

World 1041

Chapter 1041: Water Vein Nu Jiang_2 “

“May I ask why this Daoist Brother is inside my Cave Dwelling?”

Chen Mobai spoke, now that he was the Sect Leader of the Divine Wood Sect, he was entitled to claim this Water Mansion as his own.

“Oh, who would have thought that this Water Mansion would actually belong to Junior Brother Chen?”

As the male cultivator spoke, he turned around. Clad in a pale blue Daoist robe, with dark skin yet handsome features and a tall, straight posture, he exuded an ordinary yet eye-catching air of heroism.

“Brother Nu Jiang?”

In the Eastern Wilderness, Golden Core Cultivators were few and far between, and those who would call Chen Mobai a junior brother were only from the Five Elements Sect.

After eliminating all other possibilities, it could only be the owner of Wind Rain Hamlet, True Person Nu Jiang of the Five Elements Sect’s Water Vein, whom he had yet to meet!

“Correct, it’s me. This place was originally opened up by Liu Yanpei at my behest, so that I could have a constant supply of Azure Blood Carps and Jade Bamboo Shoots.”

After hearing Nu Jiang’s words, Chen Mobai felt somewhat embarrassed. He hadn’t expected that his so-called Land of Dragon Prosperity actually belonged to the brother before him.

And he had claimed it to be his own Cave Dwelling.

“During the chaos of war, I plunged into the Azure Waves Lake in my panic, to wake up and find myself in this Water Mansion, where I acquired the Blackwater Cultivation and began my journey of cultivation with the resources here...”

Chen Mobai began to explain to Nu Jiang. This brother had a very good relationship with Zhou Shengqing and Mo Douguang, but because he was burdened with the heavy responsibility of suppressing the beasts of Cloud Dream Marsh, he could not act on his own accord.

“The top-quality piece I left behind, along with this Cave Dwelling, was merely to satisfy my own cravings. I never expected that it would bring a peerless genius of the Sword Cultivation to the Wood Vein. Consider it repayment for the teachings I received from the second brother.”

Nu Jiang had a free-spirited personality, and after listening to Chen Mobai, he was even more delighted.

“Why has Brother come over here today?”

Chen Mobai, hearing him say this, also relaxed and asked.

“Consider it a visit to see you. After I set foot on the land of Yun Country and remembered this other mansion here, I thought I’d stop by first to check it out. I didn’t expect you to come over and make it your first order of business to visit this place too.”

Nu Jiang’s words made Chen Mobai curious. Although his whereabouts were not secretive, as the master of Wind Rain Hamlet in the Five Elements Sect’s Water Vein, Nu Jiang carried a significant responsibility—wasn’t he worried that leaving his post would lead to the escape of a Rank-4 demonic beast in the center of Cloud Dream Marsh?

“People from the Dongwu Sun family came seeking help, mentioning that the number of demonic beasts on their side is increasing and becoming harder to fend off. They hope our sect can send someone to aid.”

“And what does this have to do with my Divine Wood Sect?”

Chen Mobai was very lucid—Ancestor Hunyuan’s mantle was inherited by Zhou Ye and the Five Elements Sect, and they had already separated from one another.

“They’ve found five Rank-3 beasts. Such a number indicates only one possibility—that the seal left by Elder Sun Huangwu of Dongwu is failing. If we ignore this, it could very well trigger the collapse of the entire barrier, allowing the Rank-4 beast to break free.”

Nu Jiang briefly explained the gravity of the situation. Chen Mobai nodded in understanding.

“The Eastern Wilderness cannot withstand the devastation of a Rank-4 beast at the moment. What would Brother Nu Jiang suggest?”

“Our sect will collaborate with Dongwu for a massive monster hunting operation in Cloud Dream Marsh. It’s difficult for me to leave my post at Wind Rain Hamlet, and within the Eastern Wilderness, only the Divine Wood Sect has the most Golden Core Cultivators. Could you spare two to help?”

“Doesn’t the Five Elements Sect also have Sheng Shijie and Zhou Ye?”

“Sheng Shijie is terribly afraid of water, losing much of her strength in Cloud Dream Marsh, and Zhou Ye will not leave Hunyuan Immortal City for such matters.”

Nu Jiang sighed. If it were possible to secure the help of the two Golden Core Cultivators from the Five Elements Sect, why would he bother coming to Yun Country?

The last time the Cloud Dream Marsh Monster caused havoc, it was he who invited Fu Zongjue and Mo Douguang to assist.

“I will need to return to my sect and discuss this with my three senior brothers.”

Chen Mobai did not agree outright, but indeed, chaos in Cloud Dream Marsh could not be allowed; otherwise, if a Rank-4 beast emerged, even if he managed to unify the Eastern Wilderness, it would probably be turned upside down by its rampage onshore.

“Yes, the Dongwu Sun Family isn’t easy to deal with either. They should be able to hold out for a few years, but Junior Brother Chen is still better off making a decision sooner rather than later, lest the seal truly breaks and fails.”

“

Today, Nu Jiang came over primarily for this matter.

In the past, he always discussed matters with Zhou Shengqing, but recently he could not contact Zhou Shengqing using the usual talismans, leading Nu Jiang to speculate that his Second Senior Brother might have died. Since Chen Mobai, the new Sect Leader, had arrived in Yun Country, he took the opportunity to come over for a discussion.

“Among the Azure Blood Carps raised by the Liu family, there are Rank-2 ones. Since Brother Nu Jiang has come, why not let me treat you well?”

After discussing the matter, Nu Jiang was about to take his leave when Chen Mobai suggested having a meal together.

“This... is not very appropriate, is it?”

Rank-2 Azure Blood Carps were essentially used for breeding; killing them to eat would be tantamount to making the Liu family bleed. Even when Ancestor Hunyuan was alive, Nu Jiang did not dare to do so.

“Patriarch Liu Jingxian knew I was coming and had already slaughtered one in advance to stew. Green Bamboo Ridge also sent over some treasured dried Rank-2 bamboo shoots. Combined with this Rank-2 Azure Blood Carp, a delicious fish soup should be just about ready.”

Upon hearing Chen Mobai's words, the gourmand Nu Jiang could no longer resist.

“Junior Brother Chen, let's go, let's go...”

Patriarch Liu Jingxian of the Liu family would never have imagined that the fish soup he stewed could make a Nascent Soul Ancestor unable to stop eating.

“Very good, very good. The taste of Rank-2 is indeed better than Rank-1. The fish meat has been stewed for so long yet remains firm and tender. These dried bamboo shoots are also delicious, fragrant and sweet. After absorbing the fish soup, they are even more extraordinary...”

Since Chen Mobai did not eat, Nu Jiang directly reached into the pot of fish soup that was still on the fire, not afraid of the heat, and took out two pieces of fish meat with bones and swallowed them, chewing with his eyes narrowed in pleasure.

“To the two Ancestors, this is the newly harvested Flower Rice. Although it has not reached the Rank-2 level, it is still a top-quality product among Rank-1s.”

At that moment, Liu Jingxian brought over a pot of cooked Spirit Rice and respectfully addressed Chen Mobai and Nu Jiang.

“This Spirit Rice has its own aroma of rice grains. Pour some fish soup over it, add a couple of slices of fish meat, and the flavor is also quite delightful.”

When Chen Mobai was in Xiao Nanshan, he had already developed this way of eating.

After trying it out, Nu Jiang found it a revelation and single-handedly finished a large pot of Spirit Rice.

Chen Mobai then took a small jar of Spiritual Wine from his Storage Bag. It was brewed from Green Jade Spirit Rice and was a Rank-2 Spiritual Wine. Though it was not as good as the Jade Bamboo Spiritual Wine, it was particularly strong.

“Junior Brother Chen, this meal has been the best I’ve had in the last twenty years. Isn’t it on par with the Supreme Feast at the Sky Meal Building?”

After the meal, Nu Jiang couldn’t help but let out a satisfied burp, enjoying the wine.

Chen Mobai smiled and exchanged contact talismans with Nu Jiang, then inquired about the Wood Vein and Metal Vein rejoining the Five Elements Sect.

Naturally, Nu Jiang wholeheartedly supported the idea, even if it was just for appearances. Once their sects were allied again, he would have the face to meet Ancestor Hunyuan when the time came for him to pass away in meditation.

“There will come a day for that, and I will work hard towards it.”

Chen Mobai’s statement made Nu Jiang even more pleased, but then his gaze turned sad as he felt that Chen Mobai must have said so because Zhou Shengqing had died.

If his Second Senior Brother had truly achieved “Nascent Soul Formation,” the Divine Wood Sect and Golden Cliff would surely now be contemplating a counterattack against the Five Elements Sect to take over Hunyuan Immortal City.

“By the way, Brother Nu Jiang, since Cloud Dream Marsh still has markets from Snow-blowing Palace and Back to Sky Valley, we cannot let them stand by idly regarding the threat of demonic beasts. How about we join hands to issue a notice? Let both their sects contribute some manpower; it would be best if Kong Lingling and Yan Shaoyin could also come over to hunt demonic beasts from time to time...”

Chen Mobai’s mind was already thinking of a plan to use the Cloud Dream Marsh Monster to weaken Snow-blowing Palace and Back to Sky Valley.

“Getting both sects to send some Foundation Establishment Qi Practitioners is probably feasible, but getting those two Golden Core cultivators to take action might not be easy.”

Nu Jiang expressed some doubt.

“We can’t always be the ones shielding others from wind and rain.”

