

## World 1031

Chapter 1031: Heavenly Sovereign Merging Path\_2 “Okay!”

After weighing the situation, Chen Mobai confirmed that the information he could gain from her was more valuable than her life and made a contract with her.

“Now, you can speak.”

“Where would the Saint Heir like to start hearing from?”

“Start from the Earth Departing Flame Light Escape. This escape skill should not be known by anyone in the Eastern Wilderness.”

Chen Mobai did not forget his initial confusion and brought the topic back to the beginning.

“Report to the Saint Heir, in my past life I was actually a member of the Longevity Sect, one of the candidates for the sixth generation’s Saintess.”

“Unfortunately, with only average cultivation level and talent, I was eliminated in the third round, and in the end, I only managed to reach Perfect Core Formation, failing at ‘Nascent Soul Formation’ and passing away in meditation.”

“Before I passed away, I used the sect’s secret technique to dissolve my corpse, turning into an unconscious lonely soul that entered the Yin World. After wandering in the underworld for who knows how long, I finally regained some memories from my past life. Then I began to slowly cultivate, both improving myself and regaining my memory.”

“More than two hundred years ago, a mysterious cultivator intruded into the Yin World and disturbed the Ghost Emperor sleeping in the deepest part of the underworld. They fought fiercely, tearing through the barrier between Yin and Yang, creating a passageway through the Yellow Springs Path that connected the worlds that should never have crossed.”

“It was during that time that I came to the Eastern Wilderness and cultivated a female cultivator from the Guiyuan Mountain as a Ghost Fetus in the Womb using the Art of Rebirth in the Underworld and have been hiding until now.”

Elder Ming’s candid words greatly surprised Chen Mobai.

Her past life was actually a member of the Longevity Sect?

What shocked him even more was the origin of the Yellow Springs Path revealed in her words.

It was actually created when a mysterious cultivator forced his way into the Yin World and clashed with the Ghost Emperor.

Was it Ancestor Hunyuan?

But the timeline doesn’t quite match up!

Chen Mobai pondered, temporarily pressing this question down, and started to ask Elder Ming another question.

“Since you were a member of the Longevity Sect, and have been in the Eastern Wilderness for over two hundred years, you must know that the Longevity Sect has disappeared from the annals of history. Do you know why such a grand sect would suddenly vanish without a trace?”

Inside the Divine Tree Secret Realm, among the three Divine Trees, are contained the inheritance and treasures of the Longevity Sect. If he could make all of these his own, Chen Mobai was confident that he could develop the strength of the Divine Wood Sect in a short time. Then, his grand plan to unify the Eastern Wilderness could be implemented earlier.

But the key to using these was how to deal with the most mysterious Great Dao Tree!

And whether the spirit of the Heavenly Sovereign still existed within it?

Now encountering an actual member of the Longevity Sect, naturally, Chen Mobai wanted to inquire thoroughly.

“With your identity as the Saint Heir, you don’t know about this matter?”

However, after listening, Elder Ming turned around and asked him.

“I became the Saint Heir only because the sect still had the Divine Tree Secret Realm that True Lord Yuan had altered. After Foundation Establishment, I easily took twelve steps in front of the Great Dao Tree...”

Chen Mobai had not sworn an oath of authenticity to Elder Ming, so he simplified the process of how he became the Saint Heir in front of the Great Dao Tree a bit.

“Just at Foundation Establishment and able to take twelve steps in front of the Great Dao Tree, the Saint Heir’s talent, even in the history of our sect spanning tens of thousands of years, would be ranked in the top three.”

Elder Ming, who was unaware that Chen Mobai had tried several times after Foundation Establishment to achieve this result and thought he did it in one go, couldn’t help but express her admiration, knowing full well the difficulties of the Longevity’s trials.

“Only the third?”

Chen Mobai was somewhat surprised, he had fully expected the embellished version of his achievement to be enough to top the Longevity Sect’s charts throughout the ages.

But to think that there were others more extraordinary than he!

Foundation Establishment followed by directly taking thirteen steps?

Being possessed by the spirit of the Heavenly Sovereign on the spot?

“From my memories before passing away, aside from the first Saint Heir and the fourth Saintess, your achievement is the best,” she said.

When Elder Ming joined the Longevity Sect, the sect was at its peak. However, as she passed away in meditation later on, the records concerning the Longevity Sect also vanished overnight along with the disappearance of all the high-ranking cultivators within the sect, so her understanding was quite limited.

“Hmm, so as the Saint Heir, I’ve only inherited a secret realm and the legacy of the Longevity Sect. I certainly don’t know as much about this ancient sect as you do,” Chen Mobai had no intention of hiding the truth and spoke candidly.

“Regarding the overnight disappearance of the higher echelons of my sect, I’ve always had a suspicion, but I dare not assert its correctness.”

“Oh? What is your conjecture?”

To save her life, Elder Ming had signed a Dao heart contract. Faced with Chen Mobai’s question, she could only reveal a thought that had been hidden in her heart for hundreds of years.

“I fear that the Heavenly Sovereign has merged paths!”

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai appeared puzzled.

“The Heavenly Sovereign has merged paths? What does that mean?”

He had some understanding of the Heavenly Sovereign, who was the supreme being worshipped by the Longevity Sect.

But merging paths...

“It’s like this, Saint Heir,” Elder Ming faced Chen Mobai’s question and had no choice but to share what she knew, “The Tianhe Realm is now somewhat depleted of spiritual energy, so the highest one can cultivate to is the Perfection of Spirit Transmutation, beyond which one must ascend to progress further.”

“But in the earliest days of creation, it was possible to cultivate to the Merging Dao Realm. The Heavenly Sovereign is one of the oldest beings in the Tianhe Realm, and when worshipped by the Longevity Sect, was the existence closest to the Merging Path in this realm.”

“The doctrine established by the Longevity Sect was to worship the Heavenly Sovereign so he could merge paths, and then lead everyone in the sect to ascend together.”

After listening to Elder Ming’s introduction, Chen Mobai’s expression remained unchanged, but his heart was deeply shocked.

He knew that within the immortal gates, the highest level was the Spirit Transformation Stage.

Although he had heard Zhongli Tianyu mention that there were levels and realms above Spirit Transmutation, according to his knowledge, no one in the immortal gates had ever achieved it.

Yet, in this Tianhe Realm, there were not only ascended monks above Spirit Transmutation but there was even an inconceivable Merging Dao Realm in ancient times.

Even more unbelievable was the ability to lead an entire sect to ascend to the Upper Realm.

Such strength far exceeded Chen Mobai’s imagination.

“So you’re saying, the Heavenly Sovereign merged paths and took all the followers of the Longevity Sect up with him!” Chen Mobai said, pointing upwards, and Elder Ming nodded. Apart from this reason, she could think of no other that could make such a powerful force disappear without a trace overnight.

After all, in ancient times, the Longevity Sect could be considered one of the most powerful forces in the Tianhe Realm, and with the nearly Merging Path level Heavenly Sovereign, no cultivator or being could make such a dominant force vanish so silently and completely.

[If that's really the case, then it's a good thing!]

Chen Mobai instantly realized, if the Heavenly Sovereign had ascended after merging paths, then the most formidable presence of the Great Dao Tree, the Heavenly Sovereign's spiritual sense, would certainly no longer exist.

No wonder True Lord Yuan could cultivate to the stage of ascension with the Longevity Sect's legacy.

He must have obtained something left behind by the Heavenly Sovereign from the Great Dao Tree.

It's a pity that he arrived in the Eastern Wilderness too late, or perhaps it would have been him ascending instead of True Lord Yuan.

Chen Mobai felt regret in his heart.

He was already thinking about returning to Giant Tree Ridge and then raiding the Divine Tree Secret Realm again, to see if he could enhance his Rank-3 techniques to Rank-4 through the Great Dao Tree.

He wasn't asking for much, a Rank-4 in Sword Dao Realm or Thunder method would suffice. If not, even a Rank-4 Extreme Sun Slash would do.

With these thoughts, Chen Mobai, seeing that the sky was gradually darkening and that the hour of midnight was approaching, asked Elder Ming one more question.

"Now that a path has been opened between the Yin World and the Living World, creating the Yellow Springs Path which connects both, why haven't you ghost cultivators come to the Yang Realm on a large scale?"

Upon hearing this, Elder Ming shook her head with a bitter smile.

“It’s not for lack of desire but for impossibility.”

#### Chapter 1032: Finding the Disciple

“If cultivators from the living world wish to become ghost cultivators, they must completely extinguish their physical bodies that remain in the yang realm before they can enter the yin world.”

“Correspondingly, if a ghost cultivator from the yin world enters the living world, they will trigger a Heavenly Tribulation due to the lack of yang energy, and the higher their cultivation level, the stronger the tribulation.”

“The so-called ‘yang energy’ refers to one’s lifespan. Thus, we ghost cultivators who have come to the living world through the Yellow Springs Path must use the Art of Rebirth in the Underworld to find a body that still has an unspent lifespan to possess, to avoid the Heavenly Tribulation.”

Elder Ming explained in detail.

