

World 1021

Chapter 1021: Immortal Tea_2 “`

Cultivators from the major sects in the Tianhe Realm generally knew that excessive consumption of elixirs could lead to the accumulation of poison within the body and spiritual power, posing a significant hidden danger when attempting to break through realms.

Back to Sky Valley, a major sect in alchemy, concocted and consumed the most elixirs and naturally conducted the most research in this area.

The Green Charm Spiritual Tea is the method developed by Back to Sky Valley to detoxify from the elixir poison.

However, this tea tree can only survive and grow above the Qi of Dragon Vein, and most lands with Dragon Vein in Flower Country have been cultivated into Rank-3 Spirit Fields to plant Coiling Dragon Spiritual Rice.

Therefore, for thousands of years, with the Green Charm mother tree as their origin, Back to Sky Valley has only managed to cultivate a few dozen offspring trees, and the output of Spiritual Tea barely meets the needs of their own sect members.

“Spiritual Tea Green Charm, I’ve long heard of its exceptional nature,” he couldn’t help but remark admiringly after drinking the tea, which was initially slightly bitter but then turned into a sweet essence that surged upward after swallowing, leaving him feeling refreshed and invigorated.

“Oh, my Spiritual Tea is just average. The White Dew Sparrow Tongue from Sun Bathing Sea is the true delicacy. I had it once and will never forget the experience. It completely cleansed my body, cleared all the gloom in my heart, and I was able to break through to the Core Formation Late Stage because of it,” Yan Shaoyin spoke of the best Spiritual Tea he had ever tasted. The White Dew Sparrow Tongue, known as the finest Spiritual Tea of the East Barbarians, comes from a Fourth-Order Spirit Plant, and is the treasured asset of Sun Bathing Sea.

“If I have the chance, I’ll definitely have to try a cup,” Chen Mobai said, his heart stirred after hearing this. He was currently cultivating the Pure Yang Scroll, and had no issues with the growth of his spiritual power, but he worried about being hindered by bottlenecks.

If the White Dew Sparrow Tongue was indeed beneficial for realm breakthroughs, it would be a perfect match for him.

“Master Yu must have tried it as well, though the Sky Star Silver Shuttle of your sect is also a Fourth-Grade Spirit Tea, and even surpasses the White Dew Sparrow Tongue, so you surely don’t share the same sentiments as I do,” Yan Shaoyin shifted the topic to Yu Shuji, who responded with a modest smile.

The Sky Star Silver Shuttle of Star Heaven Dao Sect was an extremely sought-after Spirit Tea even in the Eastern Earth Region, which when consumed could clear the mind as if one were amidst the stars, unconsciously expanding the Sea of Knowledge at the Purple Mansion without any side effects.

“The Eastern Wasteland is still too limited. Green Charm and Snow Needle Immortal Bud might be top-tier treasures in our eyes, but placed in the Eastern Earth Region, any Golden Core Cultivator’s daily brew might be of such a grade,” Yan Shaoyin sighed as he spoke. When he initially reached Core Formation, he had the chance to visit the Eastern Lands with the people from Starry Sky Commerce Guild and it truly opened his eyes.

Majestic Immortal Cities, sacred mountains soaring above the sky, all kinds of incredible Magic Artifacts, Elixirs, Talismans—it was like having the Immortal Realm from the heavens descend to the mortal world, deeply impressive and unattainable.

“Brother Yan, do not undervalue yourself. Even in the Eastern Lands, Green Charm is a noteworthy Spirit Tea. Merely the fact that it can neutralize the poison from elixirs is enough to cause a frenzy,” Yu Shuji interjected, his own Star Heaven Dao Sect being the dominant force in the Dong Yue Region, second only to the Holy Land Major Sects in the Eastern Earth Domain.

He had spent decades with the Starry Sky Commerce Guild in the Eastern Earth Domain during his youth and, after gaining a deep understanding, didn’t share the same awe for the region as Yan Shaoyin, who had only visited once.

“White Dew Sparrow Tongue is good, and Sky Star Silver Shuttle is superior, but the top Spirit Tea I’ve drunk in my life is one called ‘Longevity Eyebrow,’” Yu Shuji’s words aroused intense curiosity in Chen Mobai and Yan Shaoyin, who eagerly inquired about the mystery of this Longevity Eyebrow tea.

“This tea is grown at the entrance of Dao Morale Sect!” As soon as Yu Shuji mentioned this, both Chen Mobai and Yan Shaoyin widened their eyes, a look of realization dawning on them.

Dao Morale Sect, one of the Holy Lands in the Eastern Earth Region!

The Ascended Monk and former True Lord Yuan hailed from this sect, which generation after generation possesses individuals undergoing Divinity Transformation, making it one of the most deeply rooted Holy Lands in the Eastern Earth Domain.

The Longevity Eyebrow being cultivated at the entrance of Dao Morale Sect certainly wasn't ordinary.

“Could it be a Rank-5 Immortal Tea?”

Teas of Rank-5 and above could bear the moniker of 'Immortal', denoting that they are worthy offerings for Immortals of the Upper Realm.

“Indeed, Longevity Eyebrow is a Rank-5 Immortal Tea. Each cup consumed can extend one's lifespan by a year. True Lord Yuan was able to wait for his Ascendance opportunity due to the lifespan gained from this Immortal Tea.”

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“Is there a limit to the lifespan increase provided by Longevity Eyebrow?”

After hearing Yu Shuji's words, Chen Mobai couldn't help but ask. Lifespan is an innate fate, and the Immortal Tree Fruit from high-ranked Immortal Gates can extend one's life by 480 years.

“The best way to drink Longevity Eyebrow is to consume it continuously for a year, which can extend lifespan by 360 years. After that, it will have no effect. However, it is precisely because of this that I had the opportunity to have a sip,” Yu Shuji explained. The Longevity Eyebrow Spiritual Tea is well-known in the Eastern Earth Region, and every year countless Nascent Soul Cultivators nearing the end of their lifespan come seeking it.

Originally, a precious Spirit Plant owned by the Dao Morale Sect was gnawed on by pests, nearly causing it to wither and die. As a Rank-4 Spiritual Plant Master from the Starry Sky Commerce Guild, Yu Shuji also received an invitation.

In the end, more than a dozen of the top Spiritual Plant Masters from the Six Domains in the Eastern Earth joined hands to revive the precious plant. Yu Shuji, who had assisted in the effort, received not only a reward of Spirit Stones but also a cup of Longevity Eyebrow Tea to quench his thirst.

The taste of the tea had already been forgotten by Yu Shuji because it was actually quite ordinary, even a bit bitter, but it was nevertheless a Rank-5 Immortal Tea.

That's why he remembered it until now and boasted about it whenever he got the chance.

As expected, Yan Shaoyin felt envious and yearning after hearing about it.

Both Dao Morale Sect and Longevity Eyebrow Spiritual Tea were things he would likely never touch in his lifetime.

Seeing his expression, Yu Shuji felt very proud.

But when his gaze shifted to Chen Mobai, he was slightly taken aback.

For Chen Mobai wore a look of calm, as if he had just heard a tale, showing no emotional fluctuation.

[This Sect Master Chen, his composure is indeed extraordinary!]

Yu Shuji's regard for Chen Mobai rose once again. He knew that even the Nascent Soul Ancestors from the three major sects of the East Barbarians would show a longing face upon hearing about the Longevity Eyebrow Spiritual Tea and would wish they could immediately set out to the Eastern Earth to beg Dao Morale Sect for it.

As a Sword Cultivator theoretically with a shorter lifespan, Chen Mobai remained so serene about Longevity Eyebrow; such self-restraint both impressed and surprised Yu Shuji.

[No wonder he possesses such mastery over Spirit Plants.]

But what Yu Shuji didn't know was that Chen Mobai was young with hardly any immediate sense of urgency about his lifespan.

After achieving Core Formation, he had 560 years of lifespan, and he was only 45 years old now. This long time was enough for him to achieve Golden Core Perfection.

If he could accomplish Nascent Soul Formation, his lifespan would increase further, and after Nascent Soul Formation, his Longevity Dao Body would surely reach great fruition. Then, he could attempt to cultivate the Art of Longevity.

If he could master this grand spell from the Longevity Sect, he could extend one-third of the lifespans corresponding to his current realm.

By then, if he managed well in the Immortal Gates, he might even have the chance to obtain the Immortal Tree Fruit.

Chen Mobai might worry about slow growth in Divine Sense, stagnation in Sword Dao Realm, or inability to break through realm bottlenecks, but he had no concerns about lifespan...

He even somewhat wished that time could pass more quickly, ideally in the blink of a century, sparing him the arduous time of meditation and cultivating to directly achieve Golden Core Perfection.

Although Longevity Eyebrow was also fine, Chen Mobai would certainly not bother traveling to the Eastern Earth Region for it.

Better to develop steadily in the Eastern Wilderness, turn it into his main camp for enlightenment, leverage the resources of the Immortal Gates and the region, and strive for Nascent Soul Formation.

In the process, he planned to gradually devour the Snow-blowing Palace, suppress Back to Sky Valley, prepare to take over the Five Elements Sect, and finally unite the Eastern Wilderness, slowly accumulating and observing the surrounding situation. The moment the Golden Wind Ancestor showed

signs of passing away in meditation, he would immediately lead an army to the East Barbarians and obliterate the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace.

Chen Mobai's grand scheme was already clear in his mind, and he was steadily executing it step by step.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

As the three Core Formation cultivators were drinking tea and chatting, a sudden violent tremor of the earth came, and a thick and surging powerful demonic aura burst out from under the ground not far away.

Chapter 1022: Mother Locust

Three streams of Spiritual Light flickered, all of them charging out of the pavilion at the same time, racing toward the location of the demonic qi's eruption.

Among them, a crimson streak of flames moved the fastest, leaving several afterimages in the void and quickly outpacing the other two.

Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji, watching Chen Mobai's retreating figure as he used Earth Departing Flame Light Escape, couldn't help but show shocked expressions on their faces.

They were already moving at the fastest escaping speed under normal circumstances, yet two Cultivators in the late stage of Core Formation couldn't keep up with someone who had just reached Core Formation!

Chen Mobai quickly arrived at the site of the demonic qi's outburst, and looking down, he saw a pitch-black fissure that had cracked open in the center of the earth, with demonic qi bursting forth from it.

