanned millions of miles!

“I must see... who this person truly is.”

Outside the Southern Suppression King's Estate, within an immortal's cave dwelling.

Lü Yang followed the black-robed demon cultivator into the cave, only to be met with an overwhelming surge of demonic aura—over ten demon cultivators stood within!

All were Foundation Establishment!

Yet Lü Yang quickly discerned that none of these demon cultivators had achieved this through their own cultivation. Each had a corresponding official position floating above their head.

At the sight, disappointment flickered in Lü Yang's eyes. Demon cultivators like these—even a hundred more of them couldn't stir up much trouble!

But soon, he noticed something amiss.

These demon cultivators' **【Official Titles】** were unusual—most were military ranks from surrounding regions. As Fifth-Rank officials, they could be called generals!

As thoughts turned, a smile rose on Lü Yang's face:

“Fellow Daoists, for what reason have you invited me here?”

“Reporting to the Dragon King.”

The black-robed demon, clearly the leader, was the first to speak: “No other reason, merely to make your acquaintance, Dragon King.”

“Acquaintance?”

Lü Yang paused, then chuckled and shook his head: “I already understand your situation. From my perspective, what you need is not mere acquaintance. You need a strong and forceful leader who can tear through all enemies—hence, you came to me.”

“I must admit—you chose the right person.”

Before his voice had finished, Lü Yang struck.

【String-Pulled Puppet】 !

Not one of the demon cultivators present was powerful. All were early Foundation Establishment and naturally stood no chance against 【String-Pulled Puppet】 —the scene fell instantly silent.

Moments later, Lü Yang raised an eyebrow.

Within the Myriad Spirits Banner, the 【Xuandu Blessed Land】 trembled, his spiritual sense stirred—signaling that an unseen gaze was watching him from a vast distance!

‘A True Lord’s observation... The Dao Court’s Son of Heaven?’

Lü Yang was startled but not flustered—on the contrary, he felt emboldened. After all, he could now detect the surveillance of a Golden Core True Lord!

After a moment of contemplation, he spoke again:

“Rest assured, all of you—I will help. The status of demon cultivators within the Dao Court does indeed need reform. This is the True Dragon Clan’s responsibility.”

One demon cultivator quickly flattered: “Sworn loyalty to the True Dragon Clan!”

The black-robed demon glared at him at once and corrected sternly: “You fool! Loyalty to the True Dragon Clan? It’s loyalty to the Dragon King!”

“You are all mistaken.”

Lü Yang shook his head, then bowed toward Tianwu City: “Loyalty should be to His Majesty... all of you must remember this well.”

“There is only one person in the Dao Court who commands wind and rain—that is His Majesty!”

As his words fell, Lü Yang stood firmly in place, facing Tianwu City. Then, clenching his right fist, he solemnly saluted:

“Loyalty! Devotion!”

The next moment, 【String-Pulled Puppet】 activated.

All the demon cultivators followed suit, saluting toward Tianwu City. In that instant, the thunderous chorus of voices echoed even beyond the cave dwelling:

“Loyalty! Devotion!”

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 465: Dao Court Emperor: Truly That Loyal?

Inside the Tianwu Hall, behind layers upon layers of curtains.

The Dao Court Emperor withdrew his gaze. In his ears still faintly echoed the mountain-shaking, tsunami-like cry of “Loyalty.” He touched his chin with a somewhat inscrutable expression.

‘He noticed my gaze.’

‘Impossible. He’s only at mid Foundation Establishment. Perhaps if he had completed Foundation Establishment and refined a Blessed Land, it might be possible. But with his current cultivation, even if I gave him a True Treasure, he wouldn’t sense me.’

‘So this was intentional posturing?’

At that thought, the Dao Court Emperor immediately revealed a playful smile. “This little dragon sent by the Old Dragon Monarch is still quite capable. A fine seedling.”

Back in the early days when he first became Emperor, he had greatly disdained such flashy flattery. In private, he had often voiced his desire to forbid all sycophancy. However, as the years passed, these flattering words grew more pleasing to his ears—he even found them lacking in novelty.

This Lüyang, however, was certainly novel.

Of course, he could also see that Lüyang was clearly putting on a show—but so what? Across Jiangdong, nearly every official performed such acts.

After all, the Tianwu Royal House’s azure eyes were well-known.

No one ever knew when the Emperor might suddenly peek in. So even in private, with no one else around, officials would intentionally voice loyal, patriotic sentiments.

Thanks to this, the Emperor had seen such shows countless times.

He couldn’t even remember who had done it anymore.

But those who hadn't done it? That, he remembered very clearly.

So he didn't mind Lüyang's theatrics at all. In fact, he rather appreciated it. If someone didn't even make an effort on the surface, how could their loyalty be trusted?

"Convey my decree."

At this thought, the Dao Court Emperor parted his lips. At once, grand immortal tones echoed out from the Tianwu Hall, instantly resonating with the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 .

"Summon the Dongting Dragon King, Du Huan, to the capital immediately."

At the same time, in a secluded cave-dwelling—

Lüyang sat down one by one with a group of demon cultivators. Though he had already hypnotized them all with the 【String-Pulled Puppet】 , he did not enforce control with brute force.

As long as he didn't activate the 【String-Pulled Puppet】 , the demon cultivators would remain entirely unaffected. Only when he needed it would the spell forcefully control their actions. This, too, was a method he had learned from the World-Honored One. After all, the way the World-Honored One manipulated Pure Land Buddhist cultivators into one united mind followed a similar logic.

Yet just then—

The 【Dongting Dragon King】 position above Lüyang's head suddenly trembled violently, followed by a wisp of immortal voice floating out from it, immediately causing all nearby demon cultivators to look aghast.

"Summon the Dongting Dragon King, Du Huan, to the capital."

"Thud!"

In an instant, nearly all the demon cultivators dropped to their knees involuntarily, offering grand ceremonial bows.

It was because their official positions resonated at this moment.

An oral decree from the Emperor.

Even without the 【String-Pulled Puppet】 controlling them, the black-robed demon cultivators began looking at Lüyang with fiery excitement in their eyes.

'The Emperor personally summoned him, and even used the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 to deliver the order directly—rather than sending an edict! This is an extraordinary favor!'

On the other side, Lüyang solemnly cupped his hands and bowed.

"I accept the decree."

With his reply, the ethereal immortal voice gradually faded. At the same time, a divine glow from the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 descended upon him.

【You must appear in Tianwu City within one day to have an audience with His Majesty.】

【Failure to arrive within the time limit will result in immediate removal from your official post by the Immortal Nation Dao Law. You will never be employed again. Please depart at once.】

“Everyone, it seems I can no longer stay.”

Lüyang smiled faintly, then looked at the black-robed demon cultivator. “Might I ask this fellow Daoist’s name?”