In times past, some ghost cultivators who reached the living world via the Yellow Springs Path, unaware of these heavenly rules, soon after bursting out of the path, they were locked onto by the Heavenly Tribulation due to their unrestrained release of ghostly qi, turning to ash.

Elder Ming, who hailed from the Longevity Sect and was aware of this, did her utmost to conceal herself. It wasn’t until she successfully cultivated a Ghost Fetus in the Womb and possessed a new body that she began to reveal her strength and presence bit by bit.

Even so, these ghost cultivators didn’t dare to strike with their full power.

Because even with a body cultivated from a Ghost Fetus in the Womb, it would not be a perfect fit with their own soul, and the erosion of lifespan by ghostly qi meant their yang energy depleted at twice the rate of ordinary people.

Thus, the previous Ghost Fetus in the Womb Elder Ming had cultivated to the stage of a Ghost Pill, though seemingly powerful, actually had only half the lifespan of a typical Golden Core Cultivator after her possession.

For this reason, after over two hundred years, her yang energy was nearly exhausted, and she needed to prepare another new body to help her avoid the Heavenly Tribulation.

Ghost cultivators generally do not search for a Ghost Fetus in the Womb near their place of hiding.

Elder Ming's previous targets included a true successor of Back to Sky Valley, the natural daughter of Lu family of Spring Country that practiced immortal cultivation, and a loose Foundation Establishment practitioner from Yun Meng Ze.

Each of these three had their advantages and disadvantages, and Elder Ming had been indecisive about which one to choose.

But at that time, Luo Yixuan appeared before her, which was exactly what she needed—like finding a missing piece to a puzzle.

Luo Yixuan alone was better than the three she had chosen combined.

After inquiring, she learned that Luo Yixuan was a cultivator from the Divine Wood Sect with a mentor who was hailed as a Sword Cultivation Genius, born into a family with only a Foundation Establishment Practitioner and with a rather ordinary background. So, Elder Ming felt at ease kidnapping her.

However, the news of Chen Mobai's Core Formation came while she was cultivating Luo Yixuan.

This was somewhat unexpected for Elder Ming.

Because in the Eastern Wilderness, she had heard of no fewer than a hundred cultivators hailed as geniuses, but the number who had actually managed to achieve Core Formation could be counted on one hand.

But now that the Huangquan Holy Fruit had been consumed, she would have to stick to the chosen path.

If Chen Mobai really did come looking for his disciple, Elder Ming was confident she could capture him within one move, even though he was a novice Golden Core stage Sword Cultivator.

It wasn't until the news that Zhou Shengqing might have "Nascent Soul Formation" and had effortlessly killed three great ghost cultivators and two Golden Core cultivators came that Elder Ming was truly shaken.

She even began considering leaving the Eastern Wilderness.

However, after waiting for some time, she found that there was no movement from Zhou Shengqing, who was said to be recuperating his elemental energy in seclusion according to the Divine Wood Sect. But Elder Ming, who came from the Longevity Sect, immediately thought of a Forbidden Technique.

The Reverse Longevity Technique!

Realizing this, she completely reassured herself.

As long as no Nascent Soul Cultivator intervened, she was invincible in the Eastern Wilderness!

Then, she encountered Chen Mobai, who had cultivated the Pure Yang Scroll. Full of confidence, she unleashed all her divine skills and magic artifacts, yet she was refined down to the last wisp of soul's spiritual light.

"How many ghost cultivators are hidden in the Eastern Wilderness?"

Chen Mobai did not know the journey of Elder Ming's heart and asked another question.

As a ruler aspiring to unify the Eastern Wilderness, he needed to know how many obstacles and opponents still lurked in the shadows.

“To my knowledge, including myself, there were six of us at the Golden Core level. Three have been slain by your Divine Wood Sect, one is hidden in the ruins near the three northern countries of the Eastern Wilderness, and another is on an island in Yun Meng Ze, pretending to be a Magic Daoist monk—which is not really pretending, as he was a Devil Cultivator in his past life.”

After hearing Elder Ming’s answer, Chen Mobai felt relieved.

Six great ghost cultivators, three killed by Zhou Shengqing, with Elder Ming falling into his hands, and the remaining two, once he had time to track them down, would also experience the power of the Pure Yang Scroll.

“There are no Nascent Soul level ones, right?”

But, just to be cautious, Chen Mobai asked again.

“There are none here in the Eastern Wilderness, because ghost cultivators of that level have such dense yin energy that as soon as they show themselves in the living world, they almost immediately trigger a Heavenly Tribulation, which is hard to hide from. Moreover, to exert their full strength, they need to possess the flesh of a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator—beings whose power is even greater than their own.”

Elder Ming’s words put Chen Mobai at ease.

However, deep inside, he still held a slight regret, wondering whether his Pure Yang Scroll could overcome a large gap in the realm and counter ghost cultivators.

But it was just a thought, for if he really faced a Nascent Soul Cultivator, running as fast as possible would be the course of action.

As Chen Mobai pondered this, the bright moon hung high in the sky, and a sudden chill enveloped everything between heaven and earth.

“The Midnight Cold Tide is upon us, we can open the Yin Yang Rift now...”

Elder Ming's divine sense transmitted a peculiar and unfathomable technique into Chen Mobai's mind. After reading through it once, to ensure there were no accidents, he carefully sought further instruction.

[The Saint Heir cares so much about his disciple, I hope when they meet, they won't blame me.]

#### Chapter 1033: Finding the Disciple\_2

As Elder Ming was considering this, Chen Mobai had already cast his spell, with his right index finger shining a sliver of sharp light, like a keen blade, stabbing and slicing through the air before him.

A pitch-black fissure suddenly split open in the void at the mountaintop.

The fissure continued to expand towards both sides after it cracked open and, in the blink of an eye, a portal wide enough for a person to pass through emerged.

Streams of even colder air gushed out from within, prompting Chen Mobai to take out the Six Yang Divine Fire Mirror without a moment's hesitation.

"The Yellow Springs Path is nestled between Yin and Yang, a fracture accessible to beings from both the Underworld and the Living World, yet uncomfortable for all..."

Just as Elder Ming was thinking about how to persuade Chen Mobai to let her inside, so she could help bring Luo Yixuan out, the latter took a wooden figure from his storage bag, and after dividing his Divine Sense, he began to navigate the Blue Sun Puppet down the Yellow Springs Path.

"A Longevity Puppet!" Elder Ming recognized at a glance the origin of this wooden figure, it was indeed the Puppetry Technique of their Longevity Sect, "The Saint Heir is actually versed in this as well, truly a man of many talents."

"Just interested," Chen Mobai said without admitting that he was actually an expert in this area as his Divine Sense, through the Blue Sun Puppet, was already surveying the Yellow Springs Path.

It was a domain shrouded in thick mists, as if they would never disperse.

Despite the presence of a dim yellow moon in the sky, shedding faint light, Chen Mobai felt as if he was in the midst of an endless night, unable to see his own fingers when he extended his hand.

An eerie atmosphere permeated every corner of the void; with each step he took, the pressure in his Divine Sense increased.

The sensation beneath the Puppet's feet was as if it were stepping into a vast, boundless desert, and the darkness and chill in the air made the operations of the Divine Sense sluggish.

Amidst the silence that seemed infinite, a thunderclap that could shake the universe suddenly erupted, lighting up the sky with a crimson bolt of lightning, causing his Divine Sense to tremble with intense fluctuations.

But after stopping and waiting for a while, the surroundings returned to that same sinister, terrifying silence as before.

Chen Mobai, controlling the Blue Sun Puppet, tried to move forward again, only to feel suddenly paralyzed.

“Eh!”

Chen Mobai, standing outside the Yellow Springs Path, immediately took out the central Heavenly Calculation Bead that controlled the puppet, and began to check the Blue Sun Puppet, which he had modified himself, from top to bottom.

Although this Heavenly Calculation Bead was a Rank-2 discarded from the puppet factory, it was still considered a high-end product in the Tianhe Realm.

Shortly after, Chen Mobai discovered the problem.

The air within the Yellow Springs Path contained a kind of energy that was toxic to all except Ghost Cultivators. Even without breathing, simply moving through the path would contaminate everything, causing every tangible object to become slow and stagnant.

“It truly is the Underworld!” Chen Mobai exclaimed, and then he switched the puppet to manual mode, driving its limbs with his Divine Sense, and proceeded towards the place where Luo Yixuan lay sleeping.

It was a black mountain!

...

Luo Yixuan didn't know how long she had been in this pitch-black space. At first, she had been able to keep track of every moment.

But soon, without any reference points, she realized her sense of time was no longer accurate.

What was the background of that old woman? She was clearly a Golden Core Cultivator yet hid within the Guiyuan Sect for so many years without revealing herself.

Luo Yixuan guessed she might be a demon from the Magic Path, coveting her young and beautiful body, wanting to cultivate it before seizing it for herself.

This realization made Luo Yixuan all the more anxious.

But her cultivation level was only at the Foundation Establishment, with no power to resist a Golden Core Cultivator.

Moreover, to stay alive, she had to feign submission, hoping a turn of events might come.