A locust monster beast, half the size of a person and covered in an intermixed grayish-green hue, suddenly burst from the ground and charged towards a group of Cultivators holding Array Flags, who were trying to seal the fissure.

In the midst of the overwhelming demonic qi, the earthy glow burgeoning from the Array Flags was as fragile as yellow paper, instantly torn apart by the formidable monster beast.

“Not good!”

The leading female Foundation Establishment Cultivator saw this scene and her face changed dramatically, quickly pulling out a bright yellow talisman from her Storage Bag.

But by the time she activated it, it was already too late, the tremendously powerful locust monster beast had reached her face, opening its sawtooth-like maw and fiercely biting down.

“Vile creature, how dare you harm someone in my presence!”

A clear voice sounded. Before its echoes reached the ears of the people below, a blaze of brilliant golden flames had descended from the sky, appearing like a golden flaming sword, piercing through a grey haze of demonic light and cleaving the half-human-sized locust in two.

Immediately, a scorched stench spread, along with a scream, the locust monster beast, far beyond Rank-2, was already aflame, turned into a pile of ash, scattering on both sides of the earth’s fissure.

“Sect Master Chen, what excellent swordsmanship!”

Two rays of Escaping Light flew over, none other than Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji. They were half a step too late, but arrived just in time to witness Chen Mobai’s display of divine might, the Flame Sun Slash annihilated a near-Rank-3 locust monster beast in an instant.

One should know that these Earth Spirit Locusts, besides being ferocious, had shells that had absorbed Earth Spirit Qi year after year, and after being tempered by earthfire, were incredibly hard, with typical Rank-3 methods being unable to break their defense.

Yet Chen Mobai’s single move of Flame Sun Slash turned it to ash with ease, truly living up to his reputation as a top-tier Sword Cultivator.

“Master, there is a Rank-3 Mother Locust underground!”

At that moment, the female Foundation Establishment Practitioner Chen Mobai had saved shouted out to Yu Shuji.

“The Mother Locust!”

Upon hearing this, Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji’s expressions shifted slightly.

And at that moment, more and more fierce demonic qi surged up from the depths of the earth.

Bits of dark red light began to shine deep within the fissure, unsettlingly eerie. Chen Mobai, with his Void Spirit Eye activated, had already seen everything clearly.

He saw countless locusts emerge, each the size of a head, extending their claws out and clinging to the rocky walls of the underground, densely packed and innumerable.

The dark red lights were their eyes.

Looking deeper down with the Void Spirit Eye, in the deepest part of the fissure, at the center of these teeming locusts was an enormous, jade-colored Mother Locust, nearly the size of a human.

The powerful demonic qi they had felt earlier was emanating from it.

“Kill it, and these locusts will become rootless,” said Yan Shaoyin, as he and Yu Shuji each showed their might, illuminating this fissure that had opened in the earth, and upon seeing the Mother Locust, they were filled with a murderous intent.

Locusts can wreak havoc primarily because the Mother Locust, after absorbing sufficient nourishment, can produce offspring continuously.

Eliminating this source would mean that even if the remaining locusts were numerous, the Cultivators could gradually exterminate them with their methods.

This was one piece of experience gained from the struggle between Cultivators and locusts over thousands of years.

After this declaration, Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji did not hesitate to take out their respective Magic Artifacts from their Storage Bags.

A Banana-leaf Fan and a Sickle.

Yan Shaoyin spat out a golden red light, his Earth-Core True Fire which he had bitterly cultivated for many years. This fire was pivotal in melting medicinal properties and synthesizing elixirs, and had already reached a grand completion of Rank-3.

As soon as the Earth-Core True Fire was released and fanned by the Banana-leaf Fan, it roared like a fire cascade in the sky, resembling a flaming waterfall, plunging directly into the earth's fissure towards the Mother Locust.

Faced with this dire threat, the swarm of locusts descended into a frenzy.

Their dark red eyes flickered with an even more ferocious glint, releasing waves of demonic qi within their bodies, forming a monster barrier above the Mother Locust to shield her.

In the midst of the sizzling noise, the Earth-Core True Fire touched the death-defying swarm of locusts and immediately detonated in a violent explosion, the intense flames burning fiercely as the air once again filled with the stench of scorching.

Though these locusts were only Rank-1 or Rank-2, they were vast in number and fought without fear of death, endlessly flying out from the dark depths to fortify their fleshly barrier.

As more Earth Elemental Monster Energy accumulated, the descent of Yan Shaoyin's Earth-Core True Fire was actually thwarted.

“Sect Master Chen, these monsters have an Earth Attribute and can draw upon the elemental energy of flames to grow. Only attacks with a Wood Attribute are most effective against them; which I happen to wield. Please back me up!” Yu Shuji spoke, his voice steady as he channeled his Spiritual Power into the cold, gleaming sickle in his hand.

Strands of grass-green light spilled out from the snow-white blade, and as Chen Mobai fixed his gaze upon it, he could sense the sharp edge and involuntarily squinted his eyes.

Two locusts, similar in size to the one Chen Mobai had just annihilated with his Golden Flames, suddenly broke through the ongoing Earth-Core True Fire, brandishing their sharp limbs and gaping saw-like mouths. They appeared like mounds of tawny rocks hurtling towards Yu Shuji.

Within the flickering of two pale green lights, the fresh blood of the azure demonic beast, tinged with blue, already splattered across the sky.

Yu Shuji also easily cut down the locust monster beast.

Chen Mobai glanced over and saw that when his two blades touched the locust’s grey monster energy, it suddenly scattered apart.

This was exactly the case of wood overcoming earth; the locust’s earth elemental monster energy could only rely on the thickness and hardness of its shell to resist when facing Yu Shuji’s sickle-shaped magic artifact.

But clearly, this magic artifact was also top-notch Rank-3, slicing with an incomparably sharp glow. The two nearly Rank-3 locust monster beasts simply couldn’t block it.

“Master Yu, I’m going to strike with one sword, get ready!”

Seeing this, Chen Mobai was happy to play a supporting role, laughing as he grabbed a handful of golden flames in his hand.

“One sword strike?”

Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji next to him hadn't reacted to what that meant, when they suddenly saw a golden radiance shooting out from Chen Mobai's palm like flowing water.

In an instant, the Flame Sun Slash cut through the Earth-Core True Fire, then melted the thick blood-flesh barrier in front of the Mother Locust, followed by puffs of ash and the odor of scorched flesh. The momentum didn't stop there; it plunged straight towards the massive head of the locust.

A piercingly sharp sonic boom.

A burst of yellow-jade monster energy exploded, forming a ring that covered the Mother Locust's head, timely blocking the residual wave of the Flame Sun Slash.

But the vast explosive power of the fire still managed to wipe out the low-ranking locusts surrounding the Mother Locust.

The golden flames, like shockwaves, spread out in every direction after being blocked by the earth-yellow ring. Wherever they passed, soil and rock melted into magma, locusts turned to ash.

Only the Mother Locust at the center, relying on its abundant and formidable earth elemental monster energy, withstood it.

“Clearing the field is complete, Master Yu, please make your move.”

As Chen Mobai's laughter followed, Yu Shuji glanced at the only locust, the Mother, scurrying back and forth agitatedly in the scorching magma below and couldn't help but swallow hard.

The power of the Flame Sun Slash truly was formidable!

As this thought flashed through his mind, Yu Shuji's hand movements were not the slightest bit slow. The pale green glow on his shiny sickle had risen to the extreme. Accompanied by a downward swing, a crescent moon-like cold light slashed down, landing upon the Mother Locust's head.

Bang!

The yellow-jade ring held for two breaths before shattering.

Carrying eighty percent of its might, the crescent moon cold light sliced into the neck of the Mother Locust.

Just when everyone thought this Rank-3 monster beast was about to be killed, a fiery red stream of light ignited on its greenish-yellow shell, forming a bizarrely alluring pattern, like an ancient divine skill, bursting forth with sudden violence.

Yu Shuji's crescent moon cold light merely opened a wound on the neck of the Mother Locust before it was scattered by the fire red patterns on its shell, dissipating into nothing.

"To think it's a Mother Locust with dual earth-fire attributes, that complicates things," murmured Yan Shaoyin upon witnessing this. After hearing this, Chen Mobai's brow furrowed.

Chen Mobai: "What is so formidable about these dual earth-fire attributes?"

Yu Shuji: "Because it has mastered the fire attribute, attacks of the wood attribute can no longer restrain it. If there was a fellow practitioner here who cultivated water attribute cultivation techniques, even better if it's the ice attribute!"

Yan Shaoyin: "Too bad Master Kong is not here."

With dual earth-fire attributes, in the cycle of the Five Elements, water spiritual power is what restrains it most.

Ice spiritual power, as a sublimation of water spiritual power, is even more suitable. It was for this reason that the alliance which ventured into the Eastern Wilderness had invited practitioners from the Ice Snow Country to participate.

“Apart from Kong Lingling, there’s no other way?” Chen Mobai asked once more.

“This Mother Locust appears to be a mutant; its monster energy is as abundant as mine. If it uses the advantage of terrain to defend, the three of us might need to exhaust its monster energy over forty-nine days,” explained Yu Shuji.

“We should first set up a formation to suppress it and then have both Daoist brothers stay here to watch over it, while I go request Master Kong to come and lend a hand,” Yan Shaoyin proposed his method.

“I’ve just come from Snow Country and I had an exchange with Master Kong. She’s at a critical juncture in her cultivation technique practice and cannot move, Master Yan, even if you go, she’ll be powerless to help,” shook his head Chen Mobai, speaking a sentence that made Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji look at each other in dismay.

“How about we go to Wind Rain Hamlet and ask True Person Nu Jiang for help? I believe he would grant this favor if it’s to eliminate the Mother Locust,” Yan Shaoyin proposed another method.

“The responsibility of Wind Rain Hamlet to suppress the Cloud Dream Marsh is even greater!”

Chen Mobai shook his head once again.

Upon hearing this, Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji felt that he was right and couldn’t help but sigh.

“It seems we’ll just have to tough it out and sit here for forty-nine days.”

Just as Yan Shaoyin sat cross-legged, ready for a protracted struggle, Chen Mobai stepped forward and stepped into the fissure.

“Sect Master Chen...”

Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji called out, only to see him reach out and spread his five fingers towards the empty sky.

Sizzle crack!

Amidst the roaring thunder, a longsword, shining with a purple radiance, descended from the void into his hand!

Chapter 1023: Heterodox Golden Core

Forty-nine days?