“This humble demon is named Xiaoshan,” the black-robed demon cultivator hurried to respond. “It’s a name I gave myself after awakening intelligence. Should Dragon King travel to the capital, if you ever require anything, we shall follow your lead!”

At these words, Lüyang chuckled lightly. “Since that’s the case—better to strike while the iron’s hot. Let’s exchange contact methods, so we can watch each other’s backs in the future. Other demon cultivators can join in too—after all, we’re all demon cultivators, naturally one faction.”

“Understood!”

Xiaoshan was instantly overjoyed. He understood the Dragon King had accepted their allegiance. Could it be that he truly had hope of changing the current status of demon cultivators?

At that thought, Xiaoshan grew even more excited.

Seeing this, Lüyang nodded slightly in secret. These demon cultivators might be of no use to him now—but later on, who could say?

This was the advantage of the Dao Court.

As long as you had someone backing you above, had connections—being granted official positions would make your cultivation soar faster than riding a rocket! Whether one’s strength was great was another matter—at the very least, your rank would be guaranteed!

“As for this faction, it ought to have a name.”

“Please enlighten us, my lord,” Xiaoshan wisely asked.

Hearing this, Lüyang nodded. “We are all loyal subjects, dedicating ourselves single-mindedly to the Dao Court, repaying His Majesty’s grace for raising us.”

“In that case, let’s call it the One-Heart Society!”

Tianwu City

Riding a stream of escape light, Lüyang sped through the sky. Along the way, he used one of the profound aspects of his innate divine ability, 【Merit Self-Cultivates】 , for support. In less than half a day, he arrived at his destination.

“Boom!”

Just as he neared Tianwu City, Lüyang instantly felt a majestic force crash down, scattering his escape light and forcing him to land.

‘This is the center of the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 !’

Lüyang’s eyes gleamed as he looked toward Tianwu City through the vision granted by the 【Xuandu Blessed Land】 —and what he saw was a vast sea of golden clouds!

The sea of clouds floated above the imperial palace at the heart of Tianwu City. Countless threads extended from it, spreading in all directions across Jiangdong, outlining the entire 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 .

Within that sea of clouds, Lüyang could faintly see four radiant lights revolving deep within.

‘Heaven-and-Earth Fruitions...’

Lüyang understood at once—those lights sealed deep in the cloud sea, bound layer upon layer by the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 , were the four Heaven-and-Earth Fruitions under the Dao Court’s control!

While he was pondering, someone approached.

“Dragon King.”

Lüyang looked up and saw a man with a solemn expression and powerful qi. Above his head gleamed the talismanic script for 【Supervising Eunuch of the Ceremonial Directorate】 .

‘No official rank.’

Lüyang raised his eyebrows. From Wu Taian’s memories, he knew that the 【Ceremonial Directorate】 belonged to the inner court and was even lower in status than the 【Heaven Supervisory Division】 .

At least the 【Heaven Supervisory Division】 had official rank.

But the eunuchs of the entire inner court system had no rank at all—they borrowed imperial authority. Strictly speaking, they weren’t even considered cultivators.

That said, Lüyang showed no trace of contempt. Instead, he offered a respectful bow. “True Dragon Du Huan greets this fellow Daoist.”

Seeing this, the eunuch visibly relaxed and said,

“No need for such formality, Dragon King. This humble one’s surname is An. I dare not call myself your fellow Daoist. Please, follow me into the palace—His Majesty has summoned you to appear at once.”

“Many thanks, Daoist An.” Lüyang cupped his hands.

Soon, under the inner court eunuch’s guidance, Lüyang passed through the grand 【Xuanwu Gate】 and laid eyes upon the majestic, mountain-like 【Tianwu Hall】 .

Crossing the threshold, he entered the hall.

Before him stood a grand Dao platform, hung with layer after layer of curtains, behind which a vague figure sat—face unclear, gender indistinct.

Yet in that moment, Lüyang felt a strange illusion—as if the person seated behind those heavy curtains was not atop a mere Dao platform, but upon the very mountains and rivers of Jiangdong, the vast expanse of the Nine Provinces. As the palace doors closed behind him, even the heavens and earth seemed to fall into silence.

“Your subject Du Huan greets Your Majesty!”

Without hesitation, Lüyang dropped to one knee and took out a jade slip. “This is the coordinate of the Realm Heaven corresponding to the 『Incense-Fueled Deification Method』 .”

“I ask that Your Majesty review it.”

“...”

Such a sudden gesture left the Dao Court Emperor momentarily dumbfounded—he had still been deliberating how to begin speaking.

You’re giving me the goods before I’ve even paid?

Truly that loyal?

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 466: I Just Want to Improve So Badly!

“Not bad at all.”

After a long pause, a satisfied voice finally came from beneath the draped curtains of the Dao Court altar. With a sweep of divine sense, the jade slip Lü Yang had handed over disappeared from its original place.

At this moment, the Dao Court Heavenly Son had already come to his senses.

‘This is a setup, clearly. With such sincerity displayed, if I don’t offer a suitable position, the True Dragon Clan might really start harboring other thoughts.’

That said, the Dao Court Heavenly Son wasn’t the least bit displeased. In fact, he was rather satisfied. Because from another perspective, Lü Yang’s actions essentially placed the decision-making power in his hands. Whatever official rank or benefits to give—it was all up to him.

This was no trivial matter.

Lü Yang was fully aware. He could very well use the coordinates of 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】 as leverage to negotiate with the Dao Court Heavenly Son, relying on the status of the True Dragon Clan.

But what would be the point?

This was Jiangdong, under the rule of the Dao Court. The Heavenly Son’s position was above all. No matter how many benefits he wrung out, the Heavenly Son had ways to make him cough them all back up.

It would only lead to enmity with the Heavenly Son.

That wouldn’t do.

So, he uncharacteristically handed over the coordinates of 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】 upfront, surrendering the decision to the Dao Court Heavenly Son, all to show his “loyalty.”

And he wasn’t worried the Heavenly Son would brush him off with some paltry reward. After all, he was of the True Dragon Clan, and behind him stood a mid-Golden Core stage Dragon Monarch. The Dao Court Heavenly Son wouldn’t dare act recklessly. The reward would definitely be satisfactory.

Sure enough—

“You, are quite good.”

The Dao Court Heavenly Son gave a light laugh and said, “As it happens, the 【All-Heaven Department】 is currently lacking a Vice Commander of the Right. Since you’re willing, I shall assign it to you.”

As his words fell, the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 responded immediately.

Lü Yang looked up to see his original title of 【Dongting Dragon King】 begin to transform. The talismanic script twisted and finally became 【Vice Commander of the Right, All-Heaven Department】 .