After all, she was a disciple of the Divine Wood Sect. Her sudden disappearance would surely raise questions, and with her master's status, it might be possible to ask two elder ancestors for help.

But all this was contingent on her survival.

So, Luo Yixuan cooperated with Elder Ming; they went to Yun Meng Ze to meet with a Magic Daoist Monk, and used secret techniques to modify her birth date and time, to align their destinies together.

She then cultivated the Art of Rebirth in the Underworld, consumed the Huangquan Holy Fruit, and was even placed within this dark, enclosed box, enduring the assault of the cold tide and Yin energy, and facing the unknown fear of her body slowly transforming.

A day, a week, a month, a year, two years, five years, eight years...

Luo Yixuan didn't know how long she had been in this lonely environment; several times, she felt she was going insane, but her tenacious nature kept her going.

Yet, as the years stretched on, she began to doubt in her heart!

Would her master really come to rescue her?

Having been a deep thinker since childhood, despite the unprecedented affection and familial love she had received in Xiao Nanshan, there was always an indescribable fear deep in her heart.

She understood clearly that her ability to reach Foundation Establishment and return home in glory, compelling the once high and mighty ancestral patriarch of her family to bow and fawn, was all thanks to the best master in the world.

What if, one day, her master no longer wanted her?

Those who have had something are most afraid of losing it again, becoming left with nothing.

Luo Yixuan was very afraid that her warmest decade-plus years spent in Xiao Nanshan were just a fantasy in her heart amidst suppressed anguish and pain.

Every day, when she opened her eyes and looked at this enclosed rectangular space, her fear grew stronger.

After being abducted by Elder Ming, she had consumed three Huangquan Holy Fruits one after another in the span of ten years, her cultivation level surging to the pinnacle of Foundation Establishment Completion, but what followed were violent changes to her body and even more turbulent waves of despair deep within her heart.

She felt her consciousness becoming shorter and shorter in the time it took to awaken under the erosion of the cold and gloomy energy.

Perhaps one day, she would fall into a deep sleep, never to awaken again.

Moreover, that day was not far off!

As her cultivation level grew higher, Luo Yixuan could feel more clearly the omens of her own death.

“Mother...”

Just before falling asleep once more, the totality of Luo Yixuan’s memories from her childhood began flashing through her mind, focusing on the only family member she truly cared about.

However, given the nature of her master and fellow disciples, even if I were to die, they would surely take good care of Mother for me.

Thinking this, Luo Yixuan’s worries for her mother gradually dissolved, and she quickly glossed over the painful memories of her time with the Luo family.

Her memory flashed back to that day.

After dressing up, she followed Luo Yixiu to the Southstream Market, waiting for the Divine Wood Sect’s Town Guard to arrive and take them to the sect.

That was the day that changed her fate because it was the first time she had met him.

At that time, Luo Yixuan could never have imagined that she would someday become his disciple.

The years she spent in Xiao Nanshan were the happiest time of her life.

If only she could have stayed at that time forever.

In Luo Yixuan's mind, the gentle image of her master, who had always treated her kindly, began to fade as she slowly drifted to sleep.

Thump!

An unprecedented tremor started to spread, attempting to wake up Luo Yixuan, who had just drifted to sleep, but her body could not escape this regularity.

[Who is it?]

She wanted to speak, but she could not open her mouth, nor could she move.

...

"This is the place!"

Chen Mobai steered the puppet and set foot on a black mountain; the entrance to the Yellow Springs Path that Elder Ming had discovered wasn't too far from their destination.

He carved open one side of the mountain with a Divine Wood Sword carried by the puppet, entered the body of the mountain, and quickly found a vibrant red sedan chair.

This was a special magic artifact designed to isolate Luo Yixuan's living human aura, allowing her to transform into a Ghost Fetus in the Womb faster on the Yellow Springs Path.

Following Elder Ming's instruction, Chen Mobai single-handedly lifted the sedan chair and left the black mountain.

He encountered no accidents on the return journey.

After the time it takes for an incense stick to burn!

The Blue Sun Puppet, under Chen Mobai's control, burst out of the Yellow Springs Path.

Back in the living world, Chen Mobai had no more concerns; he reached out and lifted the curtain of the sedan chair.

A girl, white as snow, appeared before his eyes.

Chapter 1034: The Law of the Heavenly Sovereign

After another bout of deep slumber, Luo Yixuan's consciousness gradually awoke once again from the void and stillness.

Her eyelids twitched slightly and slowly opened.

She had thought it would be the same darkness and tranquility as before, but a piercing ray of light now fell upon her pupils through the slits of her eyelids.

The long-lost light was so dazzling and painful.

She couldn't help but close her eyes again.

At this moment, she finally felt a difference from before and remembered the unusual tremor before this sleep.

Is my body finally about to be possessed!?

A sense of dread suddenly weighed on Luo Yixuan's heart.

In that place of perpetual darkness where she had been captive for ten years, the few times she had been let out were only for an old hag to feed her a pitch-black fruit.

Every time after consuming it, her cultivation level would advance by leaps and bounds, shattering her bottlenecks in a short period of time.

Today, she has reached the realm of Foundation Establishment Completion, a level so unfathomable she wouldn't dare dream of it.

Even her master, proclaimed as a peerless Sword Cultivation Genius, probably hasn't advanced this quickly.

Moreover, after achieving Foundation Establishment Completion, Luo Yixuan increasingly felt her body absorbing the ghastly cold air of the dark space, changing in a direction she could not stop.

With her intelligence, she naturally thought of the worst consequence.

Once the transformation of the body was complete, it would be time for the old crone to possess her.

Although she tried her best to resist, after consuming three Huangquan Holy Fruits, the spiritual power within her had been completely transformed into a chilling energy, totally out of her control.

Or rather, since her abduction, Luo Yixuan still possessed her own consciousness, but both her spiritual power and physical body had been restrained and controlled by restrictions placed by the old hag.

Over these years, she was like a doll with self-awareness, but unable to resist.

At the last moments of her life, all the strength and facade within Luo Yixuan's heart were shattered by the overwhelming fear surging forth.

The fear of death, the fear of consciousness dissipating, made it impossible for her to control her innate fear.

Master, please come save me...

Tears rolled down her snow-white cheeks, her lips trembling slightly, but she was unable to make any sound.

Footsteps approached from afar, reaching her ears, and Luo Yixuan felt utterly hopeless.

"Now that you're awake, why are your eyes still closed? Is the sunlight too harsh, and you can't open your eyes?"

Suddenly, a familiar voice that Luo Yixuan could never forget sounded at her ear.

A warm hand gently touched her eyes, and a gentle spiritual power formed an invisible barrier before her eyes.

"There, I've set up a pair of Spiritual Power Glasses for you," said Chen Mobai, removing his hand from Luo Yixuan's eyes only to find that his little disciple's eyes were already brimming with hot tears.

Once Luo Yixuan adjusted to the dazzling sunlight, she finally saw the outline and facial features of the person before her.

It was the person she longed for, the only one she could hope for in the endless darkness!

"Xuan, I'm sorry your teacher took so long to save you!"

When those words, tinged with a faint guilt but filled with tenderness, entered her ears, the utter fear in Luo Yixuan's heart vanished, leaving only joy and happiness.

Tears flowed more violently than before, and amid her sobs, all the emotions she had suppressed deep within her heart for who knows how long burst forth!

Wuu wuu wuu!

Although she still couldn't speak, move, and could only cry, for the first time in her life, Luo Yixuan cried with joy.

"Alright, alright, you're not a child anymore, why do you just know to cry..." Chen Mobai was a bit at a loss. The last time he saw a girl crying, it seemed to be Qing Nu.

How had he handled that again?

Chen Mobai thought for a moment and felt it might be inappropriate for a teacher to hold his disciple, but seeing Luo Yixuan's unceasing tears, he hesitated and then extended his right hand.

"It's okay now, it's okay..."

He placed his hand on his little disciple's head, comforting her as if she were his crybaby cousin Wang Xinying, gently stroking her hair back and forth.

After who knows how long, Luo Yixuan's emotions finally calmed down, her weeping softened to gentle sobs.

"Why can't Xuan move?"

It was then that Chen Mobai also noticed something was amiss with Luo Yixuan's body condition.

The abundance of Huangquan Yin Qi on her body meant he dared not probe into her body with his Pure Yang Spiritual Power to investigate.

Elder Ming: "Report to the Saint Child, that's how it is. She has consumed the Huangquan Holy Fruit crystallized from my Soul Spirit, and she is almost a completely formed Ghost Fetus in the Womb, filled with Yellow Springs Spiritual Power. Only the final crystallization and triggering of a qualitative change are needed for her to condense a Ghost Pill."

Elder Ming: "But this power is not something a simple Early Foundation Stage Cultivator like her can wield, so instead her Divine Sense is trapped by the Yellow Springs Spiritual Power within the Sea of Knowledge at the Purple Mansion, rendering her immobile."

Chen Mobai: "You performed the Art of Rebirth in the Underworld on her!"

Hearing this, Chen Mobai glared murderously at the Soul Nourishing Wood inhabited by Elder Ming, who immediately retracted her silvery shadow.