When Chen Mobai heard this time frame, he immediately felt it was not acceptable.

He was merely passing by and had stopped at Back to Sky Valley to visit, how could he possibly stay here for such a long time.

He was in a hurry to go to the Ming Nation to investigate clues regarding his junior disciple's disappearance.

With this thought in mind, Chen Mobai decided to get serious.

Actually, if he deployed the Five Elements Sword Slaughter Formation and pushed the Water Element Sword Killing to its extreme, he felt he could indeed penetrate the Mother Locust's Earth and Fire Dual Defense.

But this was merely his own speculation; if the Sword Sha Formation failed to destroy the enemy in one strike and the Demonic Beast had other hidden techniques and Divine Skills, wouldn't that ruin his reputation as unbeatable in Magic Duels throughout the Eastern Wilderness?

Moreover, the most important thing was that in the Eastern Wilderness, the seamless switching of the Five Elements was always a sign of the Primordial Dao Fruit. If he displayed this technique in front of Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji, there was a high possibility they might mistake it as him attempting to Cultivate into Chaotic Dao Fruit.

Although Chen Mobai himself planned to cultivate it, after all, he had not accomplished it yet, and this Divine Skill was related to the First Origin Dao Palace, implicating a wide range of issues.

Before unifying the Eastern Wilderness and achieving “Nascent Soul Formation”, he thought it better not to reveal the possibility that he might cultivate the Primordial Dao Fruit.

Taking various aspects into consideration, Chen Mobai decided to use the simplest and least effort-consuming method.

After negotiating the price of a Top-grade Spirit Stone with the Purple Electric Sword, this Fourth Grade Superior Sword Artifact pierced through the Void, landed in Chen Mobai’s palm, and was grasped by his five fingers.

Crackle, crackle!

Streaks of purple lightning appeared in the air, turning into strands of electric current that the broad and thick sword blade absorbed.

As Chen Mobai strode toward the crevice in the ground, with each step he took, the purple lightning on the sword blade grew brighter.

The Mother Locust, enveloped in yellow and red demonic light, also sensed the terrifying energy gathering on the blade of the Purple Electric Sword and became even more agitated.

Amidst its hostile cries, the earth trembled, and a strange demonic aura surged out, forming around it a two-colored aura like a hemisphere enclosing it completely.

At the same time, more dark red lights started to glow deep within the ground fissure.

These were the lower-ranked locusts that hadn't been cleared yet; some crossed the leftover waves of the Golden Flame with their flesh and blood, screaming as they charged toward Chen Mobai, who descended from the sky. The others turned into a flesh and blood shield and positioned themselves above the Mother Locust.

"Sect Master Chen, we'll clear the field for you..."

The moment the Purple Electric Sword appeared from the Void, its power to alter the heavens shocked and delighted Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji.

The shock was of course from the sacred sword of the Longevity Sect wielded by Chen Mobai, Sect Leader of the Divine Wood Sect; it was even more formidable than they had imagined. With no Nascent Soul stepping forth, it seemed no one could restrain him.

The delight was that they no longer had to waste forty-nine days here; even though the Mother Locust had Five Elements, facing the Fourth Grade Superior Sword Artifact, it couldn't possibly hold out any longer.

However, before they could finish speaking, they saw Chen Mobai already swinging his sword downward.

A streak of purple sword light slashed out like a whirl!

The Purple Lightning boomed, turning all the locusts that reached his vicinity into charred remains. Then, the purple sword light cut through the flesh and blood shield effortlessly, splitting it in two.

The Mother Locust let out an unprecedented shrill scream, spitting out a yellow and red inner core as the demonic energy around it surged to more than triple its size in an instant.

However, faced with the descent of the Purple Electric Sword, it was like trying to stop a chariot with a mantis arm.

Confronting the purple sword light head-on, the inner core instantly dimmed. If Yu Shuji hadn't shouted in time, Chen Mobai's sword-handling hand would have remained steady, and that precious inner core would have been slashed apart.

The sword light shattered the inner core's demonic energy, curved slightly, and sliced the Mother Locust diagonally in half.

With a bang, bluish-green demonic blood sprayed out, covering every corner of the ground crevice, raising wisps of blue smoke.

Chen Mobai loosened his grip on the sword, and as the Void opened up again, the Purple Electric Sword slowly sank into the Domain and disappeared.

Amidst the hostile sounds, the remaining locusts sensed the death of their matriarch and began to go mad; some charged at Chen Mobai, while others scattered in all directions.

After sending back the Purple Electric Sword, Chen Mobai's hand, now open, spun lightly as golden flames emerged once more. The flames spread in all directions in a circular blast wave, turning all locusts within sight to ash.

Just at that moment, the attacks from Yan Shaoyin and Yu Shuji, meant to cover him, had barely touched down.

But by then, they were only taking down the lower-ranked Locust Monster Beasts around them.

Yu Shuji put away his Sickle somewhat awkwardly; he originally thought he was the main force, and the other Core Formation cultivators were there to support him.

Who would have known that with the appearance of Chen Mobai's Sword Artifact, the Mother Locust, which he felt unable to break through, was instantly killed.

"Sect Master Chen, truly you're worthy of being the number one Sword Cultivator in the Eastern Wilderness!"

To hide his own embarrassment, Yu Shuji offered a word of praise.

“A Rank-3 Demonic Beast’s inner core...”

At this time, Yan Shaoyin’s gaze was fixated on the dimming yellow and red inner core in Chen Mobai’s palm, approaching step by step to get a clearer look.

“Sect Master Chen, is this inner core...”

“Ahem, ahem...”

Before Yan Shaoyin could finish his sentence, Yu Shuji interrupted him with a cough.

“Sect Master Chen, thank you for your timely intervention and for saving Xiu Xian.”

Chapter 1024: Heterodox Golden Core_2

As they spoke, the Foundation Establishment female cultivator, who had previously been handling the Array Flag, came to Yu Shuji’s side and offered Chen Mobai a deep bow, expressing her thanks.

This person was the very one who had identified the Soul Nourishing Wood at the sales meeting in Jian Country; it was she who had encountered Qu XiuXian before.

Chen Mobai had noticed her when he took action but had no opportunity to converse with her due to the urgency of dealing with the Mother Locust.

“You’re too kind, I merely did what I should have done.”

Chen Mobai said modestly, he would have helped anyone in such a situation, provided they were not an enemy of his.

“The thing is, Sect Master Chen, as you may know, my disciple Lou Xuelong has failed in his Dan Condensation, and if he wishes to attempt it again in the future, he will likely need even more thorough preparation.”

“This Monster Beast Inner Pill happens to have an Earth-Fire Duality Attribute, which matches his Spirit Root Attributes. If it is refined into a Heterodox Golden Core, it can not only make up for the deficit caused by his failed condensation but also increase his success rate for Dan Condensation by thirty percent.”

“I wonder if Sect Master Chen would be willing to part with this inner pill and sell it to me, we can certainly discuss the price.”

Yu Shuji said, somewhat embarrassedly.

In the Tianhe Realm, the technique of refining Heterodox Golden Core is one of the methods that can help a cultivator most in Dan Condensation.

It involves slaying a demonic beast that shares the same Spirit Root and Cultivation Technique attributes as oneself and refining its inner core into something akin to an elixir yet similar to a Magic Artifact, creating a Heterodox Golden Core.

A cultivator nurtures this elixir within their Dantian Qi Sea and, once their Divine Sense and Spiritual Power are completely assimilated with the Heterodox Golden Core, they can utilize it to unleash power surpassing the Foundation Establishment realm.

This is the Heterodox Golden Core Technique.

Although the Heterodox Golden Core Technique also grants the power of a Core Formation, it is limited by the cultivation level of the demonic beast pre-mortem and can never be improved.

Moreover, since it isn't true Core Formation, the cultivator's lifespan does not increase.

Thus, the proper way to use a Heterodox Golden Core is to let a Foundation Establishment Practitioner experience the power of the Golden Core Realm and then, fueled by a burst of determination and using a Secret Technique, shatter the Heterodox Golden Core to break through to a true Gold Core.

This is known as the Gold Core Swapping Technique, and it is the method with the highest success rate for Core Formation in the Tianhe Realm, but also the most dangerous.

Because once the Heterodox Golden Core is shattered, if the practitioner fails to successfully form a true Gold Core, their Foundation Establishment body will definitely be unable to endure that power, resulting in certain death.

Even so, this remains the most popular method amongst Foundation Establishment Practitioners in the Tianhe Realm.

However, Rank-3 demonic beasts are rare, and those matching a cultivator's attributes are even rarer.

Furthermore, Foundation Establishment Practitioners definitely cannot slay a Rank-3 demonic beast, so the Heterodox Golden Core Technique is usually used by direct descendants of major sects, and generally only by disciples who have already failed an attempt at Core Formation.

Lou Xuelong is a case in point.

It was fortunate for them to come across the Mother Locust with Earth-Fire Duality Attribute, which made Yu Shuji bold enough to step forward and insist on buying the inner pill from Chen Mobai, even at the expense of outbidding Yan Shaoyin.

“So that's how it is. Star Heaven Dao Sect truly lives up to its reputation, possessing the Heterodox Golden Core Technique and the Gold Core Swapping Technique.”

After hearing this, Chen Mobai couldn't help but show a look of surprise.

This shares the same concept as the Legal Body Nascent Soul, but during the transformation into Legal Body Nascent Soul, one must invest all their Essence, Qi, and Spirit with no chance of turning back.

However, the Heterodox Golden Core Technique also has the Gold Core Swapping Method, allowing a cultivator one last chance to attempt a true Core Formation.

Though the cultivation techniques from the Tianhe Realm may not compare with the Immortal Gate in precision, they do possess unique and brilliant ideas.

Such techniques as the Heterodox Golden Core Technique and Gold Core Swapping Method would never be developed in the Immortal Gate regardless.

Because the demonic beasts over there were protected, let alone killing them to take their inner cores, even wanting to draw a vial of blood or cut a piece of fur for research required an application to the relevant departments.

“I wonder if this inner core can be exchanged with your sect for the techniques of Heterodox Golden Core and the Gold Core Transposition Method?”

Chen Mobai thought for a moment and put forward this request.

After all, since the Divine Wood Sect did not possess the corresponding methods, even if they obtained the inner core, they couldn't use it. Moreover, there were no Foundation Establishment Practitioners within the sect suitable for this inner core.