A third-rank official!

In the next second, Lü Yang immediately sensed a terrifying flow of information rushing through the 【Official Rank】 bestowal, rapidly circulating and surrounding his Sea of Consciousness.

‘This is knowledge.’

At that moment, Lü Yang gained a deeper understanding of the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 —it was absolutely not just a tool to control cultivators in Jiangdong.

It was truly a web.

It connected every cultivator in Jiangdong. Their cultivation, knowledge, and experience... all were encompassed and collected by this vast net!

It was the collective wisdom of all beings!

Thus, what the official rank granted was not merely cultivation, but also the corresponding Dao knowledge—this knowledge was granted simultaneously!

‘However... this Dao knowledge cannot enter my Sea of Consciousness, nor would I allow it to. Therefore, once the official rank leaves, this knowledge will also depart. But conversely, as long as the official rank remains, I can wield this Dao knowledge like an extension of my own body!’

To put it metaphorically—

The 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 was like a vast database. The Dao Court Heavenly Son granting him an official position was akin to granting him temporary access rights to the database.

As long as the permission was active, he could freely draw upon the knowledge stored within.

Once the permission was revoked, he’d immediately become blind to it.

‘Yet, these Dao insights can be studied. I can slowly comprehend them, and eventually transform them into my own!’

A cultivation artifact beyond compare!

Realizing this, Lü Yang finally saw the light. He had always wondered: with every cultivator having different aptitudes, an empire was theoretically incompatible with cultivation.

After all, how could the talents of a single royal line compare to the boundless talent pool of a sect?

Especially the Tian Wu Royal House, which didn’t even have a particularly prosperous lineage.

In such a situation, how did the Tian Wu Royal House sustain its legacy? Early and mid Foundation Establishment might be fine, but late stage and perfection weren't easy to achieve!

Now, Lü Yang understood.

'The Tian Wu Royal House probably has unrestricted access to the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 . Whatever knowledge they need, they simply draw it from the system and master it instantly!'

This was equivalent to using 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 to harvest the enlightenment of Jiangdong cultivators and turn it into personal gain—countless cultivators aiding their cultivation! With such a method, the Tian Wu Royal House likely had no bottlenecks in Dao comprehension. The only limitation to their cultivation would be whether they could obtain a Heavenly Gang or Earthly Fiend!

“This really is...”

Lü Yang blinked. No wonder the Jiangdong Dao Court system could rise all the way to Golden Core True Lords. The 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 was truly a masterpiece!

With it, his cultivation speed would skyrocket unimaginably fast!

It could be said that as long as the Dao Court Heavenly Son continued to promote him, he might even recover his Foundation Establishment Perfection within ten years—no, five years!

'I want to improve so badly!'

Lü Yang lowered his gaze, concealed all emotions, and soon found the corresponding Dao knowledge within the official rank of 【Vice Commander of the Right, All-Heaven Department】 .

'This official rank... originates from 【Roadside Earth】 !'

【Roadside Earth】 was formed from 【Geng Metal】 , 【Noon Fire】 , 【Xin Metal】 , and 【Wei Earth】 , two of which corresponded with his 【Heavenly Fire Above】 .

This official rank had split off from 【Roadside Earth】 . A third-rank official's position equated to mid Foundation Establishment Perfection, and thus the corresponding Dao knowledge included both 【Geng Metal】 and 【Noon Fire】 —and 【Noon Fire】 was precisely what he needed. This was clearly no coincidence.

It was obvious the Dao Court Heavenly Son had discerned his Dao foundation.

Knowing that he cultivated 【Heavenly Fire Above】 , the Heavenly Son had specifically granted him this post so that he could gain access to 【Noon Fire】 's Dao knowledge.

“How is it?”

Behind the curtain, the Dao Court Heavenly Son looked at Lü Yang with a half-smile. “Is this position satisfactory? 【Heavenly Fire Above】 is quite a fine fruit-position.”

“Thank you for Your Majesty’s immense grace!”

Hearing this, Lü Yang broke out in a cold sweat, panic flashing in his eyes. He immediately bowed to express gratitude. Only then did the Heavenly Son reveal a satisfied expression.

Having made his point, it was enough.

“All right, you may go.” The Dao Court Heavenly Son continued, “Return and cultivate well. I place great expectations on the Dragon Clan. There will be another important mission for you soon.”

“Thank you, Your Majesty!”

After watching Lü Yang retreat step by step from the Tian Wu Hall, the Dao Court Heavenly Son soon shifted his thoughts and paid no more heed to this True Dragon.

As for cultivating 【Heavenly Fire Above】 ?

What a joke. Cultivating 【Heavenly Fire Above】 was no easy feat. To rule the world, the absolute minimum requirement was to control all of Jiangdong. What, did he think he was already dead?

He, a dignified True Lord, needing to fear a mid Foundation Establishment?

Only if he was gone, and the Three Dukes were gone, and this True Dragon reached Foundation Perfection... but how could that ever happen?

Paranoia!

That was why the Dao Court Heavenly Son had generously given the Dao knowledge of 【Noon Fire】 . In his eyes, it was a meaningless gift. He hadn’t really handed over anything valuable, but on the surface, it looked like a great reward—enough to appease the True Dragon Clan. Spending a little to accomplish much.

‘This was quite the haul...’

Walking out of 【Tian Wu Hall】 , the panic in Lü Yang’s eyes instantly vanished, and his expression returned to calm. He could more or less guess the Dao Court Heavenly Son’s thoughts.

Not just him—Old Dragon Monarch probably knew too.

Otherwise, he wouldn’t have so blatantly sent a True Dragon cultivating 【Heavenly Fire Above】 . He would’ve tried every means to conceal it.

‘From my deductions, even the Old Dragon Monarch probably never expected a dragon to cultivate 【Heavenly Fire Above】 in such a short time. His plan must be extremely long-term—likely not meant to activate until the Millennium Great Tribulation. But who would’ve thought, an ideal opportunity is coming soon.’

【Boundless Heaven】 !

Once someone attained 【Boundless Heaven】 , all True Lords across the realm would go into seclusion. At that time, he—with his external fruit-position—could instantly become the number one under Heaven.

Then, his chance would come!

Chapter 467 : Listening to the Nether: Am I to Attain Boundless Heaven?

Chapter 467: Listening to the Nether: Am I to Attain Boundless Heaven?

Tianwu City, 【Dutian Division】 government office.

It was named a government office, but in reality, it was an immortal mountain stretching for thousands of miles. After entering the office, Lü Yang quickly found the cave dwelling assigned to him.

“The most pressing matter is to first digest the Dao attainment of 【Noon Fire】 .”

In this regard, the office also had a considerable advantage. As a place of such significance, it was under the scrutiny of the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 , and there was even a special assisted comprehension mode.

