

World 1191

Chapter 1191: The Agreement with Yuan Xu_2

Elder Yuanxu made a guarantee on the spot regarding this matter.

“The cultivation of the Asura Dharma Aspect requires Return to the Sun Spirit Water, and I am willing to offer the Other Shore Flower and the Nine Dragons Sophora Pods, only hoping that once you succeed, you can give me a complete one in return,”

Chen Mobai put forth another reasonable demand, after all, just having the cultivation technique definitely wouldn't suffice, and moreover, this was his main goal.

“I have looked over the alchemy recipe, and with the techniques of the Immortal Gate, if the experiment is successful, ten portions of Return to the Sun Spirit Water can be concocted. For you to ask for one portion is not excessive, and I can agree to that.”

Elder Yuanxu was always decisive in his actions and speech, and upon hearing his words, Chen Mobai finally felt a load lifted off his heart.

Although he still possessed the Rank-5 Soul Nourishing Wood, the subsequent acquisitions of Return to the Sun Spirit Water could be figured out later; the most critical thing right now was to have Zhou Shengqing transform into the Embodiment Nascent Soul.

However, upon hearing Elder Yuanxu's unhesitant agreement, he felt a tinge of regret inside, wondering if asking for two portions directly might not have been a problem.

“I will need the Bone Jade and Black Liquid as well,”

Seeing Chen Mobai fall silent, Elder Yuanxu once again spoke up; since he wanted to research the Asura Dharma Aspect, he surely intended to collect all related items into his possession.

Besides these items, all the Void Blind Boxes that were recovered from Ming Wang Star and stored at the Portal Management Bureau had also been delivered to the Repairing Heaven Institute, waiting for him to open each one.

“President, as you know, I have made some achievements in Puppetry Technique and dream of developing a Rank-4 biomimetic puppet, so I hope to have a Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead as the core for calculation,”

After pondering for a moment, Chen Mobai recalled the vital item he was lacking for his scheme to exploit the Great Dao Tree.

“A Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead... It’s a bit troublesome to create, and I will have to do it myself. It might have to wait until after I have thoroughly researched the Asura Dharma Aspect. If you don’t mind, I could lend you mine to use in the meantime.”

Chen Mobai was quite tempted after hearing this, but upon further thought, he realized that Elder Yuanxu’s Heavenly Calculation Bead was merely a loan. If it were to be reclaimed in the future and he found traces of the Longevity Sect’s Grand Spells stored within, it would completely expose him.

For the sake of caution, Chen Mobai still shook his head and declined.

He expressed that he was not accustomed to using another’s belongings and would rather wait until the president had the time to make a new one.

“Then it is agreed. When the time comes for the Kaiyuan Hall meeting, you will stand by my side and enter with me,”

Upon completing his statement, Elder Yuanxu received Chen Mobai’s nod of agreement.

He had initially intended to use these items to procure just a portion of Return to the Sun Spirit Water, but he had not expected the bonus of a Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead.

The phrase “fully satisfied” could best describe his current mood.

However, after both parties had reached an agreement, Chen Mobai felt the gaze of Daoist Yu Yi pass over him, and all he could do was lower his head, pretending not to notice.

The Return to the Sun Spirit Water was just too vital for him.

Within the entirety of the Immortal Gate, no one was more assured of success than Elder Yuanxu, so Chen Mobai had simply made the most secure and wise choice.

After reaching an agreement, the next day Chen Mobai received a message from the Kaiyuan Hall Rotating Committee, inviting him to Wangwu Cave Heaven to attend a hastily convened meeting.

It wasn't just him; the entire team of experts had also received this message.

Daoist Yu Yi remained composed, instructing everyone to securely store away their items before leading the group back to Wangwu Cave Heaven.

Seven days later, despite some turbulence, Elder Yuanxu managed to suppress the voices of dissent by leveraging the Repairing Heaven Institute's profound influence and took all items into his laboratory.

This was also in part because Wang Shuye consulted with Chen Mobai and affirmed that he had voluntarily entered into the agreement with Elder Yuanxu, preventing any interference from the Dance Tool Dao Academy.

The Four Great Daoist Sects were deeply rooted in the Immortal Gate, and once Repairing Heaven and Dance Instruments had been notified, the matter was essentially settled.

After the conference concluded, Chen Mobai planned to rekindle old friendships with Qing Nu or Meng Huang, but Elder Yuanxu took him straight back to Xixuan Dongtian.

"You have cultivated the Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun Diagram, and opening boxes comes with an Auspicious Blessing – these you will open."

In the Repairing Heaven Institute's laboratory, Elder Yuanxu pointed to seventeen Void Blind Boxes delivered by the Portal Management Bureau and spoke to Chen Mobai.

Chen Mobai, with his incredible luck, had opened the Asura Dharma Aspect from a Void Blind Box, naturally making him a subject of suspicion among the Immortal Gate's ranks.

Knowing that he had already achieved the first layer of the Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun Diagram, everyone accepted his reasoning.