This remark from Chen Mobai struck a chord in Nu Jiang. Over the years, he had painstakingly guarded Cloud Dream Marsh, yet other major sects from the Eastern Wilderness took advantage by leveraging the influence of Wind Rain Hamlet to plunder various resources within Cloud Dream Marsh, leaving him with a profound sense of injustice.

Chapter 1042: Patrolling the Six Nations

After Nu Jiang left, Chen Mobai stayed in Yun Country for another three days.

He primarily spent his time at the Liu family residence, as he was the master of their eldest disciple and felt it was necessary to offer them some support.

Besides that, he was there because Liu Jingxian was planning to upgrade the family's industry and cultivate Rank-2 spirit rice, intending to fill up the spirit pool that reared their Azure Blood Carps.

The knowledge required for such an endeavor far exceeded what a cultivator family could possess.

This involved a variety of areas, not only requiring a Spirit Plant Master but also an Earth Master and even an Array Master and so on.

As Chen Mobai happened to be free, he came over to help Liu Jingxian take a look.

“This spirit pool is situated directly beneath the spirit vein of your Liu family. It is the hub that harbors and circulates spiritual energy. If you fill it up, your family's Rank-3 spirit vein will deteriorate. You mustn't proceed with such actions.”

Chen Mobai input the map of the Liu family's spirit veins into the core chip of the Formless Puppet, added the nearby mountains and water veins as well, and soon deduced a three-dimensional topographical map.

Upon hearing Chen Mobai's words, Liu Jingxian was greatly alarmed. His main reason for wanting to fill up the spirit pool was that breeding Azure Blood Carps wasn't very profitable. After all, Qi Practitioners could hardly afford it, and while the noble cultivators of great families and sects could afford them, given the choice and the spirit stones, most would rather purchase elixirs or spirit rice that could enhance their cultivation level.

Most of the Azure Blood Carps bred by his family were purchased by the Sky Meal Building. Since it was their only big client, the price never really went up.

Spirit rice, on the other hand, was different. With Chen Mobai's guidance, the content about Foundation Establishment that he had disseminated in Divine Wood City had been spread by sect disciples to much of the Eastern Wilderness.

From the major sects down to Loose Cultivators and even common folk, nearly everyone was aware of the long-term benefits of consuming spirit rice.

As a result, even the nobles among the commoners were trying to find ways to acquire spirit rice, hoping not only to improve their own constitutions but to increase the chances that their descendants or even their descendants' descendants might be born with spiritual roots.

Loose Cultivators, when they could afford it, no longer spent all their spirit stones on elixirs but chose to purchase various types of spirit rice that matched their cultivation techniques and body constitution.

In light of these changes, the Rank-2 superior spirit rice the Liu family obtained from the Divine Wood Sect had been reserved by many cultivators in Yun Country right from the planting stage.

Moreover, as their skill in cultivating spirit rice grew and more spirit fields were developed, the prices, paradoxically, continued to rise.

After consuming spirit rice for a year, many cultivators indeed broke through the shackles that had hindered them for years by improving their physical constitution.

With more and more success stories, the price of spirit rice naturally soared.

In light of this, Liu Jingxian became restless and planned to fill up the family's Rank-2 high-grade spirit pool to make way for spirit fields to cultivate Rank-2 spirit rice.

However, after examining the situation, Chen Mobai advised against it.

"Thank you, Sect Master Chen, for your guidance. Otherwise, I would have made a grave mistake."

What a Golden Core Cultivator says certainly couldn't be wrong. Liu Jingxian might have been eager to earn spirit stones, but not at the cost of destroying the ancestral Rank-3 spirit vein of his family.

"The Rank-2 Azure Blood Carps cultivated in this spirit pool, if the prices from the Sky Meal Building really are too low in the future, just send them to the Divine Wood Sect. I will buy them for 300 spirit stones each."

Chen Mobai offered to purchase them, bearing in mind that the Azure Blood Carps could improve his Water Spirit Root by one point.

"If Sect Master Chen needs them, I'll have Wen Bo deliver any excess Rank-2 carps to you in the future."

Liu Jingxian wouldn't dare accept Chen Mobai's spirit stones. His family typically tried to sell off the non-female Rank-2 carps, as the limited spiritual energy in the pool meant that one Rank-2 carcass would take up the living space of several dozen Rank-1 carps.

And Rank-1 Azure Blood Carps were much easier to sell than Rank-2 carps.

"After all, this spirit pool breeding is limited in scale. In the future, your Liu family could consider breeding in the Yun Meng Ze area. It so happens that you have gotten to know Elder Brother Nu Jiang, and I will also arrange for the Divine Wood Sect's Foundation Establishment Practitioners in Yun Meng Ze to protect and assist you."

Chen Mobai proposed another plan, but Liu Jingxian smiled bitterly and shook his head.

"Sect Master Chen, several cultivator families from Yun Country once had this idea and jointly fenced off an area in Yun Meng Ze, setting up array prohibitions. However, when the tide of beasts came, we suffered a total loss, so afterwards we all gave up on the idea."

During that year of the beast tide, Chen Mobai had been in Yun Meng Ze, where even the Divine Wood Sect failed to protect its own Fang Market, let alone cultivator families like the Liu family.

"It seems that we will have to find a way to thoroughly cleanse Yun Meng Ze."

After listening to Liu Jingxian's difficulties, Chen Mobai expressed his understanding; after all, this was not an Immortal Gate, and there were countless wild and powerful demonic beasts.

Even the strongest formations couldn't withstand a horde of beasts led by Rank-2 demonic beasts.

"These areas can be opened up to form a large contiguous spirit field; if the spirit veins underneath are dispersed, we can add a dozen or so mu of Rank-2 spirit fields..."

Chen Mobai and Liu Jingxian returned to their initial topic. With the Formless Puppet's global three-dimensional deduction and planning capabilities, it was easy for Chen Mobai to draft the most appropriate spirit field industry upgrade path for the Liu family.

Before leaving, Chen Mobai made a special request to Dong Xuanze, the Town Guard of Yun Country, to take special care of the Liu family, to prevent others who coveted the profit the Liu family was making from spirit rice from envying them and becoming rogue cultivators who would come knocking on their door.

Chapter 1043: Patrol the Six Countries_2

He planned to establish the Liu family as a model for cultivating Spirit Rice, striving to get every nation in the Eastern Wilderness to support one family.

In Rain Country, it is the Gu family, in Yun Country it's the Liu family, and in Lei Nation, there's the Lian family.

Apart from that time he grappled with Shake Mountain Peak, Chen Mobai and Lian Chenghai were brothers-in-arms, and also because Lian Maozhi, who he brought from the Divine Wood Sect's Foundation Establishment ranks, was a member of the Lian family.

Naturally, one should favor one's own people when it comes to good opportunities.

After Lei Nation, Chen Mobai then headed to Sky Country.

Zhou Wangshen initially did very well there, but recently the Nanxuan sect, in order to open up a passage to Cloud Dream Marsh through Sky Country, began stirring up trouble more frequently. Additionally, Back to Sky Valley and Snow-blowing Palace, unwilling to pay the exorbitant Spirit Stones, stirred the waters further, leaving him somewhat unable to withstand the pressure from the three factions.

Fu Zongjue even had to come over and take a stand for a while.

While Chen Mobai was in Lei Nation, Zhou Wangshen was eagerly waiting, looking forward to the day when he would arrive.

“You needn’t worry about this matter; before long, Snow-blowing Palace and Back to Sky Valley won’t have the spare capacity to engage in these petty actions anymore.”

Chen Mobai affirmed Zhou Wangshen’s achievements over the years and disclosed to him some of the forthcoming plans aimed at Snow-blowing Palace and Back to Sky Valley.

After hearing this, Zhou Wangshen’s eyes lit up, expressing his willingness to lead this matter on behalf of the Sect.

“Sky Country, as a crucial junction connecting Cloud Dream Marsh and the Ruins, is also one of the gateways for those coming from the direction of the Eastern Barbarians; it’s one of the Sect’s most critical territories, and choosing who guards it is of supreme importance. I can rest easy knowing you’re here.”

This statement by Chen Mobai soothed Zhou Wangshen’s desire to achieve merit for the Sect.

“To report to Sect Master, under my command, I currently only have the Hall Master of the Minor Third Hall who is a Foundation Establishment Practitioner. If a full-scale conflict with the Nanxuan sect were to arise, these hands will indeed be insufficient.”

Seizing the opportunity, Zhou Wangshen requested more hands. Compared to the Nanxuan sect, which had Golden Core Cultivators, having only four Foundation Establishment Practitioners stationed in Sky Country was indeed a little weak.

“As the Sect Master, I can’t show special treatment for you alone. However, you are indeed under a great deal of pressure in Sky Country... Well then, after I return, I shall once again open up the rights to town guarding, allowing the minor Twelve Divisions under your command to also recruit Foundation Establishment Practitioners.”

Chen Mobai, taking into account the practical situation, decided it was likely that Sky Country could become the bridgehead of a war between the Eastern Wilderness and the Eastern Barbarian Profound Arrogance Dao Palace. Thus, he resolved to enable Zhou Wangshen’s ranks to have more Foundation Establishment Practitioners.

Among the guardians of the six countries, Zhou Wangshen had the most considerable background. With this authority, it’s estimated that his Minor Third Hall and Twelve Divisions could likely gain three or four more Foundation Establishment Practitioners.

“Many thanks to the Sect Master!”

Upon hearing this, Zhou Wangshen was indeed very joyful.