This was also one of the ways the Dao Court issued stipends.

Stipends from the Dao Court generally came in three categories, issued once every hundred years. One could choose one of the three—namely, spiritual materials, cultivation techniques, or comprehension.

The first two needed no explanation, but the last one—comprehension—was rather subtle. It meant the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 would directly bless the cultivator, putting them in an unprecedented “World-Shocking Comprehension” state, wherein the efficiency of studying techniques, refining spirit treasures, and concocting pills would be enhanced tenfold.

And as a newly appointed official, Lü Yang brought with him one opportunity to receive a stipend.

Upon choosing “comprehension” and decisively activating it, Lü Yang immediately realized what an earth-defying power this truly was.

It wasn't like he hadn't tried to comprehend 【Noon Fire】 before.

However, in his previous attempts, every session had felt obscure and hard to understand. While it might eventually make sense by grinding through with time, it would have taken decades of labor.

But now, it was different.

With the enhancement of the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 , the once-obscure knowledge became smooth as if lubricated, allowing him to push straight through.

There was practically no threshold to understanding it. Problems became clear the moment he thought about them; obstacles were resolved with a single reflection. The entire process was utterly devoid of bottlenecks.

‘So this is the state the Patriarch is in daily, huh.’

No wonder he’s so formidable!

Time passed unnoticed during cultivation. While Lü Yang freely swam in this ocean of knowledge, suddenly, his once-smooth train of thought crashed into a wall of bronze and iron.

“Ugh—what’s going on?”

Lü Yang groaned, opening his eyes. The sensation was like being just about to climax, only to be abruptly cut off and not allowed to continue.

It was suffocatingly uncomfortable.

He blinked and looked back at the 【Noon Fire】 knowledge that had just been flowing like a spring, only to find it had become obscure and hard to comprehend again.

Did I... get dumber?

Lü Yang looked bewildered. Having experienced what “World-Shocking Wisdom” truly was, he now found it hard to accept that he was, in fact, just a fool.

‘ 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 ...’

He glanced at the golden net above his head and couldn't help but swallow.

This treasure is truly fated with me.

At the pace just now, with just three more enhancements from 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 , he could fully digest the Dao attainment of 【Noon Fire】 and begin breaking through!

‘But damn it, Dao Court stipends are only issued once every hundred years. If I want another boost from the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 , I’ll either have to wait a century or make a contribution... Clever bastards, they’re waiting for me to fall into the trap! In the end, it's all to get Dao Court cultivators to hustle. The stipends are just bait!’

So then, how to make a contribution?

Lü Yang fell into brief contemplation, and gradually, his eyes began to shine.

‘...Uncle-Master Chong Guang!’

According to the original timeline, Chong Guang, in his quest for 【Overturning Lamp Fire】 , would secretly reincarnate into the 【Qing Nation】 , and then turn this Dao Court marvel into his own resource.

What if he stopped him?

If he could ambush in 【Qing Nation】 ahead of time and capture Uncle-Master Chong Guang the moment he reincarnated, refining him on the spot, he could avert the crisis for 【Qing Nation】 .

Wouldn’t that be a great merit?

After all, this would not only take care of the acting Sect Master of the Holy Sect—cough cough, I mean the Jiangbei Demonic Sect—but also preserve the marvel that Dao Court’s Son of Heaven had sent into Jiangbei.

A completely overwhelming achievement!

As for Uncle-Master Chong Guang suffering a bit... well, he could make it up to him next life. Back in their ninth life, he had tried to steal Lü Yang’s fortune, and Lü Yang hadn’t even held a grudge!

Thinking of this, Lü Yang rubbed his palms together in anticipation. If he could really pull this off, forget just one enhancement from the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 —even ten times wouldn’t be too much! The only problem was, if Uncle-Master Chong Guang failed, there would be no one left to attain 【Boundless Heaven】 ...

‘...Not necessarily.’

At that thought, Lü Yang suddenly composed himself, entered the Myriad Spirits Banner, and gently tapped on it, awakening Ancestor Tingyou, who was still in seclusion.

“Is it another cultivation method you want help comprehending?”

Ancestor Tingyou opened his eyes and very skillfully reached out his hand.

Lü Yang: “...”

The next moment, Lü Yang’s expression turned indignant: “How could Patriarch view me this way? Am I someone who only knows how to trouble you?”

“This time, I’ve brought good news for you!”

“Oh? Do tell.”

Ancestor Tingyou replied indifferently. In his past life, he had even slain 【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】 . With his great revenge fulfilled, his heart was already devoid of joy or sorrow.

“This lifetime, I plan to help you attain Golden Fruition!”

Those words instantly made the previously nonchalant Ancestor Tingyou sit bolt upright:

“...Explain in detail!”

Seeing this, Lü Yang smiled and said, “I had you comprehend **【Boundless Heaven】** before. Now is the chance... I want you to attain it!”

【Boundless Heaven】 was not easy to attain. The first step alone, **【Essence of All Flowers】**, requiring a bloody battle against 108 Heavenly Maidens, was a hurdle countless could not pass. Aside from Chong Guang, who had a successful precedent, the only other person Lü Yang could think of was Ancestor Tingyou, who had previously studied **【Boundless Heaven】**.

It was actually a good opportunity for Ancestor Tingyou too.

“This lifetime, **【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】** is still alive and won't die for a while. Although you've reached complete Foundation Establishment, it's difficult to aim for Golden Fruition.”

Lü Yang said seriously, “So why not attain **【Boundless Heaven】** instead!”

“Hmm... that does make sense.”

Hearing this, Ancestor Tingyou fell into thought. He also quite naturally accepted Lü Yang's phrasing of “this lifetime,” not sensing anything strange.

However, he soon wore a look of concern.

“But... if I go to attain **【Boundless Heaven】**, I will inevitably have to go into seclusion with the other True Lords. Without me around, will you be in danger?”

Lü Yang froze.

He had been busy planning how Ancestor Tingyou could attain **【Boundless Heaven】**, when, and how many benefits he could reap afterward.

But now—he was stuck.

The next moment, he smiled sincerely again: “No matter. Your attaining **【Boundless Heaven】** is more important. It's also preparation for the future.”

In this wretched place, it was hard to achieve anything alone.

To truly accomplish something, one needed many friends and few enemies. A completely reliable True Lord ally was worth more than gold.

Moreover, Lü Yang hadn't forgotten—there was also a **【Boundless Heaven】** inside the Myriad Spirits Banner!

Although only in its Fruition-stage embryonic form, wasn't there still 【Ang Xiao】 ? He had once said he would eat him for a hundred lifetimes. No way he'd let him off this time.