Elder Ming: "Holy Sovereign, we have established a Dao Heart contract!"

Chapter 1035: The Law of the Heavenly Sovereign\_2

Fearing that Chen Mobai would lose his rationality in a fit of rage, Elder Ming promptly opened her mouth to remind him.

"Hmph!"

Thinking of this, Chen Mobai could only let out a cold snort, grasping the Soul Nourishing Wood in his palm and beginning to inquire about a solution.

"Saint Heir, having taken three Huangquan Holy Fruits, the Ghost Fetus in the Womb is almost irreversible. But this isn't necessarily a bad thing. As long as you let me enter her divine sense to take control and ensure that the Yellow Springs Spiritual Power within her forms a core, she would reach the topmost realm in the Eastern Wilderness, a state that countless cultivators dream of..."

“Shut up, my disciple will succeed in core formation without resorting to these crooked and evil paths!”

Chen Mobai said earnestly, speaking what was in his heart out of urgency.

“Yes, yes, Saint Heir...”

Elder Ming agreed outwardly but inwardly she felt that the Divine Wood Sect’s fate couldn’t possibly be so good that, besides you, the Saint Heir, there would be a second genius capable of cultivating to the Golden Core Realm.

“There has never been a cultivation technique or secret method without flaws in this world. The Art of Rebirth in the Underworld must have a way to reverse it. You’d better think carefully, or although I can’t kill you, letting you experience the Pure Yang Fire again wouldn’t be a problem.”

Chen Mobai, for the sake of his disciple, could not but threaten Elder Ming.

“Saint Heir, there are indeed three methods but...”

“Speak!”

With a gloomy voice and under the constraint of the contract, Elder Ming could only reveal what she knew.

“In Kong Sang Valley of the East Barbarians, there grows a Spirit Plant known as ‘Pure Bamboo’, which contains natural Pure Qi capable of suppressing the transformations of the Ghost Fetus.”

“Then, there is the Three Lights Divine Water from the Star Heaven Dao Sect of East Yu, which is the method of addressing the root cause. The Saint Heir could use the Alchemy Demon True Fire to incinerate her flesh that has already transformed into a Ghost Fetus and then guide her to recall her original body, to reconstruct it with the Three Lights Divine Water. But this requires her own divine sense to be strong enough to control the effect of the Three Lights Divine Water.”

“Lastly, there is the ‘Netherworld Scripture’ in the demon sects, a method for cultivating Yellow Springs Spiritual Power in a human body. If she could get her hands on this and switch to cultivating the Demon Path, with the foundation laid by my three Huangquan Holy Fruits, her achievements would be unlimited, and at the very least, she would be able to cultivate to Perfect Core Formation.”

After Elder Ming finished speaking, Chen Mobai fell silent.

The simplest of these was naturally the first one.

If he remembered correctly, the gift he had given Yin Qingmei when she was at the Foundation Establishment stage was a stalk of Pure Bamboo.

After so many years, he wondered how well she had taken care of it?

But even if it had died, Chen Mobai could have Chu Zuoshu help purchase one in the East Barbarians.

This could only provide symptomatic treatment, however.

The other two methods, addressing the root cause, seemed unthinkable. The Three Lights Divine Water was a supreme Spiritual Object even sought after by the Eastern Earth Holy Land.

Although Chen Mobai’s relationship with Yu Shuji was decent and he had a third-rank inner core that the other desired, such treasures were coveted by the latter and would hardly end up in the Eastern Wilderness.

After some thought, Chen Mobai felt that the cultivation method of the Demon Path might actually be the best option.

Having grown up in the Immortal Gate, Chen Mobai had no distinction between the righteous path and the demon path.

If used rightly, it is righteous; if used evilly, it is evil!

This was what the Immortal Gate preached every day.

Haven't you seen how the Huntuanyuanjing Method of the Antiquity Daoist System's Ruyi Gate, became an environmental protection magic in the hands of the Immortal Gate for dealing with all sorts of rubbish and waste materials?

"Do you have the 'Netherworld Scripture'?"

Elder Ming immediately shook her head. Just as Chen Mobai's brow furrowed, preparing to go back and think of another solution, she opened her mouth to provide another clue.

"Tu Daohua, who lives in seclusion in Yun Meng Ze, is a Ghost-route Demon Cultivator. He disclosed about the 'Netherworld Scripture' to me during our exchange. If the Saint Heir really wishes to obtain the Netherworld Scripture, you could seek him out."

At that moment, Chen Mobai finally realized the benefit of the contract he had signed with Elder Ming.

At least she couldn't hide anything he wanted to know.

"You know where he is in hiding, right?"

"I sought him out once, ten years ago. He is cautious and often changes places; I don't know if he is still on the same island now."

"After my visit to Five Elements Sect ends, I'll be leaving Rain Country. I might as well take a detour to Yun Meng Ze."

Chen Mobai made his decision within a few brief words.

"Yes, Saint Heir!"

Elder Ming finally sighed in relief upon hearing this.

She was genuinely worried that Chen Mobai would vent his anger on her after learning Luo Yixuan had been transformed into a Ghost Fetus in the Womb.

However, she was somewhat surprised that Chen Mobai would choose a technique from the Demon Path.

It seemed that this Saint Heir was someone whose bottom line was flexible. How long would her oath with him, regarding the Dao Heart, last?

“By the way, how come this Huangquan Holy Fruit looks so much like the fruit of the Longevity Tree?”

Amidst Elder Ming’s worries, Chen Mobai suddenly thought of this and asked.

“Oh, does the Saint Heir not know? The Art of Rebirth in the Underworld was founded by the Heavenly Sovereign.”

“Really? Is that so? Tell me more!”

Chen Mobai had suspected that the Art of Rebirth in the Underworld bore a resemblance to the Longevity Sect, but at that time, his cultivation was too low, and he thought it was just his imagination.

“The Heavenly Sovereign, known as ‘Longevity,’ was a Spirit Plant Transformation full of vibrant life in the Tianhe Realm, a naturally born Great Divine Power wielder. But for this reason, achieving Dao Fusion was even more difficult for him than for ordinary cultivators.”

“The Heavenly Sovereign sought the Dao Fusion Method from the Mother of Water, who guided him to enter destruction from life and to control life and death within the cycle of reincarnation, enabling him to take the step toward Dao Fusion.”

“Therefore, the Heavenly Sovereign cut off a strand of his divine sense and entered the Netherworld to try the path of Ghost Cultivation. The Art of Rebirth in the Underworld originated from this. However, at that time, only the Holy Sons and Daughters within the sect were qualified to cultivate it and become the Saint Embryo of the Heavenly Sovereign’s descent!”

“But we ordinary followers could also benefit from the Heavenly Sovereign’s protection, transforming into Ghost Cultivators after death and continue to sing the name of the Heavenly Sovereign in the Nether Huangquan!”

After listening to Elder Ming’s words, Chen Mobai suddenly fell silent.

Why did he feel that the Great Dao Tree was still somewhat dangerous?

“Does Ghost Cultivation offer unlimited lifespan?”

Chen Mobai then pondered this question. Elder Ming’s previous life had disappeared before the Longevity Sect, at least ten thousand years ago, and she had reawakened her memory after becoming a Ghost Cultivator, undoubtedly continuing an existence that should have ended.

If every cultivator of the Longevity Sect who passed away in meditation became a Ghost Cultivator, then the Nether Huangquan should have been dominated by the Longevity Sect long ago!

“Saint Heir, although we can become Ghost Cultivators under the protection of the Heavenly Sovereign, those who can awaken their memories are one in ten thousand. Moreover, once awakened, ten thousand years have passed, and the other followers have probably become nourishment for other Ghost Cultivators within the Underworld.”

“Furthermore, as Ghost Cultivators, we lose the possibility of reincarnation and rebirth. Once devoured by another Ghost Cultivator, it means the soul is scattered and utterly obliterated. We can only constantly fight and devour one another until the endpoint to make our endless existence meaningful.”

“This is also why we were so eager to escape the Underworld the moment the Yellow Springs Path appeared. Because even though we, as Rank-3 Ghost Cultivators, are powerful in the Eastern

Wilderness, in the Underworld, we're always worried about being discovered and devoured by Rank-4 Ghost Kings."

Elder Ming's words also made Chen Mobai understand the hardships of Ghost Cultivators.

Indeed, Ghost Cultivators have an endless lifespan, but over ninety-nine percent of them cannot awaken their past memories, and even with innate wisdom, they live in constant fear of being accidentally devoured by higher-ranked Ghost Cultivators.

Human Cultivators, even in death, still have a chance at reincarnation and might achieve great cultivation in another life, thus transcending the cycle of suffering.

But Ghost Cultivators don't have this opportunity.

Once they die, they're gone for good!

No wonder, although the Tianhe Realm has methods for Ghost Cultivation, cultivators generally are hesitant to pursue this path or learn from it.

The same goes for eternal life as a zombie, it must be for similar reasons.

Understanding this, Chen Mobai thought it was still better to maintain human cultivation.

"Mast... Master..."