Instead of letting it sit idle in hand, waiting for the elemental energy of the inner core to slowly dissipate, it would be better to maximize its use while they could.

Chen Mobai had indeed considered whether he could use this inner core to exchange with Yu Shuji for the Embodiment Nascent Soul Technique, but that might risk exposing his possession of Rank-5 Soul Nourishing Wood, so he decided to tentatively probe first.

“I can decide on the Heterodox Golden Core Technique, but I need to report to the Sect Leader before I can agree to exchange the Gold Core Transposition Method.”

Yu Shuji responded somewhat sheepishly after hearing the request.

Here in the Tianhe Realm, all the great sects maintained very strict control over techniques related to breaking through realms and advancing.

The Heterodox Golden Core Technique uses the core of a Magic Artifact to refine elixirs. Besides the core concept, other supplementary ingredients must be adjusted by an outstanding alchemist based on the Foundation Establishment Practitioner's Spirit Root Attributes. The key lies in the alchemist, not the alchemy recipe, so it's permitted for the Starry Sky Commerce Guild to sell it.

Chen Mobai: "Frankly speaking, our Divine Wood Sect does not yet have this method. If we're lucky enough to hunt down a Rank-3 monster beast inner pill of the same type in Yun Meng Ze in the future, we might be able to make use of it, so I was thinking of asking if we could exchange with your sect for it."

Yu Shuji: "I understand and would naturally be willing to exchange with Sect Master Chen, but I simply don't have the authority. However, please rest assured, Sect Master Chen, I will immediately send Xiu Xian to the East Barbarians, where the headquarters of the Commerce Association can contact the sect directly and strive to get a response as quickly as possible."

As it concerned his own disciple, Yu Shuji was naturally extremely concerned, and since the method had significant restrictions, he didn't think handing it over to the Divine Wood Sect would make much of an impact.

At most, they might hunt a Rank-3 demonic beast or two in Yun Meng Ze, but the Divine Wood Sect had only Hong He suitable for the water attribute. One or two more Golden Core Practitioners appearing would be insignificant to the Star Heaven Dao Sect.

"I have heard that there's a technique similar to the Heterodox Golden Core Technique called the 'Embodiment Nascent Soul', which I learned about during Qu XiuXian's appraisal of the Soul Nourishing Wood last time. Does your sect have the means to exchange for this technique?"

Chen Mobai asked casually, as though it were an afterthought.

Qu XiuXian, who was beside them, heard this and smiled shyly with her beautiful face, clearly recalling the scene when she first met Sect Master Chen at the selling meeting in Jian Country. She hadn't expected that this matter would leave an impression on him.

"I'm afraid that's not possible, the Embodiment Nascent Soul Technique needs to be reported to several ancestors before we can proceed."

The Star Heaven Dao Sect might not care about Golden Core Cultivators, but Nascent Soul Cultivators were highly valued, as they represented the pinnacle of their combative strength.

Even though possessing the Embodiment Nascent Soul Technique and the rare and limited Rank-5 Soul Nourishing Wood as well as Return to the Sun Spirit Water were required, they would not take chances with the possibility of a Nascent Soul emergence; they preferred to nip it in the bud from all possible sources.

[In other words, the Star Heaven Dao Sect did have the Embodiment Nascent Soul lineage.]

After obtaining the information he needed, Chen Mobai also stated that he was just asking out of curiosity, purely because seeing Qu XiuXian reminded him of it, and he was very intrigued by the Embodiment Nascent Soul.

Yu Shuji did not suspect anything and conversed with Chen Mobai about the Heterodox Golden Core Technique and the Embodiment Nascent Soul Method. Yu Shuji did most of the talking, while the latter listened.

After all, the Embodiment also relates to the Nascent Soul, and though it couldn't advance further, coupled with some powerful Magic Artifacts, its combat strength was no different from a real Nascent Soul.

It was for this reason that sects possessing the Embodiment Nascent Souls would not allow this method to spread, to prevent another Nascent Soul Cultivator capable of affecting the situation in the East Land from emerging.

"Xiu Xian, these two matters are now in your hands. Your master must stay in Flower Country to ensure the complete eradication of this swarm of locusts, preventing another Mother Locust from emerging. Remember to report back in time, and don't delay."

After their conversation, Yu Shuji wrote a letter on the spot, entrusting his disciple with the affairs of the Green Wood Evil and the Heterodox Golden Core. Qu XiuXian, upon hearing this, nodded gravely.

“Sect Master Chen, I will give my utmost effort in gratitude for saving my life.”

After hearing this, Chen Mobai thanked Qu XiuXian, the Foundation Establishment female cultivator he had met only twice. Seeing the Golden Core Cultivator and sect leader show such respect for talent, she was moved, her pretty face blushing slightly.

Chapter 1025: The Situation in the Eastern Wilderness

After Qu XiuXian left to visit the East Barbarians from the Flower Country, Chen Mobai stayed for two more days with Yu Shuji and Yan Shaoyin. Together, they cleared out all the locusts from the fissure underground.

Once that task was completed, he took his leave.

“Sect Master Chen, I’m truly sorry that we couldn’t clone ourselves to deal with the locust disaster; otherwise, I would have definitely taken you for a good tour around the Flower and Summer Countries,” Yan Shaoyin said to Chen Mobai, his face full of regret. He then volunteered to escort the party from the Divine Wood Sect.

“Master Yan, there’s no need for such courtesy, just escort us this far,” Chen Mobai said as he quickly flew everyone to the border between the Flower and Sunny Countries on his “Red Misty Cloud Silk”. Beyond that was the territory of the Five Elements Sect’s Fire Vein.

“Sect Master Chen, actually, the heterodox Gold Core technique is also inherited in Back to Sky Valley,” Yan Shaoyin said as he escorted Chen Mobai outside. He wasn’t just being polite; he pulled Chen Mobai up into the sky and said something that baffled him.

“Does Master Yan mean to say that you are also interested in that inner core?” Chen Mobai asked.

“Not to hide from you, my disciple, He Jintong, attempted to form a Gold Core with Liquid Gold Jade but failed over in East Yu. The Earth’s Core True Fire Technique he cultivates also has dual attributes of fire and earth,” Yan Shaoyin explained, prompting Chen Mobai to shake his head involuntarily. Since he had already promised Yu Shuji, he definitely couldn’t renege on his word.

Moreover, Back to Sky Valley was an obstacle to his unification of the Eastern Wilderness, and he couldn’t afford to give them the strength of another Golden Core.

“I’ve always been a man of my word—what I say goes. I’ve already first promised Master Yu, so let’s not bring this up again.” Chen Mobai, hailing from the Immortal Gate, valued the importance of integrity above all else.

Yan Shaoyin said with a chuckle, “Sect Master Chen, considering that a third-order Mother Locust was found in the Flower Country, perhaps a second one could be found in the future. With the strength of Back to Sky Valley, we may not be able to slay it alone. But if Sect Master Chen is willing to help, then I won’t have to call upon Yu Shuji.”

This statement rendered Chen Mobai silent for a moment, after which he did not give a specific response.

“We’ll discuss it when the time comes,” he finally said.

This reply naturally couldn’t satisfy Yan Shaoyin, but he was aware that their relationship with Sect Master Chen was new and they lacked the necessary foundation of trust.

“I’ve been friends with True Person Zhou for many years, and we collaborated joyfully when refining the Liquid Gold Jade Pill. Our two sects, both being in the Eastern Wilderness, should trust each other more...” Yan Shaoyin implied subtly. Chen Mobai, realizing why Yan Shaoyin purposely avoided Yu Shuji to make these remarks, gently nodded and bade farewell.

“Sect Master Chen, take care. Sheng Zhaoxi, from the Fire Vein, has a rather explosive temperament, so please be careful,” Yan Shaoyin advised as he left.

Chen Mobai had been informed by Zhou Shengqing about the personalities and cultivation levels of the three Gold Core Cultivators of the Five Elements Sect before he arrived.

Ancestor Hunyuan had six personally-taught disciples. The first disciple was a daughter of an old friend he took in during his Loose Cultivation period, whose aptitude was average. Despite his efforts to support her, she only managed to reach the Foundation Building Realm.

Zhou Shengqing was the second disciple, and Sheng Zhaoxi was the fourth disciple, also female, just like the eldest sister-disciple, who was the hope of a second-rate sect in the Eastern Wilderness, before being poached by Ancestor Hunyuan to become his disciple.

She and Nu Jiang were almost taken simultaneously. Initially, there was some unease and anger.

However, in the Eastern Wilderness, to be taken as a disciple by a Nascent Soul Cultivator was an unprecedented opportunity. Thus, after two months of refining her temperament, both of them pledged their allegiance and completely changed their courses.

As a female, Sheng Zhaoxi naturally had a better relationship with the eldest sister-disciple.

As the second senior brother, Zhou Shengqing, in turn, was on good terms with Nu Jiang and Mo Douguang, who came after him and bonded like brothers.

No matter what, their relationship with Zhou Ye, who was the last to join, was quite ordinary.

Before Chen Mobai left his sect, Zhou Shengqing wrote three letters for the three Gold Core Cultivators of the Five Elements Sect, instructing Chen Mobai to use them as he saw fit.

If he were to visit Sheng Zhaoxi with a personal letter from Zhou Shengqing, considering their past relationship, he should be welcomed with open arms.

However, after careful consideration, Chen Mobai decided to head directly to Hunyuan Immortal City, located in Ming Nation, within the Earth Vein territory of the Five Elements Sect.

After all, visibly, Zhou Ye was the leader of the Five Elements Sect, the heir of Ancestor Hunyuan's mantle.

Deciding not to visit Sheng Zhaoxi was also to avoid making things difficult for her. After all, she is still a Gold Core Cultivator of the Five Elements Sect, and visiting her before Zhou Ye would place them both in an awkward position.

Taking all these into account, Chen Mobai, upon entering the territory of the Five Elements Sect, proceeded straight for Hunyuan Immortal City in Ming Nation.

Although he himself would not be going to the Fire Vein, he still had to send greetings.

Since Sheng Zhaoxi was a female cultivator, it would be best to send a female cultivator in his stead.

Chen Mobai glanced at the team he had brought along. Yin Qingmei, with her Heavenly Spiritual Root, was undoubtedly someone he needed to keep by his side for protection. That left Ding Ying and Gu Yan.

When it came to the ability to get things done, the most suitable candidate was naturally Ding Ying.