'Let Suohuan suffer a bit. Use 【Everflowing Water】 from 【Ang Xiao】 again to raise my Myriad Spirits Banner's embryonic 【Boundless Heaven】 to perfection. With you attaining 【Boundless Heaven】 this life and forging your Cave Heaven, I'll start my next life with a True Lord bodyguard!'

Just then, a voice came from outside the cave dwelling.

"Lord Duhuan?"

Lü Yang responded and walked out, only to find it was Eunuch An who had brought him to the palace earlier. He quickly saluted: "Daoist Friend An, what brings you here?"

"Not an order, per se."

Eunuch An waved his hand, smiling broadly: "I've come to deliver an imperial decree. Lord Duhuan, His Majesty has entrusted you with a great task this time."

A great task?

Seeing Lü Yang's confused expression, Eunuch An quickly explained: "Here's the deal... the 【Dutian Division】 recently caught someone cultivating 【City Head Soil】 !"

Hmm?

"Though the individual is only at the Qi Refining stage—hasn't even reached Foundation Establishment—the cultivation technique clearly points to 【City Head Soil】 . His Majesty has already given personal instructions."

"Lord Duhuan, you are to interrogate the subject and extract the method. The cultivation technique is quite special—it's bound by causality and cannot be read directly by soul-searching. His Majesty also doesn't wish to alert the Pure Land, so interrogation is the only method. If you can get it out, it'll be another major merit!"

Lü Yang: "..."

The person you're talking about... wouldn't happen to be Senior Brother Zhao Xuhe, would it?

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 468: A Bit More Suffering for Senior Brother Zhao

‘Senior Brother Zhao, you’re really out of luck.’

Inside the interrogation room of 【All-Heaven Department】 , Lü Yang looked at Zhao Xuhe, who was strung up mid-air, barely clinging to life, clearly beaten numerous times, and let out a sigh.

Zhao Xuhe really was a pitiful man.

After parting ways with Lü Yang, everything had been fine for him in the Dao Court. But during a routine drill, he accidentally exposed that he was now cultivating the 『Ninefold Transforming Dragon Art』 .

And then everything changed. 【All-Heaven Department】 arrested him on the spot, reported up the chain, and then experts from all directions took turns on him, opening with a round of Great Memory Recovery Techniques, shouting “Are you going to talk or not?” Zhao Xuhe didn’t even have time to react before he was beaten silly—no one even asked him a question!

Still, he was a disciple of the Holy Sect.

Upon learning that the Dao Court's target was the 『Ninefold Transforming Dragon Art』 , and noticing that they hadn’t gone straight to soul-searching—seemingly wary of something—he gritted his teeth and endured.

No matter how you restore my memories, I just “don’t remember.”

Because he understood clearly:

‘If I speak, I’m truly doomed. If I don’t, they get nothing—and I might still have a chance. After all, I’m the only one who knows the 『Ninefold Transforming Dragon Art』 !’

Just then, the cell door opened.

Zhao Xuhe looked up and saw a sharp-featured young man enter, his energy surging like the sea—seemingly more terrifying than even his own master.

But over these past few days, it wasn’t like no such figures had come before. Zhao Xuhe took a deep breath and said weakly, “You don’t have to waste your time. I won’t say anything. I’m not afraid to tell you—no one else knows this true art but me. If I die, it dies with me!”

So come on—recruit me already.

His heart burned with anticipation. He keenly sensed that what lay before him might be a crisis, but it was also an opportunity. After all, he too could be loyal to the Dao Court!

The Dao Court wanted his cultivation technique so badly.

If they couldn't get it, they'd definitely try to win him over. Once that happened, and with the Dao Court's support, he might even become a Foundation Establishment True Person more easily in the future!

With this thought, Zhao Xuhe became all the more determined. As a disciple of the Holy Sect, he never lacked ambition. So long as there was hope of building a Foundation, no suffering was too much—what was a little torture? In the Holy Sect, there were plenty who dreamed of taking this route and couldn't.

“You all leave.”

Seeing the resolute look on Zhao Xuhe's face, Lü Yang waved a hand, sending away the 【All-Heaven Department】 enforcers, and then sat down before Zhao Xuhe.

Inside his Sea of Consciousness, the Xuandu Blessed Land trembled slightly.

‘Mm, no one's watching.’

Lü Yang nodded in satisfaction. Then, under Zhao Xuhe's confused gaze, he didn't ask a single question—he simply pulled out a jade slip and began recording.

『Ninefold Transforming Dragon Art』 ? I already know it!

Not only that, but I even know the more advanced 『Ten Thousand Chariots Dragon Ascension Scroll』 ! I can even jot down some cultivation tips and knowledge points!

To Lü Yang, this was nothing short of heaven-sent merit!

So he didn't interrogate at all—just transcribed the entire technique, and then used the 【String-Pulled Puppet】 to control Zhao Xuhe into signing and stamping it.

■ Mission accomplished!

As for Zhao Xuhe? Lü Yang, being kind-hearted, couldn't bear to see him suffer further. So, clean and swift, he sent him off to reincarnation.

【Tianwu Hall】 .

The current Son of Heaven of the Dao Court, titled 【Emperor Who Nourishes All Things】 , era name Jiayou, was currently seated on the Dao platform, reviewing memorials submitted by various departments.

At that moment, Eunuch An rushed in.

“Your Majesty! Your Majesty! We have joyous news!”

“Oh? What news?”

The Jiayou Emperor opened his eyes at the words. With a turn of thought, he had already guessed the eunuch's intent. "That little dragon finally gave up the technique under interrogation?"

"Your Majesty is all-knowing!"

Eunuch An quickly responded, "Heaven and Earth are within Your Majesty's grasp; Your Majesty's insight shines brighter than sun and moon. Indeed, Du Huan has rendered great merit."

"Bring it up."

As soon as the Jiayou Emperor spoke, Eunuch An immediately presented the scroll of cultivation technique that Lü Yang had "extracted." With a sweep of divine sense, the Emperor's face lit with satisfaction. With his cultivation, he could instantly tell the technique's authenticity. More importantly:

『It hasn't stirred karmic threads!』

If the 『Ninefold Transforming Dragon Art』 had been acquired through soul-searching, it would have triggered the karmic web and drawn the Pure Land's attention—an offense rather than a merit.

But torture-extracted? That was different.

Since Zhao Xuhe had "willingly" handed it over, though there was still some karmic disturbance, it was subtle enough that a Foundation Establishment True Person could easily mask it—certainly not enough to alert the Pure Land.

With this in mind, the Jiayou Emperor was even more pleased.

A thought activated, and Lü Yang's records in the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 surfaced in front of him—specifically, how he chose Comprehension when receiving his salary.

The Emperor wasn't surprised.

Though the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 didn't benefit most officials who relied on their posts, it was a true treasure for those who could cultivate independently.