Just then, a faint yet trembling voice came to his ears.

Turning his head, Chen Mobai saw Luo Yixuan's lips pale as snow, trembling slightly. She held back her tears, her eyes filled with the excitement and joy of reunion.

Chapter 1036: Demonic Qi Luo Yixuan's current situation was that her Divine Sense was only at the level of a cultivator who had just achieved Foundation Establishment.

However, her body was full of Yellow Springs Spiritual Power, reaching the realm necessary for Core Formation.

Yet these powers did not belong to her and could not be controlled. Her body had also undergone a metamorphosis, after enduring ten years of the cold aura of the Underworld eroding and refining her.

With the Divine Sense and vital energy not matching, naturally, she could not mobilize spiritual energy.

But this was also a characteristic of the Art of Rebirth in the Underworld; because when it was time for soul possession, only the physical body and Spiritual Power were needed. The weaker the Divine Sense, the better, making the process of devouring it all the more effortless.

To solve this problem, aside from Luo Yixuan strengthening her own Divine Sense, the three methods previously mentioned by Elder Ming were also options.

"Let's go, I will take you back to Xiao Nanshan," said Chen Mobai to his little disciple, whom he hadn't seen for ten years, and then he lowered the curtains of the sedan chair amidst Luo Yixuan's excited expression.

This Magic Artifact had the power to isolate Yin from Yang, which could conceal Luo Yixuan's Yin trait on the Yellow Springs Path, and could also prevent her from being detected by the Heavenly Tribulation in the Living World now that she had transformed into a Ghost Fetus in the Womb.

Before leaving, Chen Mobai glanced again at the portal of the Yellow Springs Path that was slowly closing in the void above the mountain top.

He thought for a moment, drew a Mysterious Fog Talisman with his hand, and using his Golden Core Stage cultivation level, he could ensure that no mortals would come here for over a decade.

If there was a chance in the future, he would have to find a way to deal with this Yellow Springs Path as well.

After completing this task, he activated his “Red Misty Cloud Silk” and took away the sedan chair, along with the little disciple inside.

...

Hunyuan Immortal City.

Chen Mobai finally had a face-to-face conversation with Zhou Ye.

It was still in the pavilion by the lake.

Zhou Ye scattered bait into the pond, pointing to a tagged Spirit Fish while recounting the incident when Zhao Xuankang had come to visit.

“Although we’ve gone our separate ways, we are still of the same lineage. Zhao Xuankang asking me to join in the attack on Giant Tree Ridge was indeed a mistake in choosing the person.”

“True Person Zhou is magnanimous. I will mention this to the three elder martial brothers as well,” said Chen Mobai, half-believing and half-doubting Zhou Ye’s words. Nevertheless, the fact that Zhou Ye did not participate in the assault with Zhao Xuankang deserved his gratitude.

“So, what are your plans next?” Zhou Ye asked while Green Pearl had already brewed the tea and brought it over to him.

“If I were to suggest that Divine Wood Sect and Golden Cliff be reintegrated into the Five Elements Sect, I wonder what True Person Zhou thinks?”

Chen Mobai took the tea but did not drink it; after all, he was just a Puppet. Noticing that Green Pearl was always watching, he said something that made Zhou Ye’s body shake.

“I am very tempted!” After a while, Zhou Ye said, and then he scattered all the bait in his hand into the water, walked to the table, and looked intently at Chen Mobai, “Sect Master Chen, you may state any conditions you have. Let me see if I can fulfill them.”

“If there are cultivation methods for Primordial Dao Fruit, then perhaps I could convince the three elder martial brothers,” Chen Mobai said, a statement that made Zhou Ye pause, followed by a cold laugh.

“Truly, Sect Master Chen lacks sincerity!”

“Oh, and why do you say that?”

“To come see me in the form of a Puppet, Sect Master Chen surely doesn’t think I can’t see through it?”

Chen Mobai was surprised upon hearing this. The Formless Puppet represented the pinnacle of Immortal Gate Puppetry Technique; camouflaged with the utmost effort using bionics materials, it could simulate all human breathing and movements almost without flaws.

But Zhou Ye had seen through it, and it seemed he had known from the very beginning.

Was it the effect of the Primordial True Qi?

Chen Mobai was uncertain, but faced with such an embarrassing situation of being exposed, he simply smiled and was not the least bit embarrassed.

“After all, Hunyuan Immortal City is the foremost Immortal City in the Eastern Wasteland. If True Person Zhou harbored any ill intentions towards me, my true body would have no means of resistance upon entering, so I just took a little extra precaution,” Chen Mobai replied.

“Chun Yusu reported to me that there was a clash between two Golden Core Cultivators at Guiyuan Mountain, causing a huge commotion and extinguishing the Spirit Mountain Veins. Does Sect Master Chen have anything to do with this?”

Chun Yusu, as the Sect Leader of Five Elements Sect, was flexible in her methods and had reached the peak of Foundation Establishment. With her outstanding Earth Spirit Root, she was regarded as the most likely successor to the Primordial Dao Fruit.

Before Chen Mobai, the anomaly, emerged, Chun Yusu was indisputably the number one Sect Leader in the Eastern Wasteland.

“I had a fight with a Ghost Cultivator and ended up killing her,” Chen Mobai admitted straightforwardly since there were only a few Golden Core Cultivators in the Eastern Wasteland, and the traces of his greatly achieved Red Flame Sword Jue were so obvious.

Zhou Ye’s pupils contracted upon hearing this.

“You won?”

Zhou Ye was well aware of the presence of a Ghost Cultivator like Elder Ming, who lurked around the core of Five Elements Sect—he had a talisman left by Ancestor Hunyuan that could sense the Yellow Springs Path.

But the fact that he was so shocked was precisely because he was aware of her. He had once crossed hands with Elder Ming when he had just perfected his Primordial True Qi, believing himself to be invincible in the Golden Core Realm of the Eastern Wasteland.

To his surprise, he was driven out of Guiyuan Mountain, and if it were not for a Fourth-grade Magical Weapon left by Ancestor Hunyuan that he possessed, he might not have been able to retreat in one piece.

“That Ghost Cultivator was quite strong, possessing a Fourth-grade offensive Magical Weapon. Unfortunately, she was still not quite a match for me. It’s just that when I killed her, I had to go all out, which caused quite a stir. I apologize for any trouble this has caused your sect,” explained Chen Mobai.

Chapter 1037: Demonic Qi\_2

Chen Mobai's words rendered Zhou Ye silent.

Green Pearl, who was clear about the initial exchange between him and Elder Ming, now widened her eyes in disbelief, looking at the calm and composed Chen Mobai.

Could this guy really have just achieved Core Formation?

Could he be bluffing!

"Sect Master Chen has eliminated a calamity for our Five Elements Sect; I am extremely grateful," Zhou Ye finally spoke. After receiving the news, he personally visited Guiyuan Mountain and used his Primordial True Qi to sense the remnants of the two strands of Core Formation Spiritual Power.

He confirmed one of them was indeed the powerful Ghost Cultivator whom even he had to pretend not to know, while the other was as intense and fervent as the rising sun.

The Spiritual Power simulated by Chen Mobai's Formless Puppet was the grand achievement of the Red Flame Sword Art, different from the Pure Yang Spiritual Power mixed within Guiyuan Mountain.

That was precisely why Zhou Ye spotted a flaw and, upon probing, discovered this was merely a puppet.

Comparing himself, Zhou Ye confirmed the reputation of Chen Mobai, the number one Sword Cultivator in the Eastern Wilderness, knowing the alliance between the Divine Wood Sect and the Golden Cliff had surpassed the Five Elements Sect, becoming the premier force in the Eastern Wilderness.

Although discontented, Zhou Ye had achieved his current status precisely by seizing the opportunity and following the larger trend.

"However, regarding the Technique of Chaotic Dao Fruit, I swore an oath before my master that I would only impart it to the direct lineage of the Five Elements Sect, so I truly cannot agree to your request."

After a tactful refusal, Zhou Ye picked up the cup of tea offered by Green Pearl and took a small sip.

“If the Divine Wood Sect and Golden Cliff return, wouldn’t my three senior brothers and I be the direct disciples of the Five Elements Sect?” Chen Mobai spoke again.

This, too, was a fact; after all, Zhou Shengqing and Mo Douguang were direct disciples of Ancestor Hunyuan, as legitimate as it gets.

If Zhou Ye was willing to pass on the Technique of Chaotic Dao Fruit, Chen Mobai wouldn’t mind paying respects to the tablet of Ancestor Hunyuan and acknowledging him as a master.

“Let us not discuss this matter further.”

But Zhou Ye was very decisive about the Technique of Chaotic Dao Fruit, exactly like the cultivators of Tianhe Realm in Chen Mobai’s knowledge.

Valuing the transmission of cultivation techniques even above their own lives.

“It seems, True Person Zhou, that you are fully confident about your ‘Nascent Soul Formation.’  
Chen Mobai asked again, which somewhat puzzled Zhou Ye.

“What do you mean by this, Sect Master Chen?”