Wang Shuye even boasted that his decision to allocate Red Sandstone City under Chen Mobai's name was made with this in mind.

He firmly believed that, with Chen Mobai's Qualification of Deification, he would definitely be able to accomplish what even Yuanyang Ancestor had not using the Biyu Wutong.

The Auspicious Blessing was real, so Chen Mobai wasn't afraid of his reputation collapsing; he calmly helped to open the seventeen Void Blind Boxes.

Of these, twelve were basically without any gains.

However, within the other five, substances similar to Bone Jade were found, along with some dark gold metal weapons, dark blue feathers, and other items.

Yet, the greatest findings were in two other blind box sets, which revealed dozens of different Spirit Plants and ores.

The two Golden Core Masters sent by the Immortal Gate to Ming Wang Star had splendidly completed their task, gathering plant and mineral specimens from said celestial body.

These items would allow the Immortal Gate to roughly simulate the climate and environmental conditions on Ming Wang Star.

“I wonder if among these specimens, there are any of the materials not possessed by the Immortal Gate that are listed in the Return to the Sun Spirit Water Alchemy Recipe...”

Elder Yuanxu, wearing gloves, carefully picked up a golden leaf and held it in his palm. Hearing his words, Chen Mobai felt somewhat guilty.

But he was quickly drawn to the golden lines that emerged within Elder Yuanxu’s left eye.

The research began, and on the massive screen on the laboratory wall, a three-dimensional model of the golden leaf appeared, each vein distinctly clear.

Under Chen Mobai’s astonished gaze, the leaf dissolved into millions of light beams, and strings of data code began to appear on the screen. Under the manipulation of Elder Yuanxu’s Guidance Book, they transformed into the language of the Immortal Gate, translating and analyzing the characteristics of the leaf.

Aside from Elder Yuanxu, there were also quite a few Golden Core Masters in the laboratory, each researching every single main and auxiliary medicine for the Return to the Sun Spirit Water, comparing them with all the materials of the Immortal Gate to see if there were substitutes with similar properties.

There was also a Rank-4 Alchemist who took a very small sample from the other shore flowers and the Jiulong locust horns, and began to analyze the composition of these two main medicines to see if they could be synthetically duplicated using the essence of the Five Elements.

After the characteristics of the two main medicines were analyzed, Chen Mobai also saw various medicinal properties of the Immortal Gate transform into streams of data, commencing to simulate alchemy on the screen.

This was a feature of Elder Yuanxu’s Guidance Book, which could simulate alchemy, artifact refining, synthesis, and the like, specifically for research purposes and greatly saving materials.

But even so, watching the screen with its repeated failures and replacements of medicines in the monotonous and tedious process of experimentation, Chen Mobai's heart was filled with admiration for the researchers.

He certainly couldn't stay put.

After watching for two days and realizing that he really couldn't be of help, Chen Mobai left Xixuan Dongtian and returned to his own Red Sandstone City.

However, thanks to this event, Elder Yuanxu arranged a research assistance certificate in his name, which allowed him to travel between Xixuan Dongtian and Red Sandstone City.

It's just that each time he came, he still needed to report in advance to Kaiyuan Hall.

After returning to Red Sandstone City, Che Yucheng called him, and he honestly shared his observations at the Repairing Heaven Institute and then asked how the rest of the Return to the Sun Spirit Water would be distributed, apart from his portion, if it was successfully created.

He was thinking of a way to possibly secure another share in the future.

"Each of the Four Great Daoist Academies will take one portion; the rest will belong to the Immortal Gate," Che Yucheng stated a very straightforward allocation method, and Chen Mobai understood and nodded in agreement.

Indeed, Elder Yuanxu was worthy of his great reputation.

After waiting in Red Sandstone City for a year, Chen Mobai finally received a call from him.

The first batch of Return to the Sun Spirit Water had been successfully prepared.

Elder Yuanxu asked Chen Mobai whether he wanted to take it directly or store it.

Without any hesitation, Chen Mobai set off for Xixuan Dongtian that very night to take possession of this Immortal Gate's adapted version of the Return to the Sun Spirit Water.

Chapter 1192: Thriving Development Because the majority of the primary and auxiliary ingredients for this Return to the Sun Spirit Water were replaced with materials from the Immortal Gates, Chen Mobai couldn't be certain whether the effects were different from the original version from the Eastern Wilderness.

Although he had great confidence in Elder Yuanxu's professional expertise, Chen Mobai still stayed for two days and inquired in detail about the related matters.

"Of the nine primary ingredients, aside from the two you obtained from your void blind box, the other six can be found on Di Yuan Star with almost identical medicinal effects. According to the distribution, the Six Great Medicine Factories each provided one primary ingredient."

"As for the Xuan Gang Spirit Dew that was not available, I created a Rank-4 Spiritual Water as a substitute based on the described properties and continuous experimentation."