Lü Yang's choice had been within his expectations.

'Trying to rapidly digest the Dao attainment of 【Noon Fire】?' the Jiayou Emperor mused, then chuckled softly. If so, then why not grant it?

"Convey my decree."

The Emperor spoke with golden words and jade speech: "True Dragon Du Huan, meritorious to the nation, is granted three units of salary."

In the Dao Court, one “unit” referred to a century, and salaries were distributed once every hundred years. Thus, the Jiayou Emperor had awarded Lü Yang three centuries’ worth of salary in a single sentence!

Almost simultaneously, Lü Yang within the 【All-Heaven Department】 felt the resonance.

The 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 radiated splendor, delivering the imperial edict and adding three salary withdrawal permissions to his official account.

“Thank His Majesty for His great grace!”

Lü Yang didn’t hesitate in the slightest. He stood where he was, flicked his right hand, his expression resolute, voice impassioned and words thunderous as he declared: “Loyalty! Devotion!”

The Jiayou Emperor nodded in satisfaction.

At the same time, Lü Yang also saw on the panel of the 【Book of a Hundred Lives】 —the golden talent 【Does Not Serve Under Others】 lit up brightly.

『Talent Activated』

【Does Not Serve Under Others: The more outstanding you are in the eyes of your superior, the more favor you receive—and the greater the bonus when you betray them.】

Lü Yang understood immediately—this talent lighting up meant he had truly caught the Jiayou Emperor’s attention. If he chose to betray now, he could already reap the minimum bonus. He quickly realized—this was also a favorability gauge!

‘The brighter the talent, the more trust I hold in the Emperor’s heart.’

‘If it dims, it means suspicion—then I must plan ahead. Never thought it could serve this function too!’

As Lü Yang pondered—

Suddenly, a warm sensation emerged from his chest. He frowned and took out the source: a glowing, radiant scale.

『This is... the Dragon Monarch’s Scale!』

Lü Yang’s heart stirred. This had clearly been granted by the Dragon Monarch from across the seas to Du Huan, meant to monitor the True Dragon Clan’s situation in Jiangdong.

And now, the Dragon Monarch was sending a message.

『Well then... perfect timing!』

Though surprised, Lü Yang remained calm. After all, under the effect of 【Seizing the Nest of Another】 , he now appeared to all as the genuine Dragon King Du Huan.

With that, he immediately activated the scale.

In the next instant, layers of white mist emerged from the scale, forming a cloud of celebration. From the cloud opened a pair of golden eyes, large as copper bells.

“Hmm?”

The next second, confusion flickered in those golden eyes.

For in his imagination, his dear grandson should be down and out right now, filled with grievance and unable to speak of it, maybe even harboring resentment toward him.

But in reality?

What entered his view was a heroic young man in official robes, radiating pride—where was the misery? He looked like he was riding high on success!

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 469: The Ambition of the Dao Court

In the calculations of the old Dragon Monarch, the first batch of True Dragon branch members dispatched to Jiangdong were essentially cannon fodder, their only value being to establish a resting place.

He had also foreseen that the Dao Court would suppress the True Dragon Clan, yet had no intention of intervening. He simply waited for the right time, estimating that the suppression by the Dao Court had almost run its course, and only then did he send a message—intending to boost the morale of his grandson Du Huan, hoping he would continue to serve the True Dragon Clan.

However, the situation turned out to be quite different from what he had imagined.

“Grandfather!”

Before the Dragon Monarch could speak, Lü Yang directly fell to his knees, tears streaming down his face as he said emotionally, “Du Huan has not let Grandfather down. Du Huan has done it.”

‘.Ah.’

For a moment, the Dragon Monarch hesitated, especially upon seeing the 【Vice Commander of the Right, All-Heaven Department】 third-rank official title above Lü Yang’s head.

Because the Jiangdong region was shrouded by the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 , ordinary divination methods could not intervene. The old Dragon Monarch couldn't deduce the cause and effect either. But having lived for so many years, there was little he hadn't seen before. After a brief moment of thought, he arrived at a conclusion that surprised and delighted him.

'Du Huan... has actually made a name for himself in Jiangdong!?'

After all, anything else might be deceptive, but that gleaming official title was not. Moreover, it seemed to correspond with 【Roadside Earth】 .

Lü Yang might not know, but how could the old Dragon Monarch not?

In the current Dao Court, the Fruitional Rank passed down through generations of the Tian Wu Royal House was precisely 【Roadside Earth】 ! In other words, his own grandson had already caught the eye of the Dao Court's Heavenly Son!

"Good! Good! Good!"

Thinking this, the old Dragon Monarch laughed heartily: "As expected of my beloved grandson. I sent you to Jiangdong back then because I believed you could accomplish something!"

As the words fell, the bond between grandfather and grandson deepened.

"Du Huan, tell Grandfather—how did you rise within the Dao Court?"

"Because of a person."

At this point, Lü Yang deliberately lowered his voice and cautiously looked around. The old Dragon Monarch immediately understood and dispersed the auspicious clouds around him.

"Speak freely!"

The old Dragon Monarch chuckled lightly: "Since I gave you this scale to contact me, I naturally have ways to help you avoid Jia You's detection."

"Yes, Grandfather." Lü Yang then produced the 『Incense-Fueled Deification Method』 and the coordinates for Seven Luminaries Heaven, speaking solemnly: "It was due to a cultivation method and a corresponding Realm Heaven. The person who gave these to me disappeared afterward. That person was extremely mysterious—I suspect they're from the Jiangbei Demonic Sect!"

".Oh?"

At these words, the old Dragon Monarch immediately grew serious. After all, no matter how minor the matter, if it involved the Holy Sect, it was significant—it could contain dangerous traps!

"This is..."

Soon, the old Dragon Monarch finished reviewing the method handed over by Lü Yang, then performed a divination on the coordinates of 【Seven Luminaries Heaven】. His expression gradually grew solemn:

“The person who contacted you... harbors grand ambitions! This may be a Realm Heaven where a Fruitional Rank has begun to take shape, and it aligns well with the Dao Court’s system. Yet he delivered it to the Dao Court through your hands. He’s using your True Dragon identity. But with such a bargaining chip, he didn’t negotiate directly with the Dao Court.”

The old Dragon Monarch did not doubt Lü Yang’s account.

After all, the 『Incense-Fueled Deification Method』 was right there—real and undeniable. And this was his own grandson. Could he not know his grandson? He didn’t have the guts to lie to him!

“What did you do?” the old Dragon Monarch asked.

Lü Yang quickly bowed his head, adopting a submissive tone: “Du Huan used Grandfather’s name and claimed it was the True Dragon Clan’s token of sincerity—”

“Good!”