Over the years, he increasingly realized just how vital the Sect’s new policy on town guarding was—it was set up to train the next generation of Sect Leaders. If his cultivation was high enough, the number of his Foundation Establishment Apprentices sufficient, and if he had the support of a Nascent Soul Ancestor, he could even one day replace the role of Giant Tree Ridge and proclaim himself the orthodox lineage of the Divine Wood Sect.

“Sect Master, your tea has arrived!”

At that moment, a young girl with a graceful figure, dressed in a white gown, walked in, holding a cup of tea filled with swirling Spiritual Energy, and respectfully offered it to Chen Mobai.

“I remember you, you’re Zhou Bingyan, aren’t you?”

Chen Mobai took the tea, looking at the young girl in white, recalling when he had just returned after his Nascent Soul Formation, it was in this very Rock Country where he encountered her—caught amidst

rogue cultivators in the Divine Wood Sect Shop, leading the disciples against the attackers with calm and valor.

“I can’t believe the Sect Master still remembers my niece; she has been practicing by my side these years, and her cultivation level is almost there. Some days ago, the Nanxuan sect auctioned Foundation Building Pills, and I had someone buy one, intending for her to return to the Sect to prepare for Foundation Establishment.”

Zhou Wangshen spoke with a smile, introducing her. In recent years, he had gradually begun to control the resources and connections of the Divine Wood Sect’s Zhou family, not stinting on Spirit Stones for those with talent in the younger generation.

Beyond himself, Zhou Bingyan was the most exceptional in both Spiritual Root and comprehension within the Zhou family these years.

Moreover, given that she was most fond of the Sword Dao, Zhou Wangshen thought of possibly having her take an oath of allegiance to Chen Mobai, the Eastern Wilderness’s number one Sword Cultivator, so that even if Zhou Shengqing passed away in meditation, the Zhou family would still have a Nascent Soul Formation to rely on.

“We share a fate, hold out your hand.”

Chen Mobai was probably clear about King Zhou’s intentions; after all, Zhou Bingyan was a descendant of Zhou Shengqing. Since he had encountered her before her Foundation Establishment, he casually offered her some guidance.

After creating a model of Zhou Bingyan with the Formless Puppet, Chen Mobai pointed out the potential difficulties and key points she might encounter during her Foundation Establishment. Her ordinarily cold complexion became excited, and she couldn’t help but prepare to give a grand salute.

This Zhou Bingyan had a triple attribute True Spirit Root of metal, water, and wood, and she cultivated through the Dual-phase Rotation of Wood Spirit Power and Water Spirit Power. However, her talent in the Water Spirit Root was the highest, although not by much compared to the Metal and Wood Spirit Roots.

Moreover, she had already cultivated both techniques to the Perfection of Qi Cultivation, so it was too late to change her cultivation path now, so Chen Mobai didn't mention this.

"Cultivate well; you shouldn't have big problems with your Foundation Establishment."

Chen Mobai knew that sometimes confidence could greatly help in Breaking Through Realm, so he said this to Zhou Bingyan.

"Thank you, Sect Master..."

King Zhou, who was nearby, was also very happy after hearing this.

If the Zhou family could produce another Foundation Establishment practitioner after him, it would be a significant achievement for him, who could almost be considered the patriarch of the Zhou family.

"Do you have any doubts about your cultivation? Since I happen to be here, let me give you some pointers as well."

Chen Mobai quite liked the feeling of nurturing exceptional talents, especially after cultivating the extremely rare Hearing the Path Foundation Establishment in Zhuo Ming, which filled him with motivation.

Now that his Cultivation Realm was high, nurturing Foundation Establishment Practitioners no longer felt significant, so he started thinking about cultivating Golden Core Cultivators.

Although King Zhou wasn't as promising as Golden Core seeds like Yin Qingmei of Hong He, he was still next in line, at least definitely capable of achieving Foundation Establishment Completion and attempting Nascent Soul Formation, so Chen Mobai also took an interest in him.

"Thank you, Sect Master..."

King Zhou had never expected such good fortune and immediately relayed the doubts about cultivation he had accumulated over many years, seeking advice for each of them.

Previously, he could consult with Zhou Shengqing, but after the latter prepared for Nascent Soul Formation, he lost the chance to communicate with Zhou Shengqing.

After Zhou Shengqing's failure in Nascent Soul Formation, this became even more true, and none of the Zhou family could contact him anymore.

Some with keen intuition had already guessed what had happened. Amid their inner sorrow, they also began to restrain their family's actions within the Sect, cautioning against being too conspicuous.

For Chen Mobai, the doubts King Zhou had about cultivation were simple and easy to resolve, especially in matters concerning the Longevity Dao Body, where Chen Mobai was already an authority within the Divine Wood Sect.

"The second stage of this Body Training Technique requires Longevity Dew, which you can temporarily put aside. Focus on improving your spiritual power and Spiritual Consciousness Realm first. In the future, after I have refined it, I will list this resource in the Spirit Treasure Pavilion."

The Longevity Dew was an ancient recipe, and some ingredients are no longer to be found in the Tianhe Realm today. Zeng Woyou ruined several batches before he finally stumbled upon the path to success.

And after refining it, it was certain to be supplied first and foremost to Chen Mobai as the Sect Leader.

Without the necessary resources, the cultivation of the Longevity Dao Body was incredibly slow, and King Zhou had personally experienced this.

This was the first time he had heard of Longevity Dew. Chen Mobai's revelation of this secret made King Zhou feel he had become a trusted confidant of the Sect Leader, and he was thrilled inside.

[After the ancestor passed away in meditation, leading the Zhou family to draw closer to Sect Master Chen was indeed the right decision.]

King Zhou thought this and then asked how he could break through to the later phase of Foundation Establishment as quickly as possible.

“Just let your cultivation take its natural course. Rushing and being overeager can cause your foundation to be unstable, which is detrimental to Breaking Through the major realms in the future.”

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai advised King Zhou to put aside such thoughts for the time being.

“Sect Master, I don’t want to fall behind Senior Brother Hong He. After all, if I am to compete for the position of Sect Leader in the future, my realm certainly cannot be lower than his.”

Feeling like a confidant of Chen Mobai, King Zhou revealed his inner thoughts.

Chapter 1044: School District Housing

“As for Hong He, you needn’t worry about him becoming your rival since he has no interest in becoming the Sect Leader.”

Chen Mobai gave a reason. He knew that Hong He might have some connections with demonic cultivation and might have to be expelled from the Divine Wood Sect in the future for the greater good, but this information could not be revealed to Zhou Wangshen.

“Given his temperament, that sounds about right. But relying on others is not in my nature. I still hope to be no weaker than him in terms of my realm.”

Zhou Wangshen was also a proud man. Even though he had been repeatedly defeated by Chen Mobai and Hong He over the years, he had always managed to maintain a peak status just below these two. Now, having taken over the Zhou family and given the power to rule over Sky Country, he was even more eager to reclaim the glory that belonged to him.

He couldn’t compare with the monstrous Chen Mobai, but Zhou Wangshen still wanted to test his strength against Hong He.

“Then you must work hard. I hope to one day see the miracle of the fusion between the Longevity Scripture and the Longevity Dao Body in you.”

Chen Mobai held Zhou Wangshen in high regard as well, after all, he was a bona fide disciple of the Divine Wood Sect, a descendant of the Zhou family who would never betray the sect. In the future, when Chen Mobai needed to unify the Eastern Wilderness with the power of his sect, Zhou Wangshen would be the general who could expand and guard new territories.

And since Zhou Shengqing was still around, he deliberately stayed in Sky Country for two days to give Zhou Wangshen thorough guidance.

After that, he went to Rock Country!

“Greetings to the Sect Leader!”

E Yun had long been waiting with others. As Chen Mobai stepped out of the Teleportation Array and saw the Northern Abyss City, which now roughly resembled one-tenth of his grand plan, he nodded slightly in approval.

“You’ve had a hard time dealing with the oppression from the Nanxuan Sect over these years.”

Chen Mobai addressed E Yun, who shook his head, indicating that as the Town Guard of Rock Country, it was his duty and responsibility to withstand this pressure.

“What kind of person is Fang Xuanyang?”

Chen Mobai had only heard of the name of this Golden Core Cultivator from the Xuan Xiao Dao Palace who had come to replace Xuan Shu but had never met him.

“He is proud in nature but also calm and cold-blooded. He had also contended for the position of Taoist Child, but lost to Xuan Shu. His cultivation level is unfathomably deep, at least above Mid Foundation Establishment Stage.”

E Yun relayed the information he had gathered, and Chen Mobai nodded.

After Fang Xuanyang arrived in the Eastern Wilderness, aside from reestablishing the Nanxuan Sect's mountain gate at Treasure Color Mountain, he continuously sent disciples under his command towards Sky Country, clandestinely establishing a channel to Yun Meng Ze.

Naturally, this channel did not escape the notice of the Divine Wood Sect. Unfortunately, when Zhou Wangshen of Sky Country wished to intervene and shut it down, he was met with Fang Xuanyang's personal arrival.

If it weren't for Fang Xuanyang not wanting to openly break with the Divine Wood Sect, it's likely that all four Foundation Establishment Practitioners in Sky Country would have perished in that confrontation.

Because of this incident, Fu Zongjue, accompanied by the Purple Sun Puppet, personally made a trip to negotiate with Fang Xuanyang. The two reached a reluctant consensus: the Divine Wood Sect would not interfere with this channel opened by the Nanxuan Sect, and Fang Xuanyang promised that while in the Eastern Wilderness, he would not use his superior strength to act against any Foundation Establishment Practitioners of the Divine Wood Sect.