"The rest of the auxiliary ingredients have been mostly replaced, but all of them together are not as important as any single primary ingredient. Therefore, you don't need to worry about the efficacy. The version of Return to the Sun Spirit Water I adapted will only be more outstanding and reasonable than the original recorded in the alchemy recipe."

Elder Yuanxu seemed somewhat dissatisfied with Chen Mobai's concerns and uncharacteristically spoke at length.

"You're indeed worthy of being the chancellor. Only you could have refined this Return to the Sun Spirit Water so quickly, mobilizing the resources of the entire Immortal Gates and the Four Great Daoist Sects to create an alchemy recipe from a different world, uncertain if it would be successful."

Chen Mobai spoke truthfully; without Elder Yuanxu, not even Peach Blossom Sage or Three Extremes Sage would have found it easy to mobilize the whole Immortal Gates and the Four Great Daoist Sects for the sake of concocting an unproven elixir from another world.

“To cultivate the Asura Dharma Aspect, I also need a Heaven and Earth Spirit Plant called Soul Nourishing Wood. The piece inscribed by Yu Jirong is of too low a grade and has already lost its vitality.”

“I am now contemplating whether to substitute it with a Spirit Plant found on Di Yuan Star, or to use the foundation of the piece you obtained from the void blind box and refine something akin to a Lifespan Artifact.”

“But if so, the Asura Dharma Aspect will also need constant adjustments to ensure compatibility. For this, I’ve already applied for help from Master Qian Xing with a Rank-5 Heavenly Calculation Bead, which may take quite some time.”

Elder Yuanxu handed the Return to the Sun Spirit Water to Chen Mobai, but did not provide the Asura Dharma Aspect, explaining that it was still not perfected.

According to the laws of the Immortal Gates, only after multiple people have cultivated it successfully and it has been certified by a panel of experts, will it be approved to be placed in the Immortal Gate National Library for public access.

Chen Mobai was not at all anxious about this since his main goal was the Return to the Sun Spirit Water itself.

After his consultation, he did not stay at the Repairing Heaven Institute and took the sealed tube of dark blue Spirit Water directly back to his own domain, Red Sandstone City.

Taking a familiar shortcut for his seclusion, he sealed off the entire top of Danxia Mountain and clicked on Turtle Treasure to return to Giant Tree Ridge.

“Junior Brother Chen, this, this, this...”

Within the Longevity Wood Dojo, Fu Zongjue looked at the Return to the Sun Spirit Water brought out by Chen Mobai and his eyes widened in disbelief, struggling to complete his sentence.

And Zhou Shengqing, who emerged as a vision from the Soul Nourishing Wood, was even more ecstatic, nearly losing his form in excitement.

The thought of a resurrection capable of potentially exceeding his former self and ascending to the pinnacle sent this old man into an unprecedented thrill, overwhelmed with joy and surprise.

“Junior Brother Chen, this Return to the Sun Spirit Water, which Alchemy Master did you have refine it?”

At last, Zhou Shengqing curbed his excitement and remembered this long-troubling issue, asking for clarification.

“When I ventured out for my Core Formation, I encountered a mysterious stranger in the ruins, who was guarding a Rank-5 medicinal herb until maturity. He was a Rank-5 Alchemist, and after the herb matured it needed to be immediately processed into an elixir. Unable to split himself, he had me help him collect some medicinal ingredients.”

“Once the elixir was completed, he gave me a talisman, saying that should I encounter any difficulties, I could activate it. As long as the issue wasn’t too great, he would be able to assist me.”

“When exterminating Liu Jia Mountain, apart from the Jade Slip of the Legal Body Nascent Soul, there were two sealed Black Jade Boxes. After I managed to open them, I discovered that they contained the crucial Other Shore Flower and Nine Dragons Acacia Horns for the Refinement of the Return to the Sun Spirit Water, which led me to seek this senior’s assistance.”

Chen Mobai spoke of a mysterious stranger, startling Zhou Shengqing and Fu Zongjue with his tale.

Having spent the entire previous year waiting for news of the Return to the Sun Spirit Water from the Immortal Gates, he thought up this excuse.

To make it convincing, he even purposely went out to visit friends at a specific time.

As he left, he took with him all the medicinal ingredients related to the Return to the Sun Spirit Water collected by the Divine Wood Sect, then he simply vanished, entering the Divine Tree Secret Realm and returning to the Immortal Gates.

“At the very least, he is a Nascent Soul Cultivator, and perhaps he might even be a Divinity Transformation old monster roaming the mortal realm!”

Zhou Shengqing and Fu Zongjue had no doubts about Chen Mobai’s story. Based on the Rank-5 medicinal herb and the identity of a Rank-5 Alchemist, they boldly speculated.

“It must be one of those True Monarchs from the Eastern Earth Holy Land. If it were someone from the Demon Path, they wouldn’t be so reasonable and easy to talk to.”

In the entire Eastern Region across six realms, it was only in East Land and East Li where such ancient beings could be found. After hearing about Chen Mobai’s fortuitous encounter, they both rejoiced at his good fortune.