Lü Yang didn’t need to explain further. The old Dragon Monarch could easily guess the developments that followed and also understood how his grandson had managed to rise.

As for the “mysterious person” Lü Yang spoke of, the old Dragon Monarch quickly formed a judgment:

“That person... should be a reincarnated True Lord!”

A Realm Heaven with a nascent Fruitional Rank—no mere Foundation Establishment cultivator could have created that. But since he didn’t dare approach the Dao Court directly, it was unlikely he was a True Lord at present.

Thus, a reincarnated True Lord made perfect sense.

But who could it be?

In the old Dragon Monarch’s heart, the most famous reincarnated True Lord over the past five thousand years popped up: “Hong Yun? Impossible, impossible. How could he have such ability...?”

Whoever it was, it couldn’t be Hong Yun.

It had to be someone else!

The old Dragon Monarch fell into deep doubt. As for any other fallen True Lords of the Holy Sect in the last five thousand years—after calculating back and forth, perhaps only...

‘. 【Ang Xiao】?’

No way? That man was supposed to be a good person.

The old Dragon Monarch stroked his chin, half-convinced and half-suspicious. Though he had a good reputation, being of the Holy Sect still made him wary.

“Oh right, Grandfather—there’s one more thing.”

At this moment, Lü Yang suddenly spoke again, recounting how he had just interrogated Zhao Xuhe and submitted the 『Ninefold Transforming Dragon Art』 to the Dao Court.

This caused the old Dragon Monarch’s expression to change again: “The cultivation method corresponding to 【City Head Soil】 —I remember the Pure Land threw it into the Holy Sect long ago. How did it end up in the Dao Court, and it was Du Huan who personally extracted it... Good! Very good! No wonder Jia You values you so much!”

Upon hearing this, Lü Yang feigned confusion: “That cultivation method... is it special?”

“You don’t know.”

The old Dragon Monarch happily explained, “That fellow Jia You cultivates 【Roadside Earth】 and has long coveted 【City Head Soil】 ’s supreme position!”

“Ever since the last Millennial Catastrophe, when the Dao Court fell into chaos and the Zouyu Royal House was overthrown by Tian Wu, during the time of Buddhism’s eastward spread, the supreme Fruitional Rank 【City Head Soil】 was taken away. Ever since, the Tian Wu Royal House has been plotting to reclaim it—at the very least, they must seize the position of supreme Fruitional Rank again.”

“But the Pure Land... is just shameless.”

At this point, the old Dragon Monarch even twitched his eyelids: “Combined with the Dao Court’s own limitations, they’ve never found an opportunity to act.”

“But this time is different.”

“With the cultivation method for 【City Head Soil】 , if someone within the Dao Court can use it to establish their foundation, and Jia You confers a title upon them...”

“Then, as that person’s cultivation advances—from early Foundation Establishment, to mid-stage, to late stage, even to perfection—the Dao Court can, through the link of official titles and the concept of ‘making 【City Head Soil】 practitioners submit in vassalage’, forcibly demote 【City Head Soil】 from its position of supremacy!”

“At that time, 【Roadside Earth】 can take its place.”

“And Jia You would achieve his wish—ascending to late-stage Golden Core with a supreme Fruitional Rank. Not only would he have no match in this era, but the Nascent Soul path would be within reach.”

Saying this, the old Dragon Monarch even showed a hint of envy.

But he quickly returned to his senses and looked again at Lü Yang: “You’ve done well this time. From now on, serve Jia You diligently and work hard to accumulate status.”

“Your grandson understands!”

Lü Yang quickly nodded, but then put on a worried face: “But Grandfather, the discrimination against us demon cultivators in Jiangdong is far too severe. Though I’ve gained a little status, I have no foundation here. Even when I visit people in person, they shut me out.”

“I ask Grandfather to help me—grant me a way to deal with this!”

“A way to deal with it?”

The old Dragon Monarch was momentarily stunned, then his thoughts turned and he suddenly realized: What kind of place is the Dao Court? If they truly cared about the divide between humans and demons, they wouldn’t be recruiting demon cultivators.

Most likely—he’s being shut out because he has no money!

Trying to get others to help without offering anything?

‘This brat is asking me for money!’

The old Dragon Monarch suddenly understood, and with a grand wave of his hand: “No need to worry. I’ll send you a batch of spiritual materials right away. Our True Dragon Clan lacks everything...

Except money!”

At this point, the old Dragon Monarch was full of pride. Lü Yang, on the other hand, looked hesitant: “Isn’t this a bit much? These are treasures of our True Dragon Clan...”

The old Dragon Monarch laughed: “There’s nothing wrong with it. We raise troops for a thousand days to use them for a single moment—you are more valuable than these materials. But just in case, I will store them in a True Treasure and send it together. The treasure will also be lent to you for protection, to guard against malicious people.”

“Grandfather, isn’t that too much...”

“There’s nothing wrong with it!”

The old Dragon Monarch spoke with finality, directly dispersing his auspicious clouds, and across countless miles, sent down a beam of golden light with a thunderous crash that landed in Lü Yang’s palm.

Struggling to Survive with Regression Power in the Primordial Saint Sect

Chapter 470: Noon Fire Accomplished, A Plot for Chong Guang

Inside the quiet chamber, as the old Dragon Monarch withdrew his consciousness, that scale also lost its radiance and sank into silence.

Meanwhile, Lü Yang silently examined the golden light in his hand. Though it looked faint, once his divine sense sank into it, it felt as if he were immersed in a vast ocean.

As the golden light faded, the item's true form was revealed.

It was a horn, inscribed with wave-like patterns across its surface. Held in Lü Yang's palms, it appeared the size of a hand, yet it bore the weight of a mountain.

【Imperial Sea Conch】 !

Lü Yang grasped the truth in his heart: 'A true treasure corresponding to the **【Great Sea Water】** fruit-position, just like the **【Sword of Ascension and Contemplation from Heaven-Bearing Mystic Realm】** , only its grade is obviously higher.'

This, of course, wasn't because **【Great Sea Water】** was stronger than **【Wall Earth】** , but rather because the old Dragon Monarch's cultivation and Dao attainment far surpassed that of **【True Lord Cheng Tian Zheng De】** . Thus, his utilization of the fruit-position was far more refined, and the treasure extracted from it was naturally of higher quality.

At the same time, inside the Myriad Spirits Banner.

Ancestor Tingyou was eavesdropping on the conversation between Lü Yang and the old Dragon Monarch, ensuring that if Lü Yang showed any flaws, he could immediately assist him in falsely holding the Outer Dao.

Yet now, he couldn't help but shake his head.

'Turns out I was worrying over nothing. This kid's far more cunning than I am!'

No wonder he survived the Holy Sect!