After receiving the task personally assigned by Chen Mobai, Ding Ying was somewhat excited. She promised to complete the mission with a letter in hand and then led some of the female disciples with true inheritances from the Three Halls and Twelve Divisions. They split from the main force and headed toward the Flame Country Fire Vein headquarters.

As for Chen Mobai, he led the remaining people toward Ming Nation.

The Five Elements Sect, as the number one major sect of the Eastern Wilderness, originally controlled most of the Eastern Wilderness territory, commanding thirteen countries and nearly encompassing most of the precious resources and mineral-rich lands.

After the sect division, Jinguang (Golden Light) took Wind Country, while Divine Wood Sect took Jian Country, Yun Country, Rain Country, Lei Nation, and Sky Country.

Even so, the Five Elements Sect still possessed seven countries of the Eastern Wilderness.

Among them, the Fire Vein occupied Flame Country, Spring Country, and Sunny Country.

The Earth Vein owned Ming Nation, Hao Country, and Ji Country.

The remaining Water Vein had Mist Country, which bordered Rain Country and was an important port to Cloud Dream Swamp in the Eastern Wilderness.

The headquarters of the Water Vein, Wind Rain Hamlet, was in the center of Cloud Dream Swamp. While it occupied this prime treasure land of the Eastern Wilderness, it also suppressed the demonic beasts within it.

In the center of Cloud Dream Swamp was sealed a powerful Fourth Order Demon Beast, established by a formidable sealing barrier set up by Ancestor Hunyuan and his good friend Sun Huang Wu, along with Baiwu Ancestor.

However, with the passing away in meditation of Ancestor Hunyuan and Sun Huang Wu, the strength of the seal had been weakening. If Baiwu Ancestor ignored it, one day the Fourth Order Demon Beast would break the seal, turning the Eastern Wilderness and Dongwu on the opposite side of Cloud Dream Swamp into a paradise for demonic beasts.

For this reason, when the Five Elements Sect divided, jointly guarding the seal in Cloud Dream Swamp was also one of the contents of the armistice agreement.

To this day, Divine Wood Sect still releases yearly sect missions to assist Wind Rain Hamlet in eliminating demonic beasts and has a team of Foundation Establishment Practitioners stationed within Cloud Dream Swamp.

Of course, Divine Wood Sect did this not solely because they understood the concept of a shared fate, but because Cloud Dream Swamp, as the top treasure land of the Eastern Wilderness, contains resources so abundant that it nearly equals the entirety of the Eastern Wilderness.

Not just Divine Wood Sect, but previously all seven of the major sects of the Eastern Wilderness had opened Fang Markets on the various Spiritual Islands within Cloud Dream Swamp to profit from its resources.

Chen Mobai's starting Spirit Stone came from Green Light Island in Cloud Dream Swamp.

When Ancestor Hunyuan was still alive, Cloud Dream Swamp, as the number one treasure land of the Eastern Wilderness, naturally belonged to the Five Elements Sect, but since half the portside lands were in Dongwu, the two Nascent Soul Ancestors agreed to divide and rule to the east and west of the sealed borders.

On the Eastern Wilderness side, the lands bordering Cloud Dream Swamp were Mist Country, Rain Country, Yun Country, Lei Nation, and Sky Country.

All these five countries were once under the domain of the Five Elements Sect.

However, during the Five Elements Sect's division, due to the loss of absolute deterrence over the Eastern Wilderness, Mountain Shaker Peak, instigated by Zhao Xuankang from Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace, in alliance with Liu Jia Mountain and also colluding with Back to Sky Valley and Snow-blowing Palace, forcefully seized Sky Country's territory.

For this, although both parties of the Five Elements Sect's division were dissatisfied, they were also fighting intensely at that time, unable to divert attention or dare to divide forces to deal with the combined army of Mountain Shaker Peak and Liu Jia Mountain, and reluctantly acknowledged Mountain Shaker Peak's occupation of Sky Country.

After the division was completed, neither side had the power to dominate Cloud Dream Swamp alone, so they simply opened up this treasure land to the other major sects of the Eastern Wilderness.

Mountain Shaker Peak, Liu Jia Mountain, Back to Sky Valley, and Snow-blowing Palace could enter Cloud Dream Swamp through the country of Sky Country to develop this number one treasure land of the Eastern Wilderness.

Among them, the seven sects naturally had their fair share of friction, but after several decades, they gradually formed a tacit understanding, each carving out some of Cloud Dream Swamp's Spiritual Islands. While occupying them, they also fought against the demonic beasts within their own territories, taking on the role once held by the Five Elements Sect in its prime, to suppress the demonic beasts.

That was in the past. Now, the situation is somewhat different because Mountain Shaker Peak, nominally occupying Sky Country, was annihilated by Divine Wood Sect.

While Liu Jia Mountain has not perished, the death of their Golden Core Cultivator declared their withdrawal from the ranks of the major sects of the Eastern Wilderness. Most of the previously occupied Spiritual Islands of Cloud Dream Swamp had to be relinquished.

Zhou Wangshen chose to become the Town Guard of Sky Country specifically to occupy the numerous Spiritual Islands previously under the control of Mountain Shaker Peak and Liu Jia Mountain.

If he could achieve this, even without the support of a sect, he would likely accumulate resources enough for Core Formation.

Chen Mobai was well aware of this. Although he wanted to support E Yun's rise, he also hoped to have a competitor within the sect who could fully engage E Yun, so he not only agreed but also facilitated for Zhou Wangshen to freely establish a smaller Divine Wood Sect system in Sky Country. He seized the many Spiritual Islands left vacant by Mountain Shaker Peak and Liu Jia Mountain.

After Divine Wood Sect's occupation of Sky Country, Snow-blowing Palace and Back to Sky Valley no longer had a land passage to Cloud Dream Swamp.

Both sects coordinated and exchanged discussions with Divine Wood Sect. Chen Mobai thought that now was not the best time to act against the two sects. He didn't want to push them completely to Nanxuan Sect's side, so he accepted a yearly toll of one million Spirit Stones, allowing them to reconnect the passage to Cloud Dream Swamp.

To this, Snow-blowing Palace and Back to Sky Valley were extremely reluctant, but when they thought about Divine Wood Sect's eradication of Mountain Shaker Peak and coercion of Liu Jia Mountain into seclusion, and when they considered the yearly gains they could make from Cloud Dream Swamp, they could only grit their teeth and pay the toll.

However, within this, there was still an undercurrent of trouble.

That was Nanxuan Sect, who had reopened their sect in Rock Country and were also expending efforts in Sky Country, trying to steal this passage from Divine Wood Sect's hands.

Because of this, the two parties had already started numerous frictions, and one of Fu Zongjue's Puppet Bodies permanently resided there.

For years, Nanxuan Sect had been a thorn in the side of Divine Wood Sect's northern Spiritual Lands, but they dared not attack because no one knew whether it would provoke a full-fledged counterattack.

[One day, I will have to annihilate Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace.]

Chapter 1026: Ming Nation Guiyuan Mountain

According to the strategy set by Chen Mobai, unifying the Eastern Wilderness was merely a matter of time.

But to completely monopolize the resources of the Eastern Wilderness, it was imperative to deal with the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace and the Star Heaven Dao Sect.

Among them, the force of the Star Heaven Dao Sect was too terrifying to confront head-on.

As for the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace, which had begun manipulating Mountain Shaker Peak as a pawn during the division of the Five Elements Sect to meddle in the Eastern Wilderness, intending to turn this territory into a retreat for their own sect.

Compared to the Star Heaven Dao Sect, which only wanted to do business, the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace was the biggest obstacle to Chen Mobai's unification of the Eastern Wilderness.

However, it was fortunate that the Nascent Soul Cultivator Jin Feng, known as the Golden Wind Ancestor over there, was already in the twilight of his life and couldn't fully exert his power.

It was presumed that unless it was the last moment of his life, the Golden Wind Ancestor would not risk everything to step foot into the Eastern Wilderness.

However, there's no such thing as being too cautious against a potential thief every day. If possible, Chen Mobai still wanted to uproot the Nanxuan Sect from the Eastern Wilderness completely, and then with Northern Abyss City at the core of the northern part, he wished to fully deploy the Mount Meru Nine Palaces Formation, transforming it into a super-large formation that enveloped Sky Country, Rock Country, and Rainbow Country.

In this way, even if the Golden Wind Ancestor came from the East Barbarians, the battlefield could be controlled outside of the Eastern Wilderness.

While pondering over the potential difficulties and solutions in unifying the Eastern Wilderness in his mind, Chen Mobai had already led the group from the Divine Wood Sect past the territories of Hao Country and Ji Country and was about to enter the domain of Ming Nation.

...

In Fire Country, at the Fire Truth Palace.

A slightly plump female cultivator with a majestic face was very surprised after reading a letter.

"This Junior Brother Chen is quite interesting!"

The female cultivator was none other than Sheng Zhaoxi, a Golden Core Cultivator from the Fire Vein of the Five Elements Sect. After speaking, her disciple Tan Rong raised her head and reported that the envoy from the Divine Wood Sect, Ding Ying, was still waiting outside.

Tan Rong, "Shall we meet her?"

Sheng Zhaoxi, "No, seeing as Junior Brother Chen has taken so much into consideration for me, I will grant his wish and keep out of this for now. Say that I am in secluded cultivation and cannot receive guests."

On the lands of the Eastern Wilderness, the Divine Wood Sect had already surpassed the Five Elements Sect and become the premier force.

Though Sheng Zhaoxi was a Golden Core Cultivator of the Five Elements Sect, she would not risk her life to support Zhou Ye, at least not until she saw how he would respond to Chen Mobai taking the helm of the Divine Wood Sect.

If Chen Mobai had come to visit her directly, indeed, Sheng Zhaoxi would have been in a dilemma.

But now, it was just right!

After hearing this, Tan Rong stood up to leave the Fire Truth Palace but was stopped by Sheng Zhaoxi.

"Send the group from the Divine Wood Sect to Ming Nation, and make sure nothing happens to them on my territory."

Though Sheng Zhaoxi had a fiery temper, having cultivated to such a realm, she was also a person of thorough consideration.

"Yes, Master!"

Tan Rong was a beautiful female cultivator with a stunning figure, recognized as one of the most renowned Foundation Establishment Practitioners among the younger generation of the Five Elements Sect, and considered to be the talent most likely to reach Core Formation in the Fire Vein.