“The practice of Chaotic Dao Fruit, if one relies on cultivating the Five Elements Spiritual Power on their own and unifying them, the emergence of Nascent Soul upon the Pill’s breakage is naturally without question. Seeing True Person Zhou’s firm refusal of our two veins’ return to the Five Elements Sect, it seems you don’t need us to provide Wood Vein and Metal Vein Spiritual Power to cultivate the Dao Fruit.”

Zhou Ye’s pupils suddenly dilated at Chen Mobai’s words.

“What you mean is...”

“These fish are nice; could you give me a few?”

After planting a seed in Zhou Ye’s heart, Chen Mobai abruptly changed the subject, pointing at the myriad of colorful fish, shimmering with various Spiritual Lights in the pond.

“If Sect Master Chen likes them, you may take them. Green Pearl, go fetch a tank.”

Upon leaving, Chen Mobai joyfully passed the large fish tank he held to Mu Yuan, who was waiting at the door.

Inside were five fish of different colors.

“Sect Master Chen, these are Muscle Fish...”

The next day, when Chen Mobai left Hunyuan Immortal City with Mu Yuan and Gu Yan, Zhou Ye actually came to see them off specially.

He shared with Chen Mobai the secrets and methods of breeding such Spirit Fish.

In the Eastern Wilderness, this was also an invaluable legacy.

Hearing this, Chun Yusu of the Five Elements Sect, who accompanied the farewell, was about to speak but then hesitated. Considering the two were Golden Core Cultivators, he ultimately chose to keep quiet.

[Sect Master Chen, if you can bring back the Wood Vein and Metal Vein to the Five Elements Sect, helping me cultivate the Chaotic Dao Fruit, once I achieve Nascent Soul Formation, you will be the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect, second only to me. The Chaotic Dao Fruit left by the Master, and my own insight into the Dao Fruit—I am willing to teach you all of it!]

In the dark of night, Zhou Ye, who had pondered all evening, used the technique of sound transmission to convey his decision to Chen Mobai.

In the end, human selfishness had overcome all else.

Once he had achieved the Primordial Dao Fruit, there would be no risks in breaking through to Nascent Soul Formation.

Zhou Ye's lifelong pursuit was to return to Dongwu and uproot the Sun family, which had annihilated his own clan.

However, to accomplish this, he would need to attain the realm of Nascent Soul Formation.

After all, even with Sun Huangwu dead, the Sun family remains a royal family of Dongwu, boasting six Golden Core Cultivators.

They controlled the other half of Yun Meng Ze.

Compared to his own bright future, sharing the Primordial Dao Fruit was not impossible!

After all, Chen Mobai made a sound argument, the Wood Vein and Metal Vein are rightfully the orthodox branches of the Five Elements Sect, sharing with him was not a breach of doctrine.

[Very well, I will go back and discuss it with my three senior brothers.]

Having left this message, Chen Mobai laughed heartily and turned to leave.

His purpose for visiting the East Wilderness Major Sect as the Sect Leader of the Divine Wood Sect had been perfectly achieved.

He had found Luo Yixuan, his little disciple who had been missing for ten years, and had steadied Zhou Ye of the Five Elements Sect, making him hopeful for the unification of the five veins and the cultivation of the Primordial Dao Fruit by the joint effort of Nascent Soul Cultivators.

As long as the Five Elements Sect stayed out of trouble, then Chen Mobai could concentrate the forces of the Divine Wood Sect and Golden Cliff on striking against Snow-blowing Palace, Back to Sky Valley, and Nanxuan Sect.

After taking over the territories of these three sects, he could launch an assault on Hunyuan Immortal City and fulfill his grand ambition of unifying the Eastern Wilderness.

The only doubt left was whether to pretend to lead the Divine Wood Sect and Golden Cliff back to the Five Elements Sect before taking over Hunyuan Immortal City, in order to deceive the Primordial Dao Fruit from Zhou Ye.

But on second thought, Zhou Ye would certainly require Chen Mobai and the others to sign a meticulous and detailed Dao Heart contract before handing over the Primordial Dao Fruit, to ensure their full commitment to helping him achieve the Primordial Dao Fruit and even Nascent Soul Formation.

Better to take the city by genuine force, to avoid outsmarting himself and truly enabling Zhou Ye to succeed.

With hopes for the Primordial Dao Fruit and Nascent Soul Formation, Zhou Ye even personally took the trouble to escort Chen Mobai to the Teleportation Array at the foothill outside the Immortal City.

At their farewell, there was even a hint of reluctance to part.

“Sect Master Chen, do visit us when you have the time...”

Chen Mobai smiled and nodded, then disappeared into the Teleportation Array.

By previous arrangement, all members of the Divine Wood Sect were to gather at Liu Hua Market in Rain Country.

Naturally, Chen Mobai’s true body had already taken Luo Yixuan and headed toward the sect in advance.

After all, the fewer people who knew about the disciple being transformed into a Ghost Fetus in the Womb, the better.

Since they couldn't use the Teleportation Array, although Liu Wenbo, his senior disciple, was willing to exert himself like a servant, Chen Mobai decided it was better to make the effort himself and personally make the trip.

He couldn't let anything happen to his long-lost little disciple again.

What if the Yin Qi of the Yellow Springs leaked during the journey, triggering a Heavenly Tribulation? With Liu Wenbo's mere Foundation Establishment, he would undoubtedly be unable to handle such a situation.

Apart from being detected by Zhou Ye, none of the other members of the Divine Wood Sect had noticed Chen Mobai's Formless Puppet.

Thus, Chen Mobai's real body returned to the Divine Wood Sect with Luo Yixuan, while the puppet body continued to lead the Foundation Establishment practitioners and true disciples in overseeing the territories of the Divine Wood Sect.

The town guard of Rain Country was Hong He, who had long been waiting in Liu Hua Market with the Foundation Establishment Cultivators of the little third hall and the leaders of the local cultivator families.

After emerging from the Teleportation Array and nodding to the gathered crowd, Chen Mobai called Hong He to his side to inquire about Rain Country's culture, local Spirit Plants, Spirit Beasts, veins, and other matters related to earning Spirit Stones.

Soon, they arrived at the largest and most central shop in the market, which was Hong He's office.

Chen Mobai had just settled down inside when Gu Yan came in with a female Foundation Establishment Practitioner who appeared to be around fifty years old.

“Sect Leader, this is the Great Elder of our Gu family...”

After getting acquainted with the Foundation Establishment Cultivators of the native cultivator families of Rain Country, Chen Mobai finally kept Hong He behind and gave him guidance on cultivation.

After all, as a rare Nascent Soul seed in the sect, a little extra care was needed.

“Saint Heir, there is Demonic Qi within this man...”

Chapter 1038: Chen Mobai, after hearing Elder Ming’s transmitted message, inadvertently paused while giving instructions to Hong He.

“I just remembered something, you may go now.”

“Yes, Sect Leader!”

Although Hong He was a bit surprised, he still nodded respectfully and turned to leave.

“What is the matter?”

Chen Mobai took out the Soul Nourishing Wood, and the silvery-grey silhouette emerged, relaying its findings.

“Report to the Saint Child, his spiritual power is mottled and complex. Besides the water elemental energy that serves as its main component, the rest is due to the absorption and refining of other cultivation’s spiritual power through demonic cultivation techniques.”

After hearing Elder Ming’s words, Chen Mobai remembered that when he was deducing the Core Formation process for Hong He, he noticed some issues with his spiritual power.

He had always assumed it was due to excessive consumption of elixirs.

“Are you sure there’s no mistake?”

Chen Mobai was somewhat incredulous, asking again carefully.

“Saint Child, the source of this demonic cultivation technique is the Black Emperor Abyssal Scripture from one of our five scriptures. With the betrayal of the second-generation Saint Heir, he modified it into the Nine Abysses and Nine Dark Sea-devouring Cultivation Technique...”

This was also a very famous event in ancient times for the Longevity Sect. The Saint Heir that defected later combined demonic way secret methods with the teachings he took with him, achieving quick perfection and proclaiming himself the Sea-devouring Devil Monarch.

His cultivation level was so high that not even the Heavenly Sovereign could deal with him.

After the Sea-devouring Devil Monarch attained perfection in his cultivation, he founded the Jiutian Dangmo Sect, which specifically opposed the Longevity Sect.

At that time, Elder Ming, vying for the position of Saintess, often engaged in magical duels with members of the Jiutian Dangmo Sect, hunting each other for merit.

Thus, the presence of the Sea-devouring Demonic Art on Hong He could not be concealed from her.

“The Jiutian Dangmo Sect?”

After his Core Formation, Chen Mobai had thoroughly researched the Six Domains of the Eastern Land. However, the data on the Eastern Li Region, which is the most mysterious and desolate part, was scarce.

It was only known that eighteen sects of the demon path had left their legacies there, but among them, the name of the Jiutian Dangmo Sect was not listed.

“Saint Child, when I was in contact with Tu Daohua, I asked him about this issue.”

“After the disappearance of the Longevity Sect, the Jiutian Dangmo Sect gradually fell into obscurity.”