That was a Dragon Monarch, at the mid-stage Golden Core, a True Lord who had lived for who knows how many years—and yet was actually tricked by Lü Yang into offering up a true treasure!

At this moment, Lü Yang also noticed the expression on the Ancestor's face, and immediately sent a divine thought: "Don't be fooled, Ancestor! This old dragon harbors ill intentions! A true treasure... Who knows if it carries a trace of the True Lord's will? I bet there's an imprint of divine consciousness in it, claiming to protect me, but in fact monitoring me!"

Don't think the old Dragon Monarch is a fool!

He may seem honest or sincere, but he's definitely not a fool. Otherwise, how could he have led the True Dragon Clan to fight their way overseas, preserving their bloodline to this day?

He may not be great at scheming...

But he's certainly experienced in being schemed against!

Trying to trick him—now that was no easy feat!

If Lü Yang had foolishly accepted this treasure and exposed a flaw, the next moment the Dragon Monarch's claw might have torn through space and instantly refined him into nothing.

At this thought, Lü Yang activated **【Never Beneath Others】** .

This golden talent also emitted a glow before the Dragon Monarch—though the glow wasn't bright, it undeniably existed.

'This shows that the old Dragon Monarch still trusts me.'

'Giving me this true treasure to monitor me likely stems more from being tricked too many times—just a subconscious precaution, not actual suspicion.'

Lü Yang studied the **【Imperial Sea Conch】** , thoughts racing in his mind, but on the surface, he put on a touched expression: "Grandfather truly cares for me. With this true treasure, I won't need to worry when I meet that mysterious man again. If only I knew when he would come looking for me..."

After speaking, Lü Yang tossed it into the Myriad Spirits Banner.

A divine thought of the Dragon Monarch?

It wasn't his true body—just a wisp of divine thought separated by countless millions of miles... Lü Yang was no longer afraid! He could totally find a way to fool it!

After all, the Myriad Spirits Banner was vast and contained everything.

As long as someone coordinated things from within, fooling a single divine thought of a True Lord was more than possible. Whatever the Dragon Monarch wanted to see, Lü Yang could fabricate exactly that!

Inside the quiet chamber.

【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 pulsed. Lü Yang once again entered that unprecedented state of “World-Shocking Comprehension”, and for a time, felt his thoughts flowing like a spring.

“Ancestor, want to give it a try too?”

Lü Yang glanced at Ancestor Tingyou beside him, extending an invitation. Ancestor Tingyou paused, then tried to touch a bit of the Dao Law’s might.

Of course, Lü Yang didn’t directly let Ancestor Tingyou receive the full blessing of the 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 . That would expose him entirely to its control. Instead, he let him absorb just a trace of the drifting power—enough for a brief taste of the blessing’s effects.

“How is it?”

Ancestor Tingyou closed his eyes to sense it for a moment, then frowned: “Feels like my thinking’s gotten slower... This thing might not be very useful to me.”

“...Thinking slower?”

Upon hearing this, Lü Yang was speechless. What happened to the supposed “World-Shocking Comprehension”? What about the supposed wisdom of countless cultivators across Jiangdong?

Turned out even that couldn’t match Ancestor alone!

Lü Yang shook his head. After the initial shock, he wasn’t surprised. Soon, the three blessings of 【Immortal Nation Dao Law】 rewarded by Emperor Jiayou were used up.

“Boom!”

At that moment, Lü Yang opened his eyes, within which glimmered a deep red light—like fiery spirit interweaving brilliance. In his mind, vast knowledge related to 【Noon Fire】 emerged:

‘Noon is for beacons and watchtowers, its proper position is the south, it belongs to fire, its color is red-yellow. It is the land of war and fire. The sun enters the palace of noon, returning to its source, also called “Radiance at Zenith.” Golden brilliance in the sky... Thus, under the guidance of the fruit-position 【Heavenly Fire Above】 , the talent divine ability condensed from 【Noon Fire】 should be called—’

At that thought, radiance burst from Lü Yang’s body!

Beneath his feet, the glow formed into jade, transforming into ethereal palaces, pavilions, towers, and jade halls, rising up until they together constructed a heavenly gate.

Only three radiant characters adorned the gate:

‘ 【Palace of Return】 ! ’

Lü Yang exhaled a long breath. Amidst the palace halls, another divine ability emerged above his head—it was the previously refined Wutu divine ability: 【Imperial Arbiter of Fate】 .

The next second, 【Tribulation-Pass Wave】 appeared!

This upper-grade spiritual treasure with five divine mysteries was held in Lü Yang's hand. The mysterious power of 【Holding the Law】 was triggered, evolving a third divine ability image!

In an instant, the 【Palace of Return】 swirling around Lü Yang, and the 【Imperial Arbiter of Fate】 descending like an imperial crown with glowing tassels over his head, collided with his current life's innate divine ability: 【Diagram of Sovereign Mandate Over Mountains and Seas】—fusing into one.

At first glance, it now resembled a treasure pearl.

Shaped like an egg, obscure and veiled, held between Lü Yang's hands, yet reflecting infinite radiance—as if containing the ultimate truths of heaven and earth.

【Heaven and Earth United】 !

Four divine abilities—one innate, three talents—Foundation Establishment Late Stage!

A satisfied smile appeared on Lü Yang's face. In this life, his cultivation speed had been astonishing. Barely a year since his rebirth, and he had already recovered the cultivation of a Great True Person!

'By previous estimations, there's still around a hundred years before Uncle-Master Chong Guang seeks the Golden Core. But he prepared early, having already reincarnated in 【Qing Nation】 . What remains in the Sky-reaching Sea of Clouds is likely just a clone to mislead others—that's why he hasn't left the sect for a hundred years, nor engaged in battle.'

The time was just about right!

When Chong Guang sought the Golden Core, his reincarnated identity “Zhong Xin” in Qing Nation would already have gained the Qing King's full trust and a position of power—a process requiring years of careful cultivation.

And the Qing King wasn't a fool.

Time was the best tool to test people. Without “Zhong Xin” remaining loyal for decades, how could he possibly gain the King's trust?

Not to mention, in this life, Lü Yang would no longer reveal the truth of 【Overturning Lamp Fire】 .

Under such circumstances, within thirty years at most, Chong Guang—who was focused solely on 【Overturning Lamp Fire】 —would surely reincarnate into Qing Nation. Lü Yang could then lie in wait to capture him!

'Speaking of which, once Ancestor proves 【Boundless Heaven】 , he would be obliged to hide from the world along with all True Lords. At that time, I would indeed lack a capable aide by my side.'

In such a case, it would be best to find a backup.

This backup had to possess integrity, ability, potential, and cultivation—along with outstanding comprehension. Without a doubt, Uncle-Master Chong Guang was a perfect fit!