She practiced the Red Flame Sword Jue and even exhibited traits of a partial Fire Spirit Body, fully believing her understanding of this cultivation technique to be among the best in the Eastern Wilderness.

That was until Chen Mobai emerged out of nowhere!

The title of the number one Sword Cultivator in the Eastern Wilderness, she was somewhat unconvinced, believing that once she reached Core Formation, she would not be inferior to Chen Mobai.

That was until she received the news a few days earlier that Chen Mobai had mastered the Golden Flame, overpowered Kong Lingling, and slain the Mother Locust.

Tan Rong knew that compared to Sect Master Chen, she was worlds apart.

Only Sword Cultivators who also practiced the Red Flame Sword Jue knew what mastering the Golden Flame meant!

“Sister Ding, what kind of person is the Sect Master Chen of your sect?”

Ding Ying was slightly startled by the question from Tan Rong beside her, and then she smiled radiantly and told the truth.

“Our Sect Master is the finest cultivator in the Eastern Wilderness!”

“Oh...”

Upon hearing this, Tan Rong grew more curious about Chen Mobai.

She didn’t argue with Ding Ying’s assessment because, indeed, there was no cultivator more outstanding than Chen Mobai in the Eastern Wilderness.

That was also why Tan Rong had such complex feelings towards Chen Mobai.

On one hand, she was filled with admiration for this individual, hailed as the most talented in swordsmanship in the Eastern Wilderness for a thousand years, and on the other hand, as a disciple of the Five Elements Sect, she had a natural hostility towards the Divine Wood Sect.

If only there hadn't been a division!

Tan Rong sighed softly.

If there had been no division, the Five Elements Sect would have had seven Golden Core Cultivators by now, and even without Ancestor Hunyuan, the Nascent Soul Cultivator, it would still be enough to dominate the Eastern Wilderness as dominantly as the Star Heaven Dao Sect did in Dong Yue Region, turning the wilderness into a world belonging to a single sect.

...

After Chen Mobai stepped into the territory of Ming Nation, he was met by a disciple of the Five Elements Sect who had come to greet him.

It was Kong Shanxu, the one who had come during his Core Formation celebration.

"Sect Master Chen, my master is already awaiting you."

"Lead the way."

This was the last stop on the tour of the Eastern Wilderness and the real purpose for Chen Mobai. Without considering external factors, the only one that could possibly stand against the Divine Wood Sect was the Five Elements Sect.

To avoid any mishaps, Chen Mobai only brought along two people, Gu Yan and Mu Yuan, knowing that once he entered Immortal City, if Zhou Ye wished to make a move, it would likely be difficult for him to fight back.

Moreover, Chen Mobai was not his true self but a Formless Puppet.

After passing through three Teleportation Arrays, they had arrived outside Hunyuan Immortal City.

There was a Medium Transporting Formation within the Immortal City, which would only be activated during special occasions, and since Chen Mobai and his companions were considered enemies, they wouldn't be brought directly into the city through teleportation.

Chapter 1027: Ming Nation Guiyuan Mountain_2

But this was even better, as it allowed them to take in Hunyuan Immortal City in one glance.

Their Teleportation Array was atop a high mountain, and the Immortal City lay at the foothills, leaning against the mountain and beside the water. Two wide rivers intersected at the heart of the city, fostering the largest cultivator city in the Eastern Wilderness.

However, several key areas of the Immortal City were covered by colorful auspicious clouds, preventing even Chen Mobai and his group, who were overlooking from above, from seeing through them.

Soon, Kong Shanxu led Chen Mobai and the others to the main gate of the Immortal City.

The high city walls were built with spirit-enhanced Qing stones, and powerful runes surfaced on the walls, intertwining with the Large Formation that enveloped the entire Immortal City to form an invisible barrier separating the inside from the outside.

There were one large and two small gates on the city wall.

The large one was the main gate, and the small ones were the side gates on the left and right.

The main gate and the left side gate were closed; only the small gate on the right was open, guarded by disciples of the Five Elements Sect. Cultivators who wished to enter or leave the city had to go through here.

“Sect Master Chen, please use the left side gate!”

Kong Shanxu waved at the Five Elements Sect disciples on the city wall, prompting the previously closed left side gate to slowly open. Then, two rows of Five Elements Sect disciples emerged from inside, lining up like honor guards.

“Who could arrive and warrant the opening of the main gate?”

Chen Mobai stopped at the entrance of Hunyuan Immortal City and asked.

“In the days when the old Ancestor was alive, the main gate would be opened to welcome his two friends, Elder Huangwu and Baiwu Ancestor, when they visited,” Kong Shanxu immediately replied, explaining that it was not a slight against Chen Mobai but rather that this was the custom of Hunyuan Immortal City.

Only Nascent Soul Cultivators could enter through the main gate.

Since every Immortal City is equipped with a no-fly zone, being able to walk through a certain gate upon entering on foot signifies one’s status.

Although Chen Mobai was the Sect Leader of the Divine Wood Sect, he had not yet reached the status and level of a Nascent Soul Cultivator.

“I hope that the next time I come, I will be able to enter through the main gate,” Chen Mobai responded with a smile after hearing the explanation.

Kong Shanxu pretended not to understand and led him towards the small gate on the left, where palanquins and the like were already parked inside.

Chen Mobai followed local customs and sat down in one.

He had wanted to take a closer look at Hunyuan Immortal City, but unfortunately, it seemed that the Five Elements Sect had cleared the area in advance. Other than the Five Elements Sect disciples, he saw no Loose Cultivators or others on the streets.

It seemed he would only be able to see the true customs and culture of the Immortal City after he managed to conquer it in the future.

With these thoughts, Chen Mobai stopped looking around.

After an indeterminate amount of time, he finally arrived at the Chaos Palace, at the very center of the Immortal City.

This was where Ancestor Hunyuan used to cultivate in seclusion, and now, naturally, it was occupied by Zhou Ye.

“I greet Brother Zhou!”

Upon alighting, Chen Mobai saw Zhou Ye waiting at the entrance to the palace and greeted him with a small smile, performing the etiquette of a junior.

“Although we stem from the same root, we have already split into separate sects, so it would be better if Sect Master Chen refrained from calling me your senior,” Zhou Ye said calmly, without giving any face to Chen Mobai.

“Since True Person Zhou has said so, I can rest assured,” Chen Mobai replied.

“Oh, how so?”

“With that being the case, when I take this city in the future, I won’t have to consider the old Ancestor’s reputation, and I won’t need to show any leniency to True Person Zhou,” explained Chen Mobai.

Kong Shanxu and the others broke out in a cold sweat upon hearing the exchange between the two men.

It felt as if these two were about to come to blows at any moment!

If they really fought, the balance of power in the Eastern Wilderness would be compromised in an instant!

For both the Five Elements Sect and the Divine Wood Sect, it wouldn't be a good thing. Instead, it would cause factions like the Snow-blowing Palace, Back to Sky Valley, and Nanxuan Sect to cheer.

Zhou Ye clearly had not expected Chen Mobai to be so direct. Hadn't they said that although Sect Master Chen was a Sword Cultivator, he was supposed to be quite tactful?

"It seems Sect Master Chen has not come for a friendly visit."

However, having said that and under the scrutiny of so many Five Elements Sect disciples, Zhou Ye simply couldn't show weakness and could only respond with an icy tone.

In Chen Mobai's mind, if he wanted to unify the Eastern Wilderness, it would be best if Zhou Ye, the heir of Ancestor Hunyuan, were dead.

Only then would he have sufficient moral high ground to annex the Five Elements Sect.

But before that, he still needed to obtain the cultivation method of the Primordial Dao Fruit from Zhou Ye's mouth.

"It was a tiring journey coming all the way south, I'm somewhat exhausted. How about I take a few days to rest before I pay a friendly visit?"

Chen Mobai's attitude made Zhou Ye frown. After a cold snort, he turned around and went straight back into the Chaos Palace.

“Since Sect Master Chen is tired, I will take you to rest at Qingmu Hall first.”

Kong Shanxu immediately came over and led Chen Mobai towards Qingmu Hall in the center of Hunyuan Immortal City.

This great hall, once presided over by Zhou Shengqing, was an appropriate place to accommodate Chen Mobai.

“The spiritual energy here is somewhat weak.”

After entering Qingmu Hall, Chen Mobai felt and commented to Kong Shanxu, who immediately indicated that he would notify the Formation Division in the Immortal City. Since Zhou Shengqing’s departure, Qingmu Hall had been without a master for nearly a century, and its spiritual energy had been extracted by the Mysterious Five Elements Array and sent to the Chaos Palace.

...

Ming Nation, Guiyuan Mountain!

Guided by Liu Wenbo, Chen Mobai arrived at the last place where Luo Yixuan disappeared.

“Master, there’s a Foundation Establishment Practitioner in the Guiyuan Sect. She’s quite old, so everyone calls her Elder Ming. Aside from her, the rest are insignificant.”

Over the years, Liu Wenbo had been developing the Little Nan Mountain Shop within the territory of the Five Elements Sect. Using the identity of Chen Mobai’s eldest disciple, he was almost treated as an honored guest by all powers and commerce associations.

He had quietly gathered detailed information about the power of the Guiyuan Sect a long time ago. If it weren’t for Chen Mobai’s order to personally investigate, he would have been tempted to take action himself.

Chen Mobai, with his Void Spirit Eye, glanced at Guiyuan Mountain, a very ordinary Rank-3 intermediate-grade spiritual vein land. Indeed, there was an aged spiritual power lurking within.

It must be that Elder Ming.

“Let’s go!”

After reaching Core Formation, Chen Mobai no longer feared anyone in the Eastern Wilderness. Thus, he directly headed with Liu Wenbo towards the most vibrant part of the spiritual vein on Guiyuan Mountain.

“Which fellow daoist...?”

At the very peak of Guiyuan Mountain, an old crone with an ashen face felt Liu Wenbo’s presence and emerged discontentedly from her wooden hut, leaning on a wooden staff.

However, upon coming out and seeing two people, her expression suddenly changed.

Because Chen Mobai was standing there, yet she couldn’t sense any spiritual energy from him.

There were only two possibilities for this.

One was that he had cultivated their sect’s secret Returning Essence Technique to the peak, and the second possibility was that this person’s cultivation realm was far above hers.

“How should I address this fellow daoist?”

Elder Ming’s expression became grave as she planted her wooden staff on the mountaintop. The large formation at the heart of Guiyuan Mountain silently activated.