However, upon analysis afterward, it was clear that Fang Xuanyang had done this deliberately.

It seemed he intended to use this minor issue to reach a non-interference agreement with the Divine Wood Sect, the dominant power in the Eastern Wilderness.

Although Fang Xuanyang was an elder of the Xuan Xiao Dao Palace, with Nanxuan Jing and Zhao Xuankang, two Golden Core Cultivators, having died here and Xuan Shu returning severely wounded to the East Barbarians, it was evident that the Divine Wood Sect would not be deterred by his background.

Should a conflict actually arise between them, just Fu Zongjue alone, with his Purple Sun Puppet, would be enough to fight to a standstill with him. If Chen Mobai or Mo Douguang from Golden Cliff came over, he would probably only be able to flee.

Although Fang Xuanyang, as a Golden Core Cultivator of the Xuan Xiao Dao Palace, looked down upon the backwater Eastern Wilderness in his heart, faced with reality, he still had to bow his head for the time being.

After the agreement to refrain from attacking each other's Foundation Establishment Practitioners was reached, both parties began to compete in Rock Country and Sky Country through normal commercial means.

The Xuan Xiao Dao Palace owned a Commerce Association. As a power presided over by Nascent Soul Cultivators, at its peak, its influence reached the entire Eastern Region; it even had dedicated branch stores in the East Land.

However, as the Golden Wind Ancestor's lifespan neared its end, the influence of the great Xuan Xiao Commerce Association continuously contracted, up to the point where it was only present in the East Barbarians, the Eastern Wilderness, and Dongwu.

Previously, the great Xuan Xiao Commerce Association took advantage of the two countries on Shake Mountain as its base, supporting Ji Zhenshi and had scoured many precious mines and resources from the Eastern Wilderness, including those from Cloud Dream Swamp.

Although Shake Mountain was eventually annihilated, the great Xuan Xiao Commerce Association had already prepared to take over most of the inheritance.

Unfortunately, in the most crucial battle, unable to withstand the Divine Wood Sect's God of Slaughter, Nanxuan Jing was beheaded on the battlefield, and Xuan Xiao Dao Palace's painstakingly built influence in Yanxiao over nearly a century was lost in a single stroke, and those precious spirit stone veins and so forth were also snatched back by the Divine Wood Sect.

Subsequently, although Xuan Xiao Dao Palace sent Xuan Shu, a Taoist Child, he encountered Zhou Shengqing, who revealed the strength of Nascent Soul Formation. As a result, the forces that battled with the Divine Wood Sect were also completely wiped out over Giant Tree Ridge.

When Fang Xuanyang was assigned, he had no desire to come to the Eastern Wilderness to clean up the mess.

But with the Golden Wind Ancestor still alive and faced with Nascent Soul Oppression, he could only grit his teeth and come over.

Chapter 1045: School District Housing _2

After reaching a difficult agreement with Fu Zongjue, Fang Xuanyang began to take advantage of Xuan Xiao's Commerce Association's access to the three realms. Using Foundation Building Pills as trump cards and the exclusive Rank-3 Golden Cloud Rice, he started to continuously develop the Treasure Color Market.

"Sect Master, forgive me, but using your method, I could only manage to run Beiyuan City in a way that it shares the Rock Country Market equally with the Treasure Color Market."

As Chen Mobai wandered through the much-expanded Beiyuan City, E Yun followed by his side, his face showing a hint of shame.

"You've done quite well, after all, the Foundation Building Pills and Rank-3 Golden Cloud Rice are things that even our sect cannot produce."

The Divine Wood Sect's refined Foundation Building Pills were so precious that even they scarcely had enough for their own use, let alone to compete with the Treasure Color Market.

And the Rank-3 spirit rice was even rarer.

In the entire Eastern Wilderness, only Back to Sky Valley had Coiling Dragon Spiritual Rice, thanks to their association with the Star Heaven Dao Sect – and these were goods that even Core Formation Practitioners had to queue to purchase.

Fang Xuanyang lured most of the Qi Practitioners in the Eastern Wilderness with Foundation Building Pills, and with the Rank-3 Golden Cloud Rice, he even made many families and Loose Cultivators willingly part with their spirit stones to trade at the Treasure Color Market.

Even Chen Mobai received news from the Witchcraft Division of his sect, reporting that the Five Elements Sect and the Snow-blowing Palace had opened branches in the Treasure Color Market specifically to purchase Golden Cloud Rice for their Nascent Soul Ancestors.

After all, in the Eastern Wilderness, aside from Yan Shaoyin who did not lack Rank-3 Spirit Rice, all other Core Formation Practitioners found it insufficient.

If not for the channels the Divine Wood Sect had to purchase Fire Crystal Rice from Sun Bathing Sea and Yellow Bud Rice from Dongwu, and the fact that they had a hostile relationship with the Treasure Color Market, they would probably have not been able to resist sending spirit stones to Fang Xuanyang.

That Beiyuan City could still divide the market equally with the Nanxuan Sect under the pressure of Foundation Building Pills and Golden Cloud Rice was all thanks to the groundwork laid by Chen Mobai beforehand.

Sell houses!

The contracts personally signed by Chen Mobai, the Sect Leader of the Divine Wood Sect, ensured that Cultivators who bought Cave Mansions in Beiyuan City would be protected by the whole sect until their property deeds expired, even if they offended a Golden Core Cultivator.

This policy was instantly coveted by all the Loose Cultivators in the Eastern Wilderness who lacked a sense of security.

This was a guarantee by Sect Master Chen of the Divine Wood Sect, sworn on his Dao Heart. As long as the homebuyers had no history as Rogue Cultivators, had a clear identity, and paid in full, they could obtain a property title to a Cave Mansion in Beiyuan City.

Now, it was a mark of prestige among all the Loose Cultivators in the Eastern Wilderness to own a house in Beiyuan City.

The initial offering of three hundred Rank-1 Spiritual Root Cave Mansions sold out immediately. In the face of competitive bidding, prices surged from the initially tentative 1,000 spirit stones per unit to an increase of six to seven times.

And with a single stroke of his pen, Chen Mobai entrusted all the revenue to E Yun, allowing him to continue developing the real estate in Beiyuan City.

“It’s just that the Rank-2 Cave Mansions are not selling well. Those Cultivator Families only bought one Rank-1 unit each. After all, the protection offered by the sect is the same whether one owns a Rank-1 or Rank-2 Cave Mansion.”

E Yun spoke of the problem he encountered.

Rank-2 Cave Mansions in Beiyuan City were theoretically sold to Foundation Establishment Practitioners, but most of those who had achieved this realm were the patriarchs of major families.

They already possessed their own clan lands, with even more vigorous spiritual veins and protective large formations, making it unlikely for them to inhabit a Rank-2 Cave Mansion in Beiyuan City even if they bought one.

The other Loose Cultivators at Foundation Establishment were few in number and lacked a secure dwelling, but they could hardly be counted on one hand.

On the other hand, there were some Qi Cultivation Perfection Loose Cultivators who could afford 10,000 spirit stones for a Rank-2 Cave Mansion. Normally, these individuals were not willing to reveal that they had such wealth, but within the safety of Beiyuan City, they need not worry too much.

However, these people were after all the minority.

With a hundred Rank-2 Cave Mansions initially planned, only twelve had been sold to this day.

“This is simple.”

After hearing this, Chen Mobai appeared completely at ease and proposed a solution to E Yun that left him with his eyes shining and a look of astonishment.

“School district housing?”

Yuan Chiye, Qi Rui, and Yu Lian, who were listening on the side, felt confused.

Could this really stimulate those Cultivator Families to purchase Rank-2 Cave Mansions?

“I am a person who enjoys educating and nurturing talent. The tradition of the Divine Wood Sect to enroll sect members only once every decade undoubtedly causes many people with a Spiritual Root to miss their prime cultivation years, so I’ve been pondering how to solve this problem and found that the private academies in the Mortal World are an excellent approach.”

“I plan to start with a pilot Daoist Academy in Northern Abyss City, specifically for recruiting cultivators with a Spiritual Root. Any cultivator who has a property deed within Northern Abyss City can send their descendants under the age of thirty here. I will serve as the honorary principal, and dispatch true disciples and Foundation Establishment Practitioners from our sect to personally teach and guide them.”

“This academy will enroll a new class of students every year, with six grades in total. After six years, I will personally set the exam, and those who pass can enter my Divine Wood Sect and become its disciples. If they wish to go to Golden Cliff, that too is no problem.”

“Students who do not pass the exam will be given a certificate of completion. However, if a student comes from a Rank-2 Cave Dwelling, even if they don’t pass, they can directly enter the Divine Wood Sect without examination.”

Chen Mobai had long harbored this idea, as the traditional decennial disciple recruitment in the Eastern Wilderness was just too inefficient.

The Immortal Gates had reached peak mastery in their research on education.

He only needed to make minor adjustments before implementing the same system here.

With the current reputation of the Divine Wood Sect, countless people from the Eastern Wilderness aspire to join.

This is the perfect opportunity for expansion. If they are limited to opening the sect’s gates only once every ten years, they could easily miss out on this rare peaceful development period.

Upon hearing Chen Mobai's plan for the school district real estate, E Yun vaguely sensed the great impact it would have on the property sales in Northern Abyss City.

At the very least, most of the remaining eighty-eight Rank-2 Cave Dwellings could be sold.