“It’s a pity that such an enormous opportunity was used by Junior Brother Chen just to refine a single Return to the Sun Spirit Water...”

Zhou Shengqing also felt a deep regret that if it were truly a Divinity Transformation old monster, a single favor could have possibly traded for a Three Lights Divine Water from the Star Heaven Dao Sect of East Yu.

Chapter 1193: Flourishing Development_2

“Our own strength is the real strength,” continued Mobai. “Once Brother Zhou achieves the Nascent Soul, our Divine Wood Sect will genuinely unify the Eastern Wilderness. Even Fu Shixiong and the disciples below us will feel prouder and more at ease.”

Chen Mobai’s words made Zhou Shengqing’s face turn solemn. He took the bottle of Return to the Sun Spirit Water and thanked him earnestly.

“Junior Brother Chen, rest assured,” Zhou Shengqing replied. “The day I leave seclusion will be the day the Divine Wood Sect overwhelms the Eastern Wilderness.”

Hearing this, Chen Mobai and Fu Zongjue exchanged a smile, then together they sealed off Zhou Shengqing's Longevity Wood Dojo to ensure no one would disturb his transformation into an Embodiment Nascent Soul.

"It should take about two or three years. During this period, we will try not to initiate any conflicts and hope that others will not provoke us either," said Fu Zongjue with a sigh. Chen Mobai nodded in agreement.

What followed was a period of calm vigilance. They only had to wait for Zhou Shengqing to congeal his Embodiment Nascent Soul and leave seclusion; then the situation in the whole Eastern Wilderness could no longer be overturned.

Of course, the reason given to those below was that the sect needed to recuperate and gain strength after the annihilation of Liu Jia Mountain. The primary objectives would now be the development of the Eastern Desolation Plateau and the management of the Sand Sea.

Fu Zongjue positioned his strongest Purple Sun Puppet in front of Zhou Shengqing's quarters to ensure secrecy. They did not even notify Mo Douguang.

Chen Mobai left seclusion as planned and began to handle the affairs of the sect.

However, after his guidance, Yue Zutao and others were all exceptionally dedicated, and since his word was law within the sect, these trivial matters hardly tied up his time anymore.

Chen Mobai paid special attention to the Eastern Desolation Plateau.

Based on the annual reports from the various countries' Town Guards, he knew that the progress on the Mo River, within Sky Country, was slightly behind due to a shortage of manpower. Moreover, the water flow from Yun Meng Ze was so violent that there was significant soil erosion along the riverbanks, causing soil fertility to decline.

Furthermore, without meticulous attention, demonic beasts from Yun Meng Ze could enter via the river, greatly distracting Luo Xue'er and Zhou Wangshen.

These issues largely stemmed from inexperience, as carving such a vast river channel was unprecedented in the entire Eastern Wilderness.

With Zhou Wangshen's assistance, Luo Xue'er had been steadily making amends. Zhuo Ming and others also went to help, discussing and finding solutions based on the actual problems encountered.

Compared to the Mo River, the White River had a smoother progress, especially with Luo Yixuan, a hidden Core Formation expert at their disposal. When cultivators encountered obstacles they couldn't overcome, she could secretly use her External Incarnation to allow Elder Ming to wield the Moonlight Blade and carve through the mountains.

And, as for protecting against soil erosion, with the assistance of Zhuo Ming, the number one Spirit Plant Master of the Divine Wood Sect, and Yin Qingmei, who cultivated the Upstart Growth Technique, their work in tree planting and soil stabilization was done exceptionally well.

Now, a fifth of White River's planned irrigation routes has been completed.

This is with the understanding that there was no practical experience in the early stages and they were progressing by trial and error. For the remaining four-fifths, Zhuo Ming is confident that it can all be finished within six years.

In the Eastern Desolation Plateau regions that White River irrigates, Qingluo Grass, as tall as a person, grows abundantly. With ample forage available, species such as local bred gazelles and yaks, under the herding of Spirit Beast Department's disciples, have begun to breed and thrive in groups.

Although these cattle and sheep are merely Rank-1 Spirit Beasts, every part of them can be sold. Leather can be made into Taoist robes, boots, and so forth, while the meat, rich in Elemental Energy, is sold together with Spirit Rice to the nineteen countries of the Eastern Wilderness and is favored by those practicing Body Cultivation.

Last year alone, Divine Wood Sect's Spirit Beast husbandry in Rock Country generated an income of a hundred thousand Spirit Stones.

These, compared to the grand scheme of the sect, are but a drop in the bucket and hardly worth mentioning. But Chen Mobai envisioned a vast future.

Once the White River is fully tapped and irrigates the entirety of Rock Country, and these pastoral industries expand to a much larger scale, they could easily increase by tenfold.

And the Eastern Desolation Plateau consists of much more than just Rock Country.

Apart from cattle and sheep, what's even more precious are those Spirit Fields irrigated with Snow Mountain Water.

Farming is Zhuo Ming's old line of work. In just two and a half years, she led disciples from the Divine Wood Sect and the Longevity Academy to cultivate ten thousand mu of Rank-1 Spirit Fields.