“You must have realized by now, I have cultivated your Returning Essence Technique.”

With a light smile, Chen Mobai then dispelled this technique. The powerful spiritual power of the Golden Core Stage emerged, and along with a bronze mirror flying out from his sleeve, the Guiyuan Sect’s formation had hardly begun to operate when it was forcefully interrupted and suppressed by him.

Elder Ming felt the formation, which she usually controlled effortlessly, suddenly become sluggish and even felt the sensation from the spirit vein growing weak, which greatly changed her complexion.

“It turns out to be Sect Master Chen of the Divine Wood Sect!”

Golden Core Cultivators in the entire Eastern Wilderness were few, and Chen Mobai’s Six Yang Divine Fire Mirror, after several battles, had also become well-known, so she recognized him immediately upon his action.

“This Returning Essence Technique was brought to me by my young disciple from your Guiyuan Sect, but she has since disappeared on your Guiyuan Mountain. I believe you should be able to clarify this matter for me.”

As Chen Mobai spoke, he stepped forward, golden flames rising in his eyes. The formidable and terrifying power of the Golden Flame made Elder Ming’s gray hair begin to burn and melt away.

Chapter 1028: Crescent Blade “

“After forming your Gold Core, you chose to confront me, which is far more cautious than I had imagined.”

“

“

Just as Chen Mobai was considering whether he was exerting too much force and needed to slightly control the power of the Golden Flame, Elder Ming suddenly uttered words that made his expression change slightly.

“

“

“Indeed, they abducted Xuan to use against me.”

“

“

With this thought, a murderous aura emerged between Chen Mobai’s brows, and golden flames surged upwards, but ultimately he managed to control himself and did not turn the old woman before him into ash.

“

“

“Hand over Xuan, and I might spare your life.”

“

“

“You think you can?”

“

“

Upon hearing this, Elder Ming snorted in derision, then her body flickered with a sacred light, resembling the moon suspended in the dark sky, exuding a yin-driven chill that held back the golden fiery light from enveloping her.

“

“

“Eh!”

“

“

In that instant, the aura the old woman exhibited had completely surpassed Foundation Establishment.

“

“

And it kept rising, showing no signs of stopping. After blocking the golden fire light from her body, the soft yet extremely bright light continued to expand, quickly taking over half of the sky above the peak of Guiyuan Mountain.

“

“

If Chen Mobai had not brought out a second ball of Golden Flame, he might not have been able to withstand her onslaught and could have been suppressed in return.

“

“

“Who are you?”

“

“

At this moment, Chen Mobai felt that his opponent’s cultivation realm was far above his own.

“

“

It was impossible for such a figure to exist on the Eastern Wilderness!

“

“

“You’re not yet qualified to know my identity. Your disciple is well-suited for our sect’s methods and has already become my disciple. If you do not want the Divine Wood Sect to fall, it’s best to act as if you’ve never taken on this disciple.”

“

“

As Elder Ming spoke, she raised the wooden staff in her hand and stomped it on the ground.

“

“

BOOM!

“

“

The Six Yang Sky Fire Mirror, which had been suppressing the movement of the Guiyuan Mountain Spirit Vein, suddenly burst into dazzling Mysterious Yang Divine Light, then quickly dimmed and quivered, retracting back into the sleeve of Chen Mobai's robe.

“

“

Chen Mobai had long since refined the Six Yang Sky Fire Mirror into his Lifespan Artifact, Its power, bolstered by his Pure Yang Spiritual Power, could match that of a Third Rank Superior Grade artifact, yet it was instantly overpowered upon contact.

“

“

If he had not sensed something was wrong in the split second of struggle through the Guidance Book and detached it in time, his heart and mind would have been wounded due to their connection to the artifact.

“

“

“This Magic Artifact!?”

“

“

With a grave expression, Chen Mobai looked towards the inconspicuous wooden staff, and as the Void Spirit Eye activated, he saw the pure white crescent blade hidden within, whose cold and sacred spirit power stung his eyes.

“

“

“Leave quickly. I have lived in seclusion here for a long time, and I do not wish to expose myself for a junior like you.”

“

“

At this moment, Elder Ming spoke again as her wooden staff began to crack slightly, a sliver of cutting, frosty light emerged, and in the blink of an eye, it cleaved into Chen Mobai’s forehead, splitting him in two.

“

“

But Elder Ming frowned slightly, the brilliance in her old and murky eyes flickering as her divine sense spread through every inch of the mountaintop void.

“

“

The Chen Mobai that her light had slashed in two had transformed into a fiery phantom and dissipated into thin air.

“

“

“Over here!”

“

“

Elder Ming suddenly looked up to see a figure slowly emerging within a cluster of colorful clouds.

“

“

Her bright light slashed out again like a crescent moon, tearing the clouds and the figure together into a vast, endless clear rift in the sky.

“

“

“Not bad speed, using the Ancient Changsheng Sect’s Earth Departing Flame Light Escape, huh!” Elder Ming commented, her gaze turning to the other side of the sky where Chen Mobai stepped out unharmed from golden flames.

“

“

“Oh, there’s actually someone who can recognize my Escape Skill. Who are you, exactly?”

“

“

Chen Mobai was extremely surprised, for he had received this Escape Skill from the Divine Tree Secret Realm, and only he knew of it.

“

“

“The Golden Flame perfected by Green-sun Fire, combined with your unrestrained use of the Fire Escape Technique, yet your body suffers no harm; you must possess an Innate Fire Spirit Body. Those conditions together make your Earth Departing Flame Light Escape a bit too fast,” Elder Ming said, addressing something else entirely and making Chen Mobai’s expression grow even more solemn.

“

“

The “Earth Departing Flame Light Escape,” a fire technique of the Ancient Changsheng Sect, depends on both the cultivator’s realm and the strength of the True Fire and the body.

“

“

Although Chen Mobai had only recently achieved Core Formation, his Golden Flame had already reached the peak of Qingyang Fire, and his body, thanks to his Fire Spirit Body, had never felt overwhelmed.

“

“

This resulted in his mastery of this Fire Escape Technique reaching perfection even at the initial stage of Gold Core.

“

“

Because “Earth Departing Flame Light Escape” consumes a fixed amount of spiritual power each time, with his current Pure Yang Spiritual Power, he could use it twenty times in a row.

“

“

“As the most talented individual in the Eastern Wilderness for a thousand years, you certainly live up to the name. Here’s what we’ll do: I’ll offer you a chance to join my sect and acknowledge your ancestry, and who knows, you may even continue your master-disciple relationship with your little disciple in the future.”

“

“

As Elder Ming spoke, she lightly stepped into the air towards Chen Mobai. A tremendous surge of spiritual power burst from her, transforming into a holy radiance like moonlight that seemed to lift a bright moon from the earth, enveloping Chen Mobai under its light.

“

“

Sssss!

“

“

The void ripped open, and a streak of purple lightning swirled forth, falling like celestial thunder upon Elder Ming’s protective spiritual light, producing a violent shockwave.

“

Chapter 1029: Crack!

The surface of the wooden staff split inch by inch, revealing the pure white crescent blade hidden inside.

The thunderous light bursting from the Purple Electric Sword was cleaved apart, but Elder Ming, who had been ascending, couldn’t help being slammed back down onto the mountaintop.

“This sword?”

Although Elder Ming had heard of Chen Mobai’s feat of slaying Nanxuan Jing with a sword, she didn’t witness it firsthand and thought it was just an ordinary fourth-order sword artifact.

After all, towards characters like Nanxuan Jing, it would only take her one strike.

Who knew that upon testing it today, something felt off.

While soothing the trembling Moonlight Blade, she looked toward the long-handled sword artifact that was slowly descending from the void and was now grasped by Chen Mobai.

“I’ll ask you one last time, who exactly are you, and where is Xuan?”

After summoning the Purple Electric Sword, Chen Mobai had gone all out, with strands of golden lines emerging within his left eye, faintly outlining the rough contour of his opponent.

The cultivation realm displayed by the opponent was much higher than his, at least at the Core Formation Late Stage, or possibly even Perfect Core Formation.

The cultivator seemed to practice a cultivation technique that was the exact opposite of his Pure Yang Scroll, utilizing cold and icy spiritual power, along with another fourth-order peculiar curved moon blade magic artifact, which clearly meshed perfectly with her cultivation technique. It was unknown if it was her lifespan artifact.

Another test with the Purple Electric Sword was needed!

During the magic duel, Chen Mobai's essence, qi, and spirit achieved a particularly strange resonance. His focus, observational abilities, and keenness reached the peak he had ever achieved in his life, perfectly entering the Selfless State mentioned in the Guidance Book.

In a flash of thought, the Purple Electric Sword, having agreed on a price, burst into a dazzling and blinding radiance.

Flames flickered!

Chen Mobai's figure suddenly vanished from the spot, having already rushed in front of Elder Ming with the Earth Departing Flame Light Escape. A streak of purple light flew from his right hand, slashing at the opponent's neck.

Clang!

The pure white Moonlight Blade flew out, blocking the Purple Electric Sword by a hair's breadth!

The two fourth-order magic artifacts erupted with a terrifying might that could shake the earth and move the mountains!

Amidst the roaring explosions!

Guiyuan Mountain suddenly split open from the center where Elder Ming's feet touched, revealing a deep crack that spread across the mountain.

The entire mountain could not withstand the aftermath of the two's clash, starting to crack and shake.

And at that moment, Elder Ming's skin suddenly began to melt like candle wax. The crescent blade trembled violently, and then suddenly exploded with a terrifying might, pushing Chen Mobai, who was holding the Purple Electric Sword, away.

"You little fellow, if you're seeking death yourself, then don't blame me!"

As she spoke, the entirety of Elder Ming's body seemed unable to contain the surging spiritual power within. After melting away, another ghastly, silvery figure of a slender woman emerged, then infused into the crescent blade.

With the complete infusion of her essence, qi, and spirit, the fourth-order magic artifact began to emit an even more terrifying piercing cold light than before.

Even if Chen Mobai were to push the Purple Electric Sword to its limits, he doubted it would have such power.

[Danger!]

[An invincible enemy!]

[Retreat is the only option!]

...

The Guidance Book started to send out intense alarms, urging Chen Mobai not to engage in a fight to the death with the opponent before him, insisting that running away was the best option.

But after seeing the true face of his opponent, Chen Mobai did not dodge or avoid, his expression calm as he raised the Purple Electric Sword in his hand, channeling most of his spiritual power into the sword artifact.