But E Yun completely underestimated the influence of the school district properties.

After the news spread, representatives of the major families in Northern Abyss City came rushing over the very next day, nearly trampling down his doorstep.

"E Town Guardian, one set for the Wang family!"

"We, the Tie family, want two sets!"

"Snow Peak Bai Family will take five sets!"

...

In just three days, all of the Rank-2 Cave Dwellings were snatched up, leaving not a single one left for E Yun.

"Damn it, sold too cheap!"

As he looked at the map of Northern Abyss City, where the Rank-2 Cave Dwellings were marked with full flags, E Yun's face was full of regret. He slammed the table, lamenting why he had not increased the prices.

"Hahaha, no need to mind. According to my original plan, only one-tenth of Northern Abyss City has been developed. There are nearly a thousand Rank-2 Cave Dwellings yet to come. Just shout your prices," said Chen Mobai, hearing E Yun's sighs as if he had lost millions of Spirit Stones. Yet he appeared utterly unconcerned.

If Northern Abyss City were fully developed according to his initial plans and all the shop and Cave Dwelling plots were sold, they would likely gather nearly a hundred million Spirit Stones from the families and Loose Cultivators across the Eastern Wilderness.

However, he had no intention of draining the lake to catch all the fish at once. The housing prices would surely rise step by step with the development and accompanying facilities.

It was necessary to make cultivators who bought Cave Dwellings in Northern Abyss City feel they had made a worthwhile purchase.

“By the way, how many Rank-3 Cave Dwellings have been developed?” Chen Mobai continued, as these were intended for his own Divine Wood Sect cultivators to live and cultivate in.

“Reporting to Sect Leader, we have opened up ten on the mountaintop.”

“If we were to sell them for a hundred thousand Spirit Stones each, do you think anyone would be willing to buy?” asked Chen Mobai.

Contemplating Chen Mobai’s question, E Yun shook his head after a long moment, feeling that even wealthy families like Snow Peak Bai Family would not spend so much on a Rank-3 Cave Dwelling.

“What if I add that students from Rank-3 school district properties are guaranteed a Foundation Building Pill upon entering the sect? Would people buy then?”

At Chen Mobai’s words, E Yun’s mouth hung open in shock.

Chapter 1046: Longevity Academy

“Sect Leader, isn’t this too expensive?”

In the Treasure Color Market auction for Foundation Building Pills, the final price is usually around over ten thousand Spirit Stones. This set of ten Rank-3 Cave Dwellings, guaranteeing Foundation Building Pills, will inevitably be a loss compared to that.

E Yun couldn't imagine who would buy a Rank-3 Cave Dwelling because of this.

"Do you know about the Ascending Immortal Orders?"

Chen Mobai asked with a smile, addressing a question to E Yun. Being one of the most knowledgeable within the Sect, E Yun thought for a moment and then recalled something he had read in the 'Eastern Territory Miscellany'.

E Yun: "Are those orders bestowed by the Eastern Earth Holy Lands to disciples with significant contributions, that allow their descendants with a Spiritual Root to join the Holy Land with the help of an Ascending Immortal Order, ensuring them a Foundation Building Pill?"

Chen Mobai: "Correct. This Rank-3 Cave Dwelling is equivalent to our Divine Wood Sect's Ascending Immortal Order. As long as someone purchases it, within the sixty years ownership period, they can use this proof of purchase to join our Divine Wood Sect and claim a Foundation Building Pill."

E Yun: "But if someone can afford to spend one hundred thousand Spirit Stones to buy a Rank-3 Cave Dwelling, why wouldn't they just go to the Treasure Color Market and directly bid over ten thousand Spirit Stones for a Foundation Building Pill?"

E Yun had trouble keeping up with Chen Mobai's thinking and struggled to understand it.

Chen Mobai: "This Rank-3 Cave Dwelling is a fallback for Cultivator Families. After all, no one can be certain that their family will always have a Foundation Establishment Practitioner. If someday the family has no more Foundation Establishers, their vast assets will be coveted by their neighbors. Rather than waiting for that to happen, it's better to buy a Rank-3 Cave Dwelling in Northern Abyss City. Perhaps they could rise again with the support of our Divine Wood Sect and a Foundation Building Pill."

With this explanation, E Yun suddenly realized the truth of the matter.

When a Cultivator Family has a Foundation Establishment Practitioner in charge, it can hardly avoid friction with its neighbors, and even Rogue Cultivators come knocking. Once the Foundation Establishment member dies, according to local customs, the family will certainly be bullied and plundered.

Rather than face this situation, it would be better to secure a Rank-3 Cave Dwelling while having a Foundation Establishment Practitioner and thereby reserve a potential future within the Divine Wood Sect for their family.

“Aren’t ten Rank-3 Cave Dwellings too few?”

After coming to an understanding, E Yun thought of the previous hot demand for Rank-2 Cave Dwellings and was immediately invigorated.

“Scarcity creates value, and those who can take out one hundred thousand Spirit Stones are few in the Eastern Wilderness. Let’s start by selling just five,” Chen Mobai responded.

Chen Mobai had taken courses in commerce and finance at the Repairing Heaven Institute and knew the tactics of marketing well.

“Sect Leader, there’s another issue. Won’t this be too great a burden on our Sect? After all, we need to distribute Spirit Stones to our disciples.”

In the previous years, the Divine Wood Sect had almost exhausted its reserve of Spirit Stones due to a great war. If not for securing control of the Spirit Stone Mine at Shake Mountain Peak and leveraging Cloud Dream Marsh to acquire a substantial sum from Snow-blowing Palace and Back to Sky Valley, Luo Xue’er, the Vice Hall Master of the Reward Virtue Hall, would probably still be frowning in worry.

Last year, the Divine Wood Sect distributed a total of 2.8 million Spirit Stones to Sect practitioners, most of which were rewards and subsidies for participating in the war.

In times without war, the basic Spirit Stone welfare would only require around 800,000 to be distributed.

This figure does not even account for the Golden Core Cultivators.

In the Divine Wood Sect, Spirit Stones could be withheld elsewhere, but the annual 500,000 Spirit Stones basic expense for the Nascent Soul Ancestors would never, and could never, be deducted.

Moreover, every time a Nascent Soul Ancestor acted on behalf of the Sect, the Sect would also have to provide upwards of 100,000 Contribution Points. Considering the operation needs of the Sect, Zhou Shengqing and Fu Zongjue's accounts continued to grow, but they hardly ever converted it all into Spirit Stones at once to prevent causing a financial collapse within the Sect.

The reason for this was that Zhou Shengqing and the others had other sources of income.

When the Divine Wood Sect split from Jinguang (Golden Light) Peak, they received a medium-sized Spirit Stone Mine from the Five Elements Sect.

This mine was located in Wind Country, guarded by agents of Jinguang Peak and mined by the Divine Wood Sect. The core vein was made of top-grade Spirit Stones, the rewards from which were divided equally among the three Nascent Soul Ancestors.

Their top-grade Spirit Stones mostly came from there.

The annual output was roughly 3 to 4 million Spirit Stones, belonging exclusively to the Golden Core Cultivators.

Even with the addition of Chen Mobai to the share, each individual was still able to acquire nearly a million Spirit Stones from this medium-sized mine.

In other words, Chen Mobai's annual share of Spirit Stones from the Divine Wood Sect amounted to one and a half million, which seemed a lot on the surface.

However, in reality, a Golden Core Cultivator required that much just to maintain their various areas of growth, and their resources were merely adequate.

Spirit Rice, elixirs, Talisman Paper, puppet components, the nurturing of magic artifacts, and so on. At the Golden Core stage, Cultivators couldn't afford any weakness, so they used Spirit Stones to enhance all aspects.

Chen Mobai, habituated to poverty, felt that the annual million Spirit Stones was more than enough after establishing his Golden Core. But to the likes of Fu Zongjue, it seemed hardly sufficient.

Moreover, after nearly a hundred years of excavation, the Spirit Stone Mine in Wind Country had dwindling reserves, causing Zhou Shengqing and the others much anxiety in the past few years.

Not counting this mine, the annual Spirit Stone expenditure of the Divine Wood Sect was about three million.

Previously, with territories consisting of just four countries, plus the addition of Cloud Dream Marsh, the Sect's annual income was only between three and four million Spirit Stones.

Chapter 1047: Longevity Academy_2

The three wars against the Shake Mountain Top South Xuan Sect had nearly drained the Divine Wood Sect's savings accumulated over several decades.

Now with the addition of Chen Mobai, a Golden Core Cultivator, the Sect had to spend an extra five hundred thousand Spirit Stones each year.

Thus, E Yun's concerns were quite justified.

"These students will need at least six years before they can be considered for acceptance. And by then, the majority of the Rank-1 Cave Dwelling student quotas will require testing to join the Sect, which can be used to filter out those who do not meet the Sect's standards."

"As for the Rank-2 Cave Dwelling student quotas, even though they are guaranteed admission, since we've already charged them ten thousand Spirit Stones, the cost of at most a hundred Spirit Stones a year is negligible. Besides, in the future, I plan to implement an assessment system within the Sect, releasing some of the older disciples who lack potential from Giant Tree Ridge to contribute back to the entire Eastern Wilderness cultivation world."

“Although the Sect’s finances have been strained in recent years due to the repercussions of the war, now that we have seven countries under our command plus Yun Meng Ze, we can generate an income of seven to eight million Spirit Stones a year. If we continue to live in peace, even if our expenditures were to double, we would still be in a surplus.”