All of these are planted with Fire Spirit Rice, the easiest crop to survive and one that thrives in the high plateau climate and environment.

This ten-thousand-acre Fire Spirit Rice yields two harvests a year, each year bringing in three million catties. If all were sold, that would mean an income of three hundred thousand Spirit Stones.

If the thirty million acres of spirit fields in the Eastern Desolation Plateau were all developed, just by planting this Fire Spirit Rice, the Divine Wood Sect could reap crops valued at nine hundred million Spirit Stones annually.

Within the sect, far-sighted cultivators like Yue Zutao had already seen the terrifying potential in the first report on the Spirit Rice income after the complete development of the Eastern Desolation Plateau.

Thus, since the middle of last year, cultivators from the Three Halls and Twelve Divisions within Giant Tree Ridge had started undertaking the development of the Eastern Desolation Plateau more frequently and actively.

The disciples from the Spirit Beast Department went to graze animals, those from the Spirit Vein and Spirit Plant Department worked the fields, planting Spirit Rice or medicinal herbs, the Puppet Division's

disciples manufactured and repaired puppet farm machinery, while the Body Forging cultivators moved crops...

Even those who had no particular skills, who only knew spells, could accept tasks and live in thatched huts in the spirit fields to cultivate while guarding the spirit plants, preventing birds from the sky and pests from the ground from destroying the crops.

The reason for such enthusiasm was because, in addition to the Spirit Stones issued by the sect, Zhuo Ming had also implemented a policy of supplementing every disciple with Fire Spirit Rice every day.

The amount depended on their cultivation level: Qi Cultivation early-stage disciples received one catty per day, mid-stage received two catties, and late-stage received three catties.

Last year, when Chen Mobai was at the Immortal Gate waiting for the Return to the Sun Spirit Water, the Divine Wood Sect's disciples experienced the happiness of eating Spirit Rice with an open heart for the first time!

Although the sect also distributed it monthly in the past, they had to eat frugally, even mixing it with some regular rice to cook, unlike now, where as long as you come to Rock Country, you can eat to your heart's content, eat until you're stuffed.

At first, it was only in Rock Country, but it attracted strong protests from Luo Xue'er and Zhou Wangshen because all the active forces within the sect were drawn to Rock Country, which made the progress at Mo River in Sky Country seem severely delayed by comparison.

If it were Luo Yixuan and Yin Qingmei handling the situation, they naturally would have ignored it, but Zhuo Ming, kindhearted and having been influenced by Chen Mobai for a long time, not only supported Sky Country with some Fire Spirit Rice but also went to Sky Country to personally guide the cultivation of Spirit Fields and planting of Spirit Rice.

Teaching someone to fish is better than giving them fish.

Even so, the golden sign of Xiao Nanshan still had a greater attraction, and disciples of the Divine Wood Sect still preferred to choose tasks in Rock Country when accepting them.

After knowing this, Chen Mobai also nodded in appreciation of Zhuo Ming's actions.

Whether it was using Spirit Rice to subsidize and attract more disciples of the Divine Wood Sect to develop the Eastern Desolation Plateau, to prevent the prices from plummeting after a large amount of Spirit Rice entered the market, or assisting Sky Country, those were choices he would have made.

Indeed, he was a worthy successor, having inherited three parts of his breadth of vision and generosity.

Originally planning to visit the Eastern Desolation Plateau after leaving his retreat, Chen Mobai was now completely at ease.

The disciples who had once been under his protection were now capable of taking on great responsibilities.

After handling the sect affairs, Chen Mobai visited Xiao Nanshan again.

After all, without Zhuo Ming's care, he was still somewhat worried about the Spirit Plants such as the Immortal Peach Tree planted there.

But in fact, he was overthinking it.

The three Foundation Establishment cultivators from the Spirit Plant Department treated Xiao Nanshan as a top priority and took good care of it. Although they lacked a Spirit Plant Master as remarkable as Zhuo Ming, quantity made up for quality.

With dozens of disciples looking after them day and night, all the spirit plants were growing very well.

Even the Enlightenment White Tea Tree successfully absorbed the essence of the Green Charm Spiritual Tree at the end of last year and upgraded to a Rank-2 superior grade.

This was half a year faster than what Chen Mobai had anticipated.

It might be due to the spirit vein in Xiao Nanshan upgrading to Rank-4.

As Chen Mobai listened to the Tea Tree using the Echoes in the Void, his eldest disciple, Liu Wenbo, got the news of his emergence from seclusion and came over with Song Huangdae.

Chapter 1194: Golden Core Fourth Layer As the two approached, Liu Wenbo appeared relatively composed, but General Song Huang beside him was a picture of fear and unease, occasionally wiping away the sweat that beaded on his forehead with his sleeve.

By the end of last year, General Song Huang had completed his task of guarding the Green Chan Tea Tree in Dragon Horn Trench and thereafter, in accordance with the plan, he became a nominal disciple in the Little Nan Mountain lineage under Liu Wenbo.