“However, most of their complete inheritances were preserved. Some were absorbed by the Eighteen Demon Sects, and some joined the Eastern Emperor Court, becoming part of the Hall of Ten Directions – the Submerged Abyss Island.”

After hearing Elder Ming’s words, Chen Mobai felt it was somewhat excessive to label the Jiutian Dangmo Sect as a demonic sect.

After all, he knew the backstory of the Longevity Sect; the Saint Heir probably defected upon discovering this, merely to save his own life.

This implied that Hong He might have unwittingly obtained a portion of the Jiutian Dangmo Sect’s or Submerged Abyss Island’s cultivation inheritance.

And to Elder Ming, this was indeed a demonic cultivation technique.

“Tell me about this ‘Nine Abysses and Nine Dark Sea-devouring Cultivation Technique’.”

Chen Mobai wanted to fully understand the matter before making a judgment.

“Saint Child, the distinctive feature of the Sea-devouring Cultivation is its ability to absorb the spiritual power of the same cultivation technique and use it for oneself, so practitioners often focus on very common and widely practiced Qi Cultivation techniques, allowing for more options to consume.”

“Initially, the Sea-devouring Devil Monarch was able to perfect his cultivation so quickly because he constantly hunted down sect members who practiced the Black Emperor Abyssal Scripture.”

“And while escaping from the sect with bounty hunters on his trail, the Sea-devouring Devil Monarch even absorbed the spiritual power of the sect’s Abyss Sea True Monarch, afterward, his demonic cultivation became perfect, and he became unstoppable.”

Elder Ming's explanation made Chen Mobai think of the elemental theory practiced by the Immortal Gates.

Whereas the Immortal Gates developed the Five Elements Essence by utilizing this principle to artificially synthesize various types of Earthly Fiendish Qi,

The Sea-devouring Cultivation undoubtedly evolved from the recognition that it's easier to merge similar energies.

From the perspective of cultivating through the absorption of other cultivators' spiritual power, it can indeed be considered a demonic art.

Hong He, as a disciple of Fu Zongjue, had consistently practiced the unremarkable Azure Waves Cultivation, a Water Attribute Cultivation Technique, further corroborating this point.

Chen Mobai thought back to when he had felt Hong He's pulse; the mottled and complex spiritual power was indeed identical to the description of the Sea-devouring Cultivation.

However, in the Tianhe Realm, the theoretical foundation of the cultivation techniques could not possibly be as comprehensive as at the Immortal Gates', causing this type of mottled spiritual energy and instability at the foundation while practicing this Sea-devouring Cultivation.

If Hong He were to form his core in the future, it is likely he would be obstructed by this spiritual energy issue.

Chen Mobai wanted to summon Hong He for a direct inquiry. However, given Tianhe Realm's stance on demonic arts, it was better for him, as the Sect Leader, to feign ignorance.

This way, even if it was exposed in the future, it would just seem like the sect had produced an unrighteous disciple, not that the entire sect was a remnant of the demon path.

After all, within the Eastern Land, there exists the Jiutian Dangmo Sect, a holy land known for its strong animosity towards devil cultivators.

If signs of demonic practice are found, simply reporting them to the sect would generally prompt them to send someone to investigate.

And with the God-Transcending cultivator, Profound Heaven True Monarch, revered as the foremost person in the Eastern Land, even in the remote Barren East, major powers and families keep their distance from devil cultivators.

After pondering for a while, Chen Mobai still decided to pretend to be unaware, since Luo Yixuan might also potentially practice demonic cultivation in the future.

Nevertheless, he felt it was important to keep a close watch on Hong He. If he truly absorbed spiritual power from other cultivators through demonic art for his own use, it would be better to find an excuse for him to leave the Divine Wood Sect in the future.

Chapter 1039: Chen Mobai pondered who would be the most suitable to handle this matter.

After all, Hong He's cultivation level was already at the Foundation Establishment Late Phase, and he cultivated all three major cultivation techniques of Essence, Qi, and Spirit without any weaknesses.

If he took action himself, there would undoubtedly be no problem.

But Hong He clearly wouldn't dare to use Demonic Cultivation while he, the Sect Leader, was still in the Rain Country.

Chen Mobai also didn't want to delay his Formless Puppet here with this kind of task since it related to the more important aspect of two-realm transportation.

In that case, he could only choose from the several people he had brought with him this time.

After carefully considering each person, Chen Mobai found the most suitable one.

“Sect Leader!”

Gu Yan was somewhat surprised to be summoned by Chen Mobai and hurriedly came to pay his respects.

“Rise. I heard you say before that your Gu family has opened up eight hundred mu of Spirit Fields in Yun Country, planting Crystalized Rice of all three grades—lower, intermediate, and upper-grade Rank-1—and you are the largest local supplier of Spiritual Rice.”

“In fact, there are only seven hundred and sixty-eight mu of Spirit Fields. Five hundred and twenty mu are lower-grade Rank-1 Spirit Fields, one hundred and eighty mu are intermediate-grade Rank-1, and fifty mu are upper-grade Rank-1. There are also eighteen mu of Rank-2 Spirit Fields.”

Although Gu Yan didn’t understand the reason for Chen Mobai’s question, he still detailed the scale of his family’s Spirit Fields, including which were used for planting Spiritual Rice, which for growing herbs, as well as the yield and selling price of Crystalized Rice, leaving nothing out...

“I have a type of Rank-2 Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice that I inadvertently cultivated while experimenting in the Small Southern Mountain Spirit Fields. It can mature in six years. However, because it’s more profitable for the Sect to plant Green Jade Spirit Rice, the method of cultivating this Spirit Rice has been kept secret.”

“This Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice requires a high level of water, and the Rain Country is conveniently located near Yun Meng Ze, with abundant rainfall all year round. If your Gu family is willing to upgrade the Spirit Fields a bit and open up about fifty mu of Rank-2 Spirit Fields, I can exclusively pass on the cultivation method of this Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice to you.”

“After the Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice matures, since it is carried by Spiritual Bamboo, it can yield two hundred catties per mu. I will have Ming’er provide the seeds for you. However, after the harvest, seventy percent will belong to the Sect, and thirty percent to your family.”

Chen Mobai had thought of this after seeing the Coiling Dragon Spiritual Rice. He had many Zhuo Ming Hybrid Spirit Rice that were accidental outcomes from his experiments, among which quite a few were suitable for mass planting.

The Eastern Wilderness is rich in Spirit Vein resources, many of which have not even been developed. Chen Mobai was deeply pained seeing this.

However, with the Divine Wood Sect's power alone, it was definitely impossible to cultivate all the Spirit Fields in the Eastern Wilderness, so cooperating with local powers was the easiest method.

Previously, during his Core Formation ceremony, he had mentioned this matter in passing while the Foundation Establishment Practitioners from various cultivator families under his command were present.

Unfortunately, at that time, the shadow of the Divine Wood Sect and the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace still lingered, so most people chose to wait and see.

But recently, after Zhou Shengqing emerged from seclusion and slew Zhao Xuankang and others post-Core Formation, the most opportunistic cultivator families in the Eastern Wilderness began to regret their decision.

Because the Liu family from Yun Country, through their connection with Liu Wenbo, got the best seeds provided by Zhuo Ming, and the Divine Wood Sect, in the spirit of getting a good horse by paying generously, only took a fifty percent cut.

Now, the Liu family has made a fortune through the cultivation of Spiritual Rice.

What's more critical is that Chen Mobai has established a new policy: the Spiritual Rice taken by the Divine Wood Sect from the families below is partly converted into contribution points given back to the Liu family, allowing Patriarch Liu to exchange them for items that the Divine Wood Sect normally sells internally only.

Such items could include elixirs suitable for Foundation Establishment Practitioners to improve their cultivation level, among others.

Recently, Chen Mobai also heard from Liu Wenbo that Liu Jingxian planned to fill in the family's ancestral pond and convert it from fish farming to Spirit Plant cultivation, enlarging and strengthening their Spiritual Rice enterprise.

On the other hand, the Rain Country's previous distance from Giant Tree Ridge made them less reverent towards the Divine Wood Sect, and not a single family chose to accept the Sect's Spiritual Rice seeds during the Core Formation ceremony.

So, after Chen Mobai finished his tour of the Eastern Wilderness, he chose Rain Country as the first stop of his internal Sect inspection, making the five major cultivator families there very nervous.

After all, Chen Mobai's reputation as a godslayer was well-known throughout the Eastern Wilderness.

If he truly found them displeasing, he alone could annihilate all five of their families.

There was no need for Chen Mobai, the Sect Leader, to take action himself; the small team of Foundation Establishment Practitioners from the Divine Wood Sect that he brought along, along with Red River, were fully capable of handling the matter.

Therefore, the five major families of the Rain Country were also frantically seeking connections recently to see if they could find out whether Chen Mobai came to Rain Country with lethal intentions or not.

In this regard, Gu Yan, who was considered a close confidante of Sect Master Chen, naturally became the Rain Country's lifesaver.

It was just a pity that Gu Yan also had her own difficulties to bear.