“In my vision for the Divine Wood Sect, we should have tens of thousands of cultivators, with Nascent Soul Ancestors above and ten thousand Qi Cultivators below. A single wave of my hand should be able to muster an army of cultivators capable of suppressing the nineteen countries of the Eastern Wilderness.”

Chen Mobai’s words stirred E Yun and the others, prompting them to envision a grand scenario where tens of thousands of cultivators would emerge from the Sect to awe the Eastern Wilderness.

“I hope that within my lifetime, I will be able to witness this scene by your side, Sect Leader!”

Yuan Chiye, who was beside them, said with deep emotion. More than twenty years ago, when he brought Chen Mobai into the Sect from Yun Country, he could never have imagined that this person could change the Divine Wood Sect, and even the entire Eastern Wilderness.

“Sect Leader, there is another issue. Should the Cave Dwelling’s enrollment quota be available every year or should there be some restrictions?”

E Yun, ever the calm one, raised another key question.

After all, the duration of the property rights for the Cave Dwellings in Beiyuan City was extended, and according to Chen Mobai’s wishes, the Scholarly Mansion was to enroll a new class each year.

If a Cave Dwelling were able to guarantee student admissions every year, it wouldn’t take long for trading Cave Dwellings to become the hottest thing in Beiyuan City.

“Let’s set a limit of ten years. Since Rank-2 Cave Dwellings can be guaranteed admission, to avoid a drop in quality within the Sect in the future, let’s make it twenty years. However, this will lead to continuous

trading of Beiyuan City Cave Dwellings for Scholarly Mansion quotas, so henceforth the Sect will levy a 10% transfer fee.”

Chen Mobai’s founding of the Scholarly Mansion, and selling houses, was only secondary. The main purpose was to collect cultivators with Spiritual Roots from the Eastern Wilderness for the Divine Wood Sect.

In the future, the children of wealthy families with Spirit Stones can be easily admitted into the Divine Wood Sect, while the vast majority of other students will need to have genuine qualifications and pass tests to gain a foothold in the Divine Wood Sect.

Moreover, he also planned to start a Genius Class for loose cultivators without district housing quotas but with exceptional and outstanding Spiritual Roots, giving them the chance to join the Divine Wood Sect.

Given the local customs in the Eastern Wilderness, the Genius Class would inevitably oppose the district housing students, and the district housing students would also form different stances and classes based on Rank-1 and Rank-2. With such a three-way competition, those who ultimately pass the assessments to enter the Divine Wood Sect would surely be the cream of the crop.

This strategy was no longer feasible in the world of Immortal Gates due to whistleblowers, but it was the best and most suitable education system for the Eastern Wilderness.

This ensured that the future disciples of the Divine Wood Sect would be mostly elite, and only the truly outstanding could succeed and ascend within the Sect.

As for the Rank-2 students with guaranteed admission, Chen Mobai had already planned to sustain them within the Sect.

After all, the sale of a Rank-2 Cave Dwelling for ten thousand Spirit Stones was equivalent to collecting in advance the savings of their ancestors to help build Beiyuan City for the Divine Wood Sect—this was a promise that needed to be fulfilled.

Chen Mobai understood the concept of using the money of the future for development. The biggest and strongest companies in the world of Immortal Gates were usually heavily in debt. For the construction of his Puppet factory, hadn't most of the capital been borrowed from banks?

Now that the Puppet factory was on track and beginning to produce stable output, it would take about ten years to repay the loans he had taken out, and it would also help him earn Spirit Stones in the Eastern Wilderness every year.

As the Little Nan Mountain Shop spread throughout the entire Eastern Wilderness, Chen Mobai felt that the future income from selling talisman paper and ink might even surpass his earnings from the Divine Wood Sect.

"Sect Leader, where should we locate this Scholarly Mansion?"

No longer doubtful, E Yun excitedly asked about the most critical matter, the educational site selection.

"Bring the map."

Chen Mobai called out, and soon a familiar old man came in, holding a map model made of clay that perfectly suited his intentions.

"Elder Lu, long time no see."

This old man was none other than Lu Daoda, the Rank-2 Earth Master that Chen Mobai had recruited here initially. After Chen Mobai returned to the sect, Lu Daoda smoothly passed the application to become an Outer Sect Elder through Chen Mobai's influence. Later, when E Yun came here to serve as the Town Guard, as a direct subordinate to Chen Mobai, Lu Daoda easily pledged his loyalty.

Over the years, the construction of Beiyuan City had been inseparable from the efforts of this Earth Master.

"I didn't expect Sect Master Chen to still remember this old man."

Upon hearing Chen Mobai's greeting, Lu Daoda was also very excited, but he didn't forget the matter at hand.

The map model in his hands replicated the layout of Beiyuan City according to Chen Mobai's plans, thereby reducing it to scale. The nearby mountains and rivers were vividly presented, exquisitely detailed, allowing for immediate clarity at a glance.

"The school will receive guidance from Foundation Establishment cultivators from the sect; we can't delay their cultivation, so it needs to be built upon a Rank-3 Spirit Vein."

Chen Mobai first stated a requirement, to which Lu Daoda immediately took out several small flags, placing them in three spots on the map model.

"Here lies a lower-grade Rank-3 Spirit Vein, which was originally a separate courtyard belonging to the Ji family, and thirty acres of Spirit Fields have been cultivated."

"Then there is this place on the eastern side of North Abyss Mountain, which according to the plan was going to be transformed into another Fang Market center of Beiyuan City."

"Lastly, there is this place, which was originally a site of a small Spirit Stone Mine, but now that it has been exhausted, it could also be upgraded into a Rank-3 Spirit Vein through transformation of the land's veins."

After listening to Lu Daoda's explanations, Chen Mobai considered which location would be suitable.

E Yun also leaned in, pointing to the Ji family's vast and well-located courtyard, which was the most suitable. He didn't want to change Beiyuan City's existing plans, as he would rely on those Fang Market shops to earn more Spirit Stones in the future.

And regarding the Spirit Stone Mine area, upgrading that vein would require drawing from the Spirit Vein of Beiyuan City, which would damage the density of the Spiritual Energy in the Immortal City, something he was also reluctant to do.

“In that case, aren’t we going to encroach upon the Spirit Field?”

Yuan Chiye raised some objections. These Spirit Fields were planted with Spiritual Rice developed by Xiao Nanshan, yielding over ten thousand Spirit Stones in annual income for Beiyuan City.

“Selling one set of Rank-2 Cave Dwellings could almost compensate for this income. If the Sect Master agrees, let’s choose this place!”

E Yun’s tone had completely changed in recent days; solely relying on selling property, he had accumulated a million Spirit Stones and had become utterly indifferent to the meager income from farming.

“Hmm, then let’s settle on this place.”

Chen Mobai nodded in agreement without objection, as he had planned to credit this accomplishment to E Yun to pave the way for his future position as Sect Master.

“Let’s go to the site and have a look. I will redesign a set of blueprints to complement Beiyuan City based on the environmental conditions of the local veins.”

In the midst of speaking, Chen Mobai led the Divine Wood Sect’s group and flew to the plains located just a dozen miles from Beiyuan City, where Mu Yuan, Yin Qingmei, and others, under his command, quickly surveyed and clarified the conditions of the land’s foundation, water veins, and Spiritual Pivots.

Chen Mobai then took out paper and pen, and based on the classic designs from the Immortal Gates’ Daoist Academies, he crafted a set of blueprints.

“Sect Master, may I ask what this place shall be named?”

Watching Chen Mobai tirelessly produce over a dozen detailed blueprints, E Yun and the others couldn’t help but ask with awe.

“Let’s call it ‘Longevity Academy!’”

Chapter 1048: Elixir Scripture

As a member of the Immortal Gate, Chen Mobai named the school according to the traditions of the Immortal Gate.

Scholarly Mansion, Daoist Academy!

Among these, the highest-tier Daoist Academy was something Chen Mobai felt Divine Wood Sect didn’t quite deserve. Although, if pushed, True Monarch Yuan could be considered their de-facto Grandmaster, without any Nascent Soul Cultivators to preside, the name should be somewhat moderate.

The Scholarly Mansion was just right!

After confirming the name, Chen Mobai waved his hand and a lump of earth was lifted by his power— then a surge of golden flames burst forth, melting the soil and reshaping it into a nine-zhang tall brown stele.

With a flick of his finger, Sword Qi overflowed.

The four large characters “Longevity Academy” were now engraved from top to bottom upon the stele.

Having completed this task, Chen Mobai discussed the general guidelines of the academy with E Yun. The first to fourth grades would be basic education, setting up the four courses of “Technique, Pill, Instrument, Array” as per the Immortal Gate’s standards. By the fifth and sixth grades, students could choose to specialize.

If everything expanded greatly in the future, Chen Mobai even planned to establish a university division within the Longevity Academy.

However, since conditions didn’t allow for that now, the Sect served as a substitute.

But after teaching for a while, Chen Mobai discovered that the Tianhe Realm cultivators, even if they understood the literal meanings, had many discrepancies when implementing the Immortal Gate's educational system in practice.

Left with no alternative, Chen Mobai had to stay longer and personally intervene in this matter.

Fortunately, as the Sect Leader and Nascent Soul Ancestor, his word was law within Divine Wood Sect. At his command, the Sect's Transmission Division immediately dispatched several experienced cultivators to help.

Most of these cultivators were former true disciples of the Sect who had failed to progress with the Foundation Building Pill due to age. Wishing to live out their lives in peace, they chose the Transmission Division.