However, due to Chen Mobai's slaying of Yan Fusheng in Rainbow Country and leading the Divine Wood Sect to annihilate Liu Jia Mountain, the undercover agents within the Divine Wood Sect suddenly went silent.

Subsequently, General Song Huang's position within the Little Nan Mountain lineage became awkward.

Without contact from the undercover agents, he had no value.

The reason Liu Wenbo brought him here was precisely because of this issue.

In his view, since he was of no use, it was better to just deal with him. After all, keeping him around was a risk.

But since General Song Huang was a man given to him by Chen Mobai, he wanted to consult his master before taking any action.

Though Liu Wenbo did not express these thoughts outright, General Song Huang vaguely sensed them. However, as a mere Qi Practitioner under the watch of a Foundation Establishment Practitioner, he had no chance of escape.

Besides, even if he managed to flee from Liu Wenbo's grasp, where could he go?

Now that half of the Eastern Wilderness was under the Divine Wood Sect's dominion and the Little Nan Mountain Shop had branches in nineteen countries, capturing a minor Qi Practitioner like him would be effortless.

Being brought before the foremost figure of the Eastern Desolation now, General Song Huang grew even more nervous and agitated.

In his heart, he was even beginning to feel a sense of despair, wondering if this day next year would be marking his death anniversary.

"Since you've taken him as a disciple, then train him well. Where a person comes from is not their choice, but what kind of person they become is determined by their own will."

Just when General Song Huang closed his eyes, preparing to face death with a resigned expression, he heard the most profound words he would remember in his life.

"Yes, Master!"

Liu Wenbo always revered Chen Mobai as a deity. Hearing this command, he immediately nodded in respectful agreement.

General Song Huang's eyes snapped open, and as he looked at Chen Mobai, who was just a short distance away, tending to the tea plants, his heart was filled with an emotion he had never felt before.

This sentiment was incredibly warm yet carried a hint of coolness.

It was like plunging into a clear spring, washing away the dust of the world, and then lying unfettered on a large rock, basking in the soothing sunlight.

“Thank you, Sect Leader!”

General Song Huang wiped the sweat from his forehead and paid a deep bow to Chen Mobai.

“It is Ancestor Master!”

Liu Wenbo immediately corrected him, and upon seeing that Chen Mobai had no reaction, General Song Huang swiftly changed his address to Ancestor Master.

Chen Mobai: “I remember that you’re cultivating the Void Law Body, right?”

General Song Huang: “Yes.”

Chen Mobai: “Recite the mantra of your Void Law Body for me.”

General Song Huang hesitated, and Chen Mobai knew that when he had received this Body Forging Technique from the Restoration Society, he must have made a vow not to reveal it, based on his Dao Heart.

As expected, this was the case when he asked.

Chen Mobai: “I will give you the Void Law Body that I acquired when annihilating Shake Mountain Peak. Compare it with your own and see if there are any differences. This shouldn’t violate your Dao Heart vow, right?”

General Song Huang nodded repeatedly, indicating there were no such restrictions.

Liu Wenbo, holding Chen Mobai’s order, quickly fetched the book of the Void Law Body from the Book Pavilion.

General Song Huang carefully read through the Rank-1 Qi Cultivation section and, knowing the rules, did not proceed further. He nodded to indicate that the content was the same, in fact, even more detailed than what he had received from the Restoration Society.

Chen Mobai also had some interest in the Void Law Body; after all, if one could master it, it allowed a Foundation Establishment Practitioner to perform movements similar to “Void Walking”, which was very suitable for consolidating his persona of holding the Qualification of Deification at the Immortal Gate.

However, since it was acquired from Shake Mountain Peak, he definitely wouldn’t rashly start cultivating it.

General Song Huang, who had presented himself at his doorstep, now provided an ideal opportunity.

“This copy of the Void Law Body was a remnant obtained by the sect after annihilating Shake Mountain Peak. Then it was compiled with parts from my battles, capable of cultivation up to Perfect Core Formation. Since you have entered the Little Nan Mountain lineage, I shall bestow the full text of this Body Forging Technique to you.”

Upon hearing that he had just officially become a disciple and was awarded the complete text of the top Body Forging Technique in the Eastern Desolation, General Song Huang was so moved that he trembled with excitement.

If only he had known sooner, he would have switched allegiances back in Rock Country.

Such treatment was never given at the Restoration Society.

Indeed, the Divine Wood Sect was worthy of being the sun of the Eastern Wilderness, the leading sect that illuminates all.

At this moment, General Song Huang fully regarded himself as a member of the Little Nan Mountain lineage, and he swore in his heart that he would become a noble and great individual like Ancestor Chen!

After this matter was settled, Liu Wenbo proceeded to report on the profits of the Little Nan Mountain Shop.

Last year, the puppet factory of the Divine Wood Sect was completed. Utilizing the secondhand equipment Chen Mobai had brought back from the Immortal Gate, they were now able to produce an additional four million Rank-1 Talisman Paper annually. This meant that the Little Nan Mountain Shop's revenue from just Talisman Paper could reach one million Spirit Stones.