The relationship between her and Chen Mobai was merely that of employer and employee. On regular days, Sect Master Chen was either dealing with sect affairs in Shenmu Hall or retreating in his sealed wooden hut, barely speaking to her.

Outsiders all thought she could come and go freely in Sect Master Chen's retreat, the Longevity Wood Dojo, and considered her a trusted confidante.

But in reality, Gu Yan felt that in Chen Mobai's eyes, she was no different from any other Foundation Establishment Practitioners within the sect.

However, her family had raised her after all, and the majority of resources for her Foundation Establishment in the Divine Wood Sect came from her family. Therefore, she could ignore the entreaties of the other four major families of Rain Country, but she had no choice but to come up with a way to deal with her own family.

Just as Gu Yan was bracing herself to approach Chen Mobai about this matter, the latter took the initiative to summon her.

Rank-2 Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice, Gu Yan was aware of this, after all, she had a good relationship with Zhuo Ming.

But her dream was just to acquire for her family a variety of Rank-1 intermediate-grade Spiritual Rice seed.

Little did she know that fortune would fall from the sky, and Chen Mobai actually gave her this exceedingly precious Rank-2 Spiritual Rice directly.

“Sect Leader’s gracious gift, I will never forget for the rest of my life,”

Overwhelmed with excitement, Gu Yan gave a deep bow to Chen Mobai.

“You have worked so hard in extracting the Everlife Wood sap for me; although there’s no contribution, there’s effort, and I keep it all in my heart,” Chen Mobai said with a faint smile, gesturing for Gu Yan to rise, and then recited the cultivation method for the Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice.

After hearing it, Gu Yan immediately made a Dao Heart oath, promising not to teach this information to a second person, not even to someone from the Gu family.

With the cultivation method for Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice in hand, Gu Yan saw the hope of further advancing her cultivation level in the future and was very excited.

“Before planting this Spiritual Rice, we need to improve the soil of the Spirit Field to make it suitable for the growth of Phoenix Tear Bamboo. You don’t have to come back with me; stay in Rain Country for now and attend to this matter,” Chen Mobai instructed.

“Yes, Sect Leader!”

Gu Yan pondered for a moment. The method of improving the Spirit Field was also part of what Chen Mobai taught her. She solemnly nodded her head, determined to handle this matter well.

Perhaps she could also catch the eye of the Sect Leader and become a disciple of the Small Southern Mountain.

After all, Sect Leader Chen’s junior disciple had been missing for some time now, and he lacked people to care for him. Gu Yan harbored significant ambition for this position.

“In addition to this task, I actually have another matter for you to attend to,” Chen Mobai added.

“Please instruct me, Sect Leader!”

Upon hearing this, Gu Yan’s spirits soared even higher. Had she finally become the confidante of the Sect Leader?

“Red River may have practiced Demonic Cultivation—I cannot stay here, so I’m leaving you behind under the pretext of the Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice. When you are improving the Spirit Field and planting the Spiritual Bamboo, I will have Red River inspect your Gu family under the pretense of sect supervision. During his visits, observe him...”

Chen Mobai laid out the task he wanted Gu Yan to undertake in full detail, and upon hearing this, she showed a look of astonishment and bewilderment.

“Whether you accept this task is entirely up to you. If you’re unhappy with it, just consider it”

But it was only a matter of two breaths’ time, “Whether you accept this task is entirely up to you. If you’re unhappy with it, just consider it”

But it was only a matter of two breaths' time,

#### Chapter 1040: The Nu Jiang Water Vein

Gu Yan was well aware that by accepting this mission, she would leap from an ordinary sect's Foundation Establishment practitioner to become a confidant of the Sect Leader.

Although monitoring Hong He was extremely dangerous, Gu Yan did not hesitate at all.

Because if it were up to her alone, even with the full support of the Gu family from Rain Country, she would not have the opportunity for Core Formation.

If Gu Yan had not completed the Foundation Establishment, she naturally would not have aspired to Core Formation.

But she had succeeded and even had the chance to refine Longevity Tree Sap within the Divine Tree Secret Realm. She felt that with the support of the Sect Leader, it was possible to cultivate to Foundation Establishment Completion and attempt Core Formation.

So she mustered her courage and sought ways to become Chen Mobai's confidant, ideally gaining apprenticeship under Xiao Nanshan.

And now, the opportunity lay before her.

The next day, Chen Mobai took Gu Yan to the ancestral land of the Gu family. The old ancestor of the Gu family, Gu Shuting, had already led all the family elders and cultivators to welcome them ten miles away.

As the Town Guard of Hong He in Rain Country, Chen Mobai did not keep him in the dark, after all, he would nominally replace the sect in overseeing the Gu family's harvest in the future.

The local five major cultivator families were deeply intertwined with marriages and alliances to improve bloodlines and Spiritual Roots. Upon hearing that Chen Mobai himself had gone to the Gu family, they immediately came over, using the pretext of visiting ancestor Gu Shuting.

Chen Mobai genuinely loved farming and did not hide it in front of Hong He. After inspecting the Gu family's Spirit Field, he simulated a three-dimensional pattern in his mind, then took out paper and pencil and drew a plan for the Spirit Field upgrade on the spot...

"Rest assured, Sect Master Chen, our Gu family will definitely complete the Spirit Field upgrade and strive to meet the requirements for planting Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice as soon as possible,"

Old ancestor Gu Shuting said excitedly. The opportunity to obtain Rank-2 Spirit Rice seeds was unprecedented in all of Rain Country.

She also needed to purchase Rank-2 Spirit Rice from the Commerce Association every year to maintain her Vital Essence and to improve. She was very clear about the rarity of Rank-2 Spirit Rice.

It is known that previously, even the Divine Wood Sect did not have enough yield to supply their Foundation Establishment practitioners.

"Nephew Hong He, you will sign this agreement with the Gu family. After all, in the future, the sect will need you to carry out this task on behalf of the sect in Rain Country," said Chen Mobai, giving a substantial reason to Gu Yan and having Hong He sign the contract with the Gu family on behalf of the Divine Wood Sect for the Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice.

Though surprised, Hong He just thought the sect trusted him and had no doubts, and he signed immediately.

"Sect Master Chen, our Ding family also has quite a few Spirit Fields..."

While the agreement was being signed, the Foundation Establishment practitioners from the other four major cultivator families couldn't help but approach Chen Mobai, hoping to get the Divine Wood Sect's Spiritual Rice seeds as well.

"You can discuss this matter with nephew Hong He; just use the Gu family as the standard," said Chen Mobai. As the Sect Leader, he naturally could not handle all matters personally. It was perfect that Hong He had already set up a small system of Three Halls and Twelve Divisions of the sect with the help of the Penalty Evil Hall in Rain Country, so this could be their task.

“Sect Leader, I will stay behind to help the family with the Spirit Field upgrade,” said Gu Yan, seizing the opportunity to request.

Chen Mobai naturally nodded and agreed. He even called Hong He over, instructing him to take good care of Gu Yan.

In an instant, everyone looked at Gu Yan with a mix of unusual yet respectful gazes.

This person indeed was the heart and soul of Sect Master Chen.

It seemed that the Gu family’s acquisition of Rank-2 Phoenix Tear Bamboo Spirit Rice was all thanks to her.

With this thought, the other four major cultivator families in Rain Country began considering which of their talented and ideally beautiful young female descendants to send to the Divine Wood Sect at the next grand opening.

It was just a pity that they hadn’t sent a relative to be apprenticed to him before Sect Master Chen’s Core Formation.

While the local cultivator families of Rain Country were thinking of sending their descendants into the Divine Wood Sect and were surrounding Gu Yan, hoping to learn about the direction of upgrading the Spirit Fields.

Chen Mobai had already led the people of the Divine Wood Sect away.

“Nephew Hong He, Rain Country borders the Five Elements Sect and is next to Yun Meng Ze. The responsibility of town guard is significant, and your efforts are much appreciated,” said Chen Mobai before boarding the Teleportation Array to leave, in a voice full of earnestness.

“It is my duty to perform,” replied Hong He.

“Hmm, with the resources of the sect and your merits, there will be no problem in supporting your Core Formation. Just cultivate steadily and methodically, remember not to be impatient for success and overreach, lest your foundation become unstable,” said Chen Mobai, unable to refrain from giving advice. Hong He seemed moved, yet as if he had not noticed, he simply nodded.

After Rain Country, it was Yun Country.

This place was also considered Chen Mobai’s Land of Dragon Prosperity.

It was here that he was brought by Turtle Treasure to a Water Mansion and began his meteoric rise.

After stepping out from the familiar Teleportation Array at Southstream Market, Chen Mobai was filled with emotion. He exchanged a few words with Yun Country’s Town Guard Dong Xuanze, then left the crowd behind, heading alone towards the Water Mansion.

“Eh!”

Just as Chen Mobai flew over the Water Mansion, he noticed something amiss.

The Formation here had been broken, and there was an unabashed presence of a Golden Core Cultivator inside.

Chen Mobai, after all, was a Formless Puppet, so he flew down without any fear.

Inside the Water Mansion, a tall male cultivator with an elegant figure like a floating Narcissus was standing in the hub, holding a scroll and reading it.