Having been true disciples, they were naturally the cream of the crop among the Twelve Divisions, and some were even Qi Cultivation leaders within their departments.

At the very least, they were at Rank-2 level in one of the Hundred Arts of Cultivation Immortal.

After familiarizing himself with the situation, Chen Mobai found that their teaching experience did not meet his requirements.

For instance, one person was extremely skilled in the art of talismans, drawing a Rank-2 Spirit Leaf Talisman on the spot, effortlessly and fluently. Despite the sound foundation, even by Immortal Gate standards, they would likely pass the Rank-2 certification.

Yet, their way of teaching about talismans was incredibly tedious and difficult to understand. Even with explanations that the lecturer thought were quite simple, the Qi Practitioners listening below were completely befuddled, as if they were hearing a Tian Shu.

With no other choice, Chen Mobai had to first teach this group how to teach.

What he didn't expect, however, was that upon hearing he would be teaching, all of the Divine Wood Sect's Qi Cultivating Disciples in Northern Abyss City rushed to submit applications to E Yun and Yuan Chiye, hoping to attend the lecture.

The title of Great Sage and Good Teacher for Sect Leader Chen resonated throughout the entire Eastern Wilderness.

The three disciples he taught all established their foundations. Under his guidance, Yu Lian, Mu Yuan, Li Yixian, and Xi Jinghuo emerged as the new talents among Eastern Wilderness's cultivators of Foundation Establishment.

Moreover, the three phases of Foundation Establishment he organized and created provided Eastern Wilderness Cultivators with the clearest understanding of this formidable barrier of cultivation.

Any cultivator aspiring to advance cherished the honor of receiving guidance from the Great Sage and Good Teacher, Chen Mobai!

So, when word got out that he would be lecturing, it drew the attention of everyone nearby, even if he wasn't discussing cultivation content.

Not only from Northern Abyss City in Rock Country but also from Sky Country, Rainbow Country, and Lei Nation, many Divine Wood Sect disciples did not hesitate to spend Spirit Stones to use the Teleportation Arrays just to attend the lecture.

Seeing such enthusiasm, Chen Mobai, who always had a passion for education, naturally didn't decline. To further the reputation of the Longevity Academy, he even allowed E Yun not to block people from outside Divine Wood Sect from listening to the lecture.

Of course, the best front-row seats were naturally reserved for internal Sect members; outsiders could only occupy the furthest places.

Half a month later, under the direction of E Yun, the Longevity Academy was built. Only the Cultivation Rooms that involved Formations and Spirit Veins were still in progress as the Sect's Formation Division and Spirit Vein Division worked overtime to meet the deadlines.

But none of this affected the education.

That day, Chen Mobai stood directly upon the stele of the Longevity Academy, facing the plains filled with people below, he began lecturing on how to educate properly.

“In highest esteem stands moral character, followed by achievement, and then by legacy. Though time elapses, they do not fade; this is regarded as immortality!”

He began by quoting a famous phrase from the Immortal Gate.

Even if a cultivator reaches Divinity Transformation, or practitioners of the Lasting Spring Cultivation may one day pass away in meditation.

But those who establish virtue, accomplish great deeds, or create doctrines will live on eternally, their legacies passed down forever.

What Chen Mobai was doing now was establishing a legacy!

He lectured for an entire day and night, speaking on how to be an excellent teacher, weaving instruction through entertainment. He exemplified each area of Technique, Pill, Instrument, Array, occasionally calling on true disciples like Zhou Bingyan to learn on the spot a spell they had never studied before after just one session of teaching.

Chapter 1049: Elixir Scripture_2

Following his teaching methods, the cultivators attending the class, even some astute and sharp-minded loose cultivators, also learned on the spot.

This outcome left the cultivators from the Eastern Wilderness, who had never before received education in a systematic manner, utterly astonished.

["If one could listen to Sect Master Chen's lectures for a long time, perhaps even the most difficult cultivation technique knowledge could be effortlessly learned..."]

At this point, the loose cultivators who had still been somewhat skeptical about Chen Mobai's reputation as a Great Sage and Good Teacher were completely convinced.

They were even already pondering how they could join the Divine Wood Sect and become disciples under Sect Master Chen!

By then, Chen Mobai had already guided the colorful clouds and left gracefully.

"The bearing of an Immortal!"

The admirer among the loose cultivators was named Han Tingfeng, a Qi Cultivation Ninth Layer alchemist, among the wealthiest tier in the loose cultivator community, with extensive connections. Sometimes, even the Foundation Establishment families from Lei Nation needed to request his help in refining elixirs.

He had come this time with the hope of making one last attempt at the Foundation Building Realm before his life ended, leaving no regrets.

The Foundation Building Pills were already prepared, purchased from the Treasure Color Market of the Nanxuan Sect.

During the preparation stage, when he heard that the Divine Wood Sect's Great Sage and Good Teacher would be teaching in Rock Country, and that anyone could attend the lectures, he immediately put down the elixir furnace he was busy with and hurriedly came over, hoping to hear something about Foundation Building.

Although the content of Chen Mobai's lecture, which covered Technique, Pill, Instrument, Array, was unrelated to Foundation Building, it nevertheless took Han Tingfeng's understanding of his own cultivation technique to a new level.

He cultivated the Elixir Scripture, considering himself a standout among the Rank-2 alchemists of the Eastern Wilderness. Although Chen Mobai only outlined the Pill Course content, it made him believe that the Sect Master of Divine Wood Sect was an Alchemy Grandmaster above himself.

Indeed, this man was worthy of being hailed as the greatest talent of the Eastern Wilderness in a thousand years!

“Do you know? This place will soon be transformed into a branch of the Divine Wood Sect!”

While Han Tingfeng was expressing his admiration for Chen Mobai, his friend who lived in Northern Abyss City spoke to the stele of the Longevity Academy.

“The branches of the Divine Wood Sect number in the hundreds and spread throughout the seven nations of the Eastern Wilderness, what’s so special about that?”

“Hehe, that’s where you’re wrong, let me tell you...”

When Han Tingfeng learned the true significance behind the four characters of “Longevity Academy,” his eyes widened in shock, and his beard began to tremble with excitement.

“Is this for real!?”

He had just celebrated his hundredth birthday the year before last and didn’t have many years left to live, but he had many companions and more than a dozen children, among whom one son and one daughter had Spiritual Roots.

Having given up on establishing his own foundation before starting a family, the pair was still under the age of thirty, which was the cutoff for school admission.

After finding out the purpose of the Longevity Academy from his friend, Han Tingfeng consulted a few other acquaintances in Northern Abyss City to confirm it was true. Unable to contain himself any longer, he leveraged his connection with Lian Chenghai, a Foundation Establishment cultivator from Lei Nation, to approach E Yun.

“Unfortunately, all the Rank-2 Cave Dwellings have been sold out, but the second phase is under development. You can pay a deposit for the Spirit Stones now, and I assure you I’ll reserve two for you.”

E Yun had heard of Han Tingfeng, a genius in alchemy who even acquired an Elixir Scripture and whose proficiency in refining Qi-turning elixirs and True Strength elixirs even surpassed that of Zeng Woyou.

Han Tingfeng: “Are there any Rank-1 Cave Dwellings left?”

E Yun: “They sold out not too long ago!”

Han Tingfeng had been cautious. Since Chen Mobai lectured at the gates of the Longevity Academy for just one day, the loose cultivators and various major families who had been observing the situation in Northern Abyss City no longer had any doubts. Even those who already had Cave Dwellings flocked to buy the remaining ones.

Even when E Yun doubled the prices, it couldn’t dampen the overwhelming enthusiasm of those eager to acquire the homes within the school district.

After everything sold out, E Yun slapped the table, exclaiming with a pained expression “Sold at a loss.”

“This... I was wondering if E Town Guardian could give an introduction? I’m willing to pay three times the price for a Rank-1 Cave Dwelling and a Rank-2 Cave Dwelling.”

Han Tingfeng’s daughter had exceptional Spiritual Root Talent, but his son was quite ordinary. Hence, he planned to buy a Rank-2 dwelling to ensure his son’s entry and a Rank-1 dwelling for his daughter’s schooling.

While speaking, he discreetly slipped a bottle of elixir into E Yun’s sleeve, but the latter righteously refused.

“We have set up a special shop in Northern Abyss City for second-hand house transactions. You just need to go there and register. However, the transfer requires a payment of 10% in Spirit Stones to our Divine Wood Sect, otherwise we do not recognize the enrollment eligibility,” he said.

Since Chen Mobai had informed about the adverse effects of having too much pill toxicity, those in the Divine Wood Sect with a bit of ambition generally only used elixirs to assist in breakthroughs at critical realms.

Although Han Tingfeng’s elixirs were also well-regarded, E Yun still did not want them.

“Thank you, E Town Guardian, for the advice. When my children enroll and join your sect in the future, I will still need your care,” Han Tingfeng said.

For the sake of his children, Han Tingfeng did not hesitate to lower his pride; he thought E Yun was refusing because he was not impressed and once again took out the most precious bottle of elixirs with a pang of heartache.

This was the “Golden Crow Bears the Sun Elixir” he obtained together with the Elixir Scripture. Seeing that E Yun seemed poised to refuse once more, Han Tingfeng immediately opened the bottle just a crack.

The unique aura of a Rank-3 elixir caused E Yun to stop the motion of waving his hand to refuse.

He began to inquire about the origin of this elixir.

After Han Tingfeng briefly explained, E Yun’s eyes lit up instantly.