Since Chen Mobai had been away at the Immortal Gate all of last year, Liu Wenbo followed the earlier instructions and had exchanged these Spirit Stones for various Spirit Plant saplings to support Zhuo Ming, his junior sister, in her monumental task of transforming the Eastern Desolation Plateau.

Chapter 1195: Golden Core Fourth Layer_2

Aside from saplings, there were expenses for forging and purchasing all kinds of cultivation spiritual tools and placing custom orders with the Puppet Division for the large puppet farming machines designed by Chen Mobai, among other expenditures.

Liu Wenbo only reserved the basic spirit stones necessary to maintain the operation of Little Nan Mountain Shop's branches across the nineteen countries of the Eastern Wilderness; he invested the rest according to his judgment in equipment and materials, which he sent to Rock Country.

For this, Chen Mobai gave him high praise.

He said that Liu Wenbo had lived up to his responsibilities and stature as the second-generation eldest apprentice brother of Little Nan Mountain.

"Master is overpraising. I merely followed your instructions," Liu Wenbo humbly replied. He then mentioned that Zhuo Ming had given him the additional spirit rice and spirit meat from the Eastern Desolation Plateau to sell to countries beyond the plateau.

However, since the production of spirit rice had increased, and it was the first time Little Nan Mountain Shop was selling spirit meat, the earnings were not very good.

Last year, the income from this aspect was only around two hundred thousand spirit stones.

Regarding this, Chen Mobai simply instructed Liu Wenbo to persist in selling, and to get all kinds of specialties from above the Eastern Desolation Plateau onto the shelves of Little Nan Mountain Shop.

In the early stage, he should not think about making spirit stones but first open and capture the market.

After Chen Mobai decided that the main goal for the next ten years for Little Nan Mountain Shop was to supply Zhuo Ming's development of the Eastern Desolation Plateau, and only the secondary goal was to earn spirit stones, Liu Wenbo had a clear focus, and he descended the mountain with Song Huangdae.

Time quickly passed, and another year had gone by.

Since the majority of the Legal Body Nascent Soul's power was transformed from Rank-5 Soul Nourishing Wood, Zhou Shengqing's Nascent Soul transformation lacked remarkable spectacle.

Even when occasional intense fluctuations of spiritual energy occurred within the Longevity Wood Dojo, everyone simply assumed it was Chen Mobai or Fu Zongjue practicing some powerful technique.

Throughout this year, with the help of Divine Wood Sect, Chen Mobai once again collected a complete set of materials for a furnace of Golden Crow Sun-swallowing Elixirs.

This time, his refining was much smoother than before. He produced seven pills, and the toxicity of each was below 1%.

Thanks to the effects of the Golden Crow Sun-swallowing Elixir, his cultivation level also showed signs of another breakthrough.

On this day, at the peak of Danxia Mountain, beneath the Biyu Wutong, an immensely powerful surge of spiritual power rose to the sky, like a splendid pillar, purifying the clouds into clear blue!

The superior spiritual qi of fourth grade was ceaselessly captured and extracted by the strong divine sense, turning into strands of crimson spiritual light, being refined by Chen Mobai, who was sitting under the Biyu Wutong.

Although the spirit vein of Danxia Mountain was that of a fire vein, it also mixed with elements of the earth vein, so Chen Mobai had to exclude the earth vein's spiritual energy during refining and solely extract the fire vein's spiritual energy.

This demonstrated the advantage of spirit stones over spirit vein qi.

Spirit stones contain pure spiritual energy that can be refined and converted into any attribute of spiritual power without hindrance, but spirit vein qi has an attribute, which requires compatibility with the cultivator's technique.

If it weren't for the need to maintain a facade at the Immortal Gate, creating some momentum and defending his reputation as a genius, Chen Mobai would have simply used a pile of top-grade spirit stones to succeed in the breakthrough long ago.

This was Chen Mobai's first attempt at a normal pathway breakthrough without the aid of external objects at the Immortal Gate.

He found it to be even harder than he imagined.

For someone accustomed to smooth sailing, this was somewhat hard to accept.

The breakthrough phenomenon lasted an entire two months, and Chen Mobai felt that the speed at which he was refining the fire vein's spiritual energy had reached a limit. Continuing at this rate, he wouldn't be able to accumulate enough Pure Yang spiritual power to break through to the fourth layer of the Golden Core.

This indicated that his foundation was not solid enough, and the accumulated spiritual power was insufficient, requiring further accumulation and settling.

If he were to act on the mature experience of the Immortal Gate, he should naturally disperse the gathered majestic spiritual energy and halt the breakthrough, waiting for the next opportunity to try again.

But that's what ordinary people would do.

Chen Mobai didn't openly display the signs of his breakthrough on Danxia Mountain only to let his reputation collapse.

He looked down at three items beside him.