The Moonlight Blade and the long-handle sword artifact collided once again!

Boom!

At this moment, the Rank-3 Array that originally enshrouded Guiyuan Mountain finally could no longer restrain the terrifying aura unleashed by the clashing pair, and after being utterly torn apart, two more fissures split open the mountain.

“Die...”

After pouring his Essence, Qi, and Spirit entirely into it, the Crescent Blade erupted with one hundred percent of its power, while the Purple Electric Sword was suppressed due to Chen Mobai’s cultivation level.

As the Sword Artifact was being inch by inch overwhelmed, the Purple Electric Sword’s Sword Spirit began to grow anxious, wishing to burst forth with its essence. However, Chen Mobai simply waved his left sleeve.

The previously withdrawn Six Yang Divine Fire Mirror flew out, and a wisp of pure white flame emerged from the mirror’s surface, landing upon the Crescent Blade.

“Futile, my spiritual power is mixed with Moonlight Spiritual Energy, and it’s unaffected by Golden Flames. Your methods against other Ghost Cultivators are useless on me... Ah... what is this...”

Elder Ming's ghastly shadow, originally full of confidence within the Magic Artifact, had thought the Golden Flame couldn't breach her Spiritual Light shield, but as the Pure Yang Fire descended, her spiritual power melted away like ice and snow cast into boiling water, dissolving in an instant.

Wisp after wisp of pure white flames landed on the Crescent Blade, spreading like spots, continuously infecting and seeping in.

Upon contact with the ghostly qi, it was like fuel to fire, igniting the Pure Yang Fire's ability to the extreme against evil and malevolent spirits.

Amidst agonized screams, the once-imposing Crescent Blade, seemingly capable of slicing through all matter, began to tremble and emit a pitiful whine.

"Spare me..."

Chen Mobai's gaze remained unchanged as he spurred more intense Pure Yang Spiritual Power. The Pure Yang Fire gushing from the Six Yang Divine Fire Mirror surged like a pure white waterfall of flames, completely enveloping the Crescent Blade.

Within the even more miserable screams, wisp after wisp of silvery-grey smoke began to evaporate. What was once an almost clearly defined female silhouette began to shrink steadily, eventually reduced to just a small fraction of her original size, on the verge of being completely refined away by the Pure Yang Fire.

"Don't you want to... save your... disciple..."

At the brink of life and death, she broadcast this sentence with her last divine sense.

Chen Mobai's originally cold eyes wavered; the fully formed golden lines in his left eye slowly faded, and a human's emotions returned one by one.

Yet, to ensure his opponent had no power left to resist, Chen Mobai unleashed a burst of Pure Yang Fire one last time, refining her down to a mere tenth of her size before stopping.

“Come out from this Fourth-grade Magical Weapon.”

But Chen Mobai was still a little uneasy because he had personally experienced the might of the Crescent Blade. Even if his opponent had just a breath left, he wished to extract her from it.

“I have only a breath left now, and if I leave the Moonlight Blade, even a gust of Yang wind could disperse my soul...”

A somewhat pleading voice emanated from the Crescent Blade. Chen Mobai’s brow furrowed as he retrieved a Storage Bag from the melting edges of Elder Ming’s body.

“You Ghost Cultivators always carry something that can nourish the soul, open it and take it yourself.”

At this point, Elder Ming, scared witless by the Pure Yang Fire, didn’t hesitate and used her last bit of divine sense to open the Storage Bag.

Inside, there indeed was a piece of Fourth-order Soul Nourishing Wood.

After transferring Elder Ming’s soul and Spiritual Light into the Soul Nourishing Wood, Chen Mobai opened up his own Golden Core Domain and locked away both the Purple Electric Sword and the Crescent Blade.

This was now as safe as it could get.

However, he now sensed the presence of numerous Foundation Establishment Practitioners closing in on this location.

Looking around, Chen Mobai also noticed that the Large Formation protecting Guiyuan Mountain had completely collapsed during the recent clash; even the mountain itself had cracked open, the Spirit Veins beneath it beginning to leak.

“The Large Formation I set up on Guiyuan Mountain was merely to conceal the grand aura of my cultivation and magic practice. Facing the Saint Heir’s earth-shattering Sword Technique, it indeed couldn’t withstand a single blow...”

Elder Ming’s divine sense conveyed, seemingly attempting to curry favor, hoping to avoid being refined by Pure Yang Fire after Chen Mobai inquired about Luo Yixuan’s situation.

“Then let’s change the location of our talk.”

With Chen Mobai’s cultivation, although he didn’t care for Foundation Establishment Practitioners, this was still within the territory of the Five Elements Sect. Without deciding to open conflict with Zhou Ye, he still had to consider his feelings somewhat.

A quarter of an hour later, Rong Chi, the Foundation Establishment Practitioner closest to Guiyuan Mountain of the Five Elements Sect, arrived at the scene.

The sight of Guiyuan Mountain cracked open from the middle and the terrifying spiritual powers lingering atop the summit left his face in shock.

Chapter 1030: Heavenly Sovereign Merging Path

After Rong Chi, two more Foundation Establishment practitioners flew over.

They were from the Yuyai Market nearby, one was a senior ancestor of the Wang family, and the other was a Guest Elder from the Qunyu Tower. Seeing the entirety of Guiyuan Mountain split open, their faces showed shock as well.

“This...”

They had originally thought it was some kind of secret treasure or ruins emerging, considering that in the Eastern Wilderness, Golden Core Cultivators could be counted on one’s fingers. It seemed impossible for such an event to happen at Guiyuan Mountain.

“Fellow Daoist Rong, could it be that one of your sect’s Supreme Elders has taken action?”

The two Foundation Establishment practitioners who arrived later also knew Rong Chi, and they couldn't help but ask.

"Please keep this matter a secret. I'll return to the Immortal City to report to the sect master."

Having given the instruction, Rong Chi took out a formation from his storage bag. After deploying it, it turned into a trail of yellow smoke, enveloping Guiyuan Mountain, then he used an Escape Skill and headed toward Hunyuan Immortal City.

...

"Master, you can put me down ten miles ahead of the market."

Liu Wenbo, who was being carried by Chen Mobai with the "Red Misty Cloud Silk," pointed to a market built atop a cliff in the near distance.

"Hmm, inform the other members of the sect. After collecting the seeds of the Spirit Rice Spirit Plant and the like, they can start evacuating to the Rain Country."

Chen Mobai's main purpose for coming to the Ming Nation this time was to look for traces of Luo Yixuan. Now that he had some results, there was naturally no need to waste time here.

"Yes, Master!"

After hearing this, Liu Wenbo immediately went to carry out the task.

After setting down his disciple, Chen Mobai identified a direction and flew steadily.

It was unclear how much time had passed when he finally arrived in front of a mountain range. Following the guidance, he flew in and among the endless thousands of peaks, found one that looked unremarkable and descended.

“Is this the place?”

After landing, Chen Mobai took out the piece of Soul Nourishing Wood, and a dim, silver-grey shadow immediately appeared, scanning the surroundings and nodding its head.

“Saint Heir, at the time of zi today, when Yin meets Yang, a part of the Yellow Springs Path will project here. Your disciple is hidden by me in the void between the Yin Yang Rift.”

Elder Ming didn't dare to hide anything and disclosed the whereabouts of Luo Yixuan.

“We still have to wait until the time of zi...”

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai's expression also changed slightly.

Luo Yixuan had been missing for nearly ten years, and although he appeared unaffected on the surface, he was more worried than anyone at heart.

The closer he was to success, however, the more nervous he became.

But he could not let others see it.

Chen Mobai calmly surveyed the surrounding peaks. Here, there was intermediate grade Rank-1 Spiritual Energy. If it were near the Immortal Gate, it would have been claimed and developed long ago.

But in the Eastern Wilderness, due to the high altitude and thin Spiritual Energy, no cultivators came here.

After all, even for Qi Practitioners, reaching the top of such high mountains was not easy without the ability to fly.

And for Foundation Establishment Practitioners who could easily come here, this bit of Spiritual Energy was not worth noticing.

Yet Chen Mobai found the scenery here to be quite nice. Standing on the peak and looking out into the distance, the mountain ranges seemed to stretch from the horizon all the way to the edge of the sky.

Between the mountain ranges, like countless screens, the sky was sliced into different patterns. Clouds slowly drifted over the peaks, like the skirts of fairy maidens, light and beautiful.

Below the clouds, stretches of lush greenery, forests, and streams interwove into a natural landscape. With the Void Spirit Eye in operation, he could see ant-sized figures carrying herbs on their backs, climbing and moving through the mountains.

Nobody would imagine that atop this mountain peak, there existed a rift between the realms of Yin and Yang.

“How did you recognize the Earth Departing Flame Light Escape?”

Since there was still some time before zi, Chen Mobai chatted with Elder Ming.

“Saint, could you possibly spare my life?”

Elder Ming asked tentatively, having disclosed Luo Yixuan’s whereabouts but not yet the method of entering the Yin Yang Rift. She wanted to feel secure before fully revealing everything.

“I have always kept my word...”

Chen Mobai spoke with integrity, but Elder Ming only trusted oaths bound by one’s Dao Heart.

[The cultivators here are all too wary.]

Chen Mobai thought to himself and after pondering for a moment, weighing his options, he nodded.

“I can swear, but you must also swear to tell me everything you know without any concealment.”

“Saint, after my revival in Huangquan, I cultivated for more than three hundred years, and after my transmigration, another two hundred-plus years passed. Combined with the fragmented memories of resurrection from my previous life, I have knowledge spanning a thousand years, which is quite a lot. If I were to tell you everything in detail, I would need to talk for several years, maybe even more than a decade, without sleep or rest.”

Elder Ming spoke words that surprised Chen Mobai.

“You have such a significant origin?”

“Where, where, compared to you, Saint, my history is truly insignificant.”

Elder Ming’s reply only increased Chen Mobai’s curiosity. After thinking it over, he modified the content of the oath.

“I swear to spare your life, but for every question I ask, you must answer without any concealment.”

“Saint, you also have to ensure that no one other than yourself can kill me.”

Elder Ming left no stone unturned. Cultivators who had mingled in the Eastern Wilderness knew these matters all too well. She added a few more conditions Chen Mobai hadn’t thought of, covering loopholes to ensure she wouldn’t completely perish due to various accidents.