“Poor parents across the world,” E Yun sighed, “Since Han friend speaks thus, I shall give you an opportunity today.”

He sighed, then pulled out a stack of special property deeds from his drawer and handed one to Han Tingfeng.

“This is ...”

“This is a Rank-3 Cave Dwelling that has not yet been opened for sale. Elder Chen’s word is as good as gold...”

Han Tingfeng was initially puzzled as he took it, but upon hearing about the benefits of this Rank-3 Cave Dwelling from E Yun, he immediately widened his eyes, and his breathing became rapid.

In his life, what worried him the most was that after his death, the accumulation of a lifetime of alchemy would be plundered by rogue cultivators from Lei Nation, long eyeing his wealth.

Thus, he had been trying to secure matrimonial alliances for his children from early on. The cultivator families, however, would also look for a dowry or a bridal gift before agreeing.

He wanted to find a support for his children before he died, but for those at the Qi Cultivation, he held them in contempt; for those in the Foundation Establishment realm, there were connections but they still demanded all his wealth to agree to accept one of his children as a disciple.

And now, this Rank-3 Cave Dwelling could perfectly resolve this problem.

“E Town Guardian, I have only 50,000 Spirit Stones in savings, as I am preparing for Foundation Establishment. I wonder if this Elixir Scripture can be mortgaged to your sect,” Han Tingfeng said.

To use a lifetime’s savings to ensure his children have a Foundation Building Pill and to send them to the Divine Wood Sect for protection from the premier sect in the Eastern Wilderness, he felt it was entirely worth it.

So, he took out the Elixir Scripture that he had originally planned to pass on to his son only on his deathbed.

“This...”

Upon hearing this, E Yun was also surprised. He took a look and found that it recorded seven alchemy recipes, including the Rank-3 “Golden Crow Bears the Sun Elixir.”

Just those recipes alone were worth 50,000 Spirit Stones.

You should know, the Divine Wood Sect only had a heritage of twenty-four elixir recipes.

E Yun was struck with emotion and wanted to agree on the spot, but he was after all not an alchemist, and he needed a professional to confirm the content and the recipes in the Elixir Scripture.

Yin Shuming, a true inheritor of the Alchemy Department who had come to Rock Country with him, hurried over soon after. However, he was merely at the Qi Cultivation level and was uncertain about the higher-ranked recipes and the cultivation methods in the Elixir Scripture.

“Perhaps we should consult the Sect Leader?” Yin Shuming suggested somewhat sheepishly.

Once Chen Mobai had finished his lecture on Technique, Pill, Instrument, Array, everyone thought of him as an all-around immortal cultivator with alchemy skills at least at Rank-2.

“The Sect Leader is busy with numerous affairs; let’s not disturb him over such a small matter. I recall Sister Yin is also an alchemist, I will go and invite her,” E Yun said.

When Yin Qingmei received the Message Talisman, she didn’t pay it much attention initially. But as soon as she saw the name of the Elixir Scripture, she immediately got up and rushed out of her room.

Chapter 1050: Black Crow Elixir Scripture

“Black Crow Elixir Scripture!”

When Yin Qingmei came over and finished reading the entire Elixir Scripture, she flipped to the cover and, gazing at these four characters, gently nodded her head.

“Where did you get this Elixir Scripture from?”

After hearing this, Han Tingfeng's face showed a hint of hesitation, but since he had already decided to entrust his children to the Divine Wood Sect, and he did not have many years left to live, he decided not to hide this stroke of fortune.

"When I was young, I lived as a Loose Cultivator on Mysterious Water Island in Yun Meng Ze. One day, while hunting demonic beasts with a group, I fell into the water by accident and encountered a giant clam."

"Inside this giant clam, I found a box. After secretly returning to the island, it took me three years to erase the restrictions on the box using my spiritual power. When I opened it, I found a bottle of elixir and this Elixir Scripture."

"Since I was also studying Alchemy Technique while being a Loose Cultivator, obtaining this Elixir Scripture allowed me to make rapid progress. Then, I continuously sold the elixirs I refined in the black market, saving up resources for cultivation."

"After that was reaching Qi Cultivation Perfection, continuously refining and selling pills in exchange for spirit stones, and even joining a team organized by the Lei Nation Cultivator Families to go to the Golden Crow Immortal City in East Barbarians to buy a Foundation Building Pill. I also secretly bid on a Foundation Building Pill at a sales event held by the Starry Sky Commerce Guild. It's just a pity that both of my attempts at Foundation Establishment failed..."

Han Tingfeng's life was indeed blessed with good fortune. Relying on his Alchemy Technique, he managed to accumulate a considerable fortune in the Eastern Wilderness, and even attempted Foundation Establishment twice, outshining many true disciples of the Divine Wood Sect.

Unfortunately, trying to succeed in Foundation Establishment by groping blindly was simply too difficult.

The one thing Han Tingfeng regretted most in his life was not joining the East Wilderness Major Sects when he was younger.

Otherwise, with his Alchemy Technique, he would have been able to mix in as a true disciple and obtain a Foundation Building Pill.

At that time, after obtaining the Black Crow Elixir Scripture and reaching Rank-2 in Alchemy, his realm rapidly improved with the intake of elixirs, and soon he achieved Qi Cultivation Perfection, full of pride and ambition.

He thought that major sects and big clans wouldn't be of much use to him, and also feared that holding a treasure might incur death. Afraid of accidentally revealing the Elixir Scripture within the sects and having it plundered by cultivators of higher realms or the sect itself, he kept wandering between Yun Meng Ze and Lei Nation.

By the time he had failed multiple attempts at Foundation Establishment and depleted his vital essence, it was too late for him to realize his mistake.

“Do you know the origins of this Elixir Scripture?”

Yin Qingmei's question made Han Tingfeng pause. He was so afraid of people finding out about the Elixir Scripture that he dared not reveal anything, thus he truly did not know the origins of the Black Crow Elixir Scripture.

“This Elixir Scripture is not a product of our Eastern Wilderness, but since it has ended up in your hands, it is your serendipity. Since you have decided to mortgage it to our Divine Wood Sect, we will acknowledge it.”

After verifying that the Black Crow Elixir Scripture was genuine, Yin Qingmei signaled that E Yun could agree to the price of fifty thousand spirit stones.

“Dao Friend Han, this is the deed for a Rank-3 Cave Dwelling. If anyone puts up a Rank-1 or Rank-2 Cave Dwelling for sale, I will also inform you at the earliest opportunity.”

After completing the procedures, E Yun handed over a thin paper sealed with the stamp of the Divine Wood Sect and signed by Chen Mobai to Han Tingfeng, who accepted it with some excitement.

At the same time, Han Tingfeng also signed the mortgage contract for the Elixir Scripture, agreeing that during the mortgage period, without the consent of the Divine Wood Sect, he would not reveal its content to anyone else.

“Thank you, E Town Guardian, Senior Yin...”

Han Tingfeng knew in his heart that he might have mortgaged the Elixir Scripture for less than it was worth, but what could he do when he was short of spirit stones? Being able to exchange it for the attention of the Divine Wood Sect was good enough.

Moreover, he could pass the mortgage contract to his children in the future. If they made a name for themselves within the Divine Wood Sect, they might be able to redeem the Elixir Scripture.

“Sister Yin, what is the true origin of this ‘Black Crow Elixir Scripture’?”

After Han Tingfeng had left, E Yun could no longer contain his curiosity and asked.

“The Baiwu Ancestor of the Sun Bathing Sea had a junior brother named the Ash Feather Daoist. You should have heard of him, right?”

“The Rank-4 Alchemist who died in Yun Meng Ze! He who was lauded as a prodigy who might become the next Golden Wind Ancestor!”

Upon hearing Yin Qingmei’s words, E Yun’s eyes widened in disbelief.

Over a hundred years ago, Ancestor Hunyuan, Sun Huangwu, and the Baiwu Ancestor, three Nascent Soul Cultivators, joined forces to seal a Rank-4 Poisonous Dragon Beast in Yun Meng Ze. The battle was fierce, with the sky darkening and the sun and moon losing their light. Although in the end the Poisonous Dragon was sealed, it also resulted in some casualties.

Among those whose loss was most lamented was this very genius Alchemist known as the Ash Feather Daoist.

Many believed that if he hadn’t perished in Yun Meng Ze, he would have certainly become the second Nascent Soul Cultivator of the Sun Bathing Sea.

“So this ‘Black Crow Elixir Scripture’ was his!”

E Yun picked up the Elixir Scripture on the table with a trembling hand, finally realizing the precious nature of this book.

“I too am fond of alchemy. After Foundation Establishment, I received all the Alchemy teachings from the sect’s Transmission Department, but unfortunately they only go up to Rank-3.”

“That’s why I asked my master where I could obtain Rank-4 Alchemy Techniques and recipes. He told me that within the Eastern Wilderness only Back to Sky Valley has them, outside the Eastern Wilderness, the Dongwu Sun Family has them, and the three major sects in East Barbarians have them as well.”

“But the most complete content for Rank-4 Alchemy Technique is in the Sun Bathing Sea because they possess part of the Fen Tianjing Di legacy, and they are adept at fire-element spiritual power, even possessing Rank-5 elixir recipes. Among others, the master emphasized the Ash Feather Daoist to me because this genius Alchemist of the Sun Bathing Sea had stayed in the Hunyuan Immortal City for half a month and was treated as an honored guest. At that time, my master was responsible for entertaining and showing him around the Immortal City, so he had a deep impression of him.”

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