First was a Spirit Gathering Array made up of top-grade spirit stones.

Second was the Pure Yang Purple Qi condensed within the Spirit Sealing Tube, a result of Yin Qingmei's constant guidance of the Haotian Mirror.

The third was a blood-red elixir, the Blood Spirit Pill that had once propelled Fu Zongjue to his breakthrough into the Mid Golden Core Stage.

With any one of these three items at his disposal, Chen Mobai was confident he could break through directly to the Golden Core Fourth Layer.

However, the top-grade Spirit Stone was his last resort. Chen Mobai intended to pretend that he was advancing with the aid of the spiritual vein qi of Danxia Mountain. He would only use it if something unexpected happened and he couldn't break through despite utilizing the other two items.

After some contemplation, Chen Mobai reached out and ingested the Blood Spirit Pill without hesitation.

Such a Barrier-breaking Elixir from the Tianhe Realm was most useful in advancing from the Early Golden Core Stage to the Mid Golden Core Stage. Moreover, he had two pills. If he didn't use them now, they would become useless in the future.

The Pure Yang Purple Qi could be useful even for Cultivators of the Pure Yang Scroll at the Nascent Soul Realm, so it would be better to save it if possible.

Chen Mobai had long since learnt about the method and experience of consuming the Blood Spirit Pill from Fu Zongjue, so he refined it into his body with ease.

Once the Flame Lighting Technique was activated, he felt his Essence, Qi, and Spirit surge by half. His Divine Sense and his body, which had already reached their limits, suddenly drew in a great gulp of the spirit vein qi that floated in the void all around him.

Caught off-guard, he even refined some of the earth vein spiritual power into his Pure Yang Spiritual Power.

But at this critical moment of breakthrough, Chen Mobai didn't have time to worry about these things. He could only rely on the violent surge of power from the Blood Spirit Pill to ferociously assault the bottleneck of the Golden Core Fourth Layer.

It could be said that the potency of Elixirs from the Tianhe Realm far exceeded those from the Immortal Gates.

Seven days later, Chen Mobai felt the Pure Yang Spiritual Power that had been just two or three breaths away from its limit suddenly burst through the boundary of his Dantian Qi Sea.

What followed was a freedom like the vast sea for fish to leap at will, the high sky where birds may soar!

The Dantian Qi Sea that seemed unable to accumulate and refine even the smallest bit of energy expanded by one-third of its range!

In the Void, faint silvery glows twinkled, similar to the moonlight, like gauze or mist, descending into Chen Mobai's Golden Core Domain.

Under the influx of the endless power of the Void, a vast space of exactly 1280 cubic units roiled into form, manifesting within Chen Mobai's Sea of Knowledge at the Purple Mansion.

At the center of the Sea of Knowledge at the Purple Mansion, the Biyu Wutong upon which the phoenix phantom perched became even more solid and expansive. In a hazy glimpse, Chen Mobai saw the phoenix's feathers dancing, with even more colorful auspicious qi falling into its surroundings.

It seemed like he had received more of the Auspicious Blessing.

However, these could not be verified for the time being. Chen Mobai set them aside for the moment and began to explore his newly enhanced Pure Yang Spiritual Power after breaking through to the Golden Core Fourth Layer.

Compared to the extremely pure Pure Yang Spiritual Power he had before the breakthrough, this time it contained a strand of earthy yellow spiritual light.

This was a drawback from forcing a breakthrough without stable foundations, unable to control the result even with the help of the Blood Spirit Pill.

He had refined and boosted the earth and fire spiritual power from the spirit veins of Danxia Mountain into Pure Yang Spiritual Power, and although successful, it had left troubles in its wake.

But for cultivators of the Pure Yang Scroll, this was a minor issue, since they had the Flame Lighting Technique to purify and anneal it.

Generally speaking, Pure Yang cultivators from the Immortal Gates would not force breakthroughs as Chen Mobai did, relying on the Flame Lighting Technique.

Because the time required to purify using the Flame Lighting Technique might be about the same as that spent on consolidating one's foundation before attempting a realm breakthrough.

Moreover, there was a risk of failure with such forced breakthroughs.

But Chen Mobai was an advocate of the Sect of Realms; since he was capable of making a breakthrough and the conditions were in his favor, he would naturally not delay any longer.

At least he was now at the Golden Core Fourth Layer. Although his spiritual power had some impurities, it did not affect his combat ability.

As the Sect Leader of the Divine Wood Sect who often needed to take action to maintain order, especially during the critical moment when Zhou Shengqing was on the verge of Nascent Soul Formation success, he felt it necessary to act this way.

Originally, he estimated that it would take him eight years to achieve this breakthrough, but now he had succeeded three years ahead of schedule.

Aside from the potent effects of the Blood Spirit Pill, this was also due to his annual consumption of the Golden Crow Holding the Sun Pills.

A clear comparison could be seen with Chen Mobai's Daoist Academy mentor, True Person Shao Yang, who had spent a staggering fifteen years to break through from the Golden Core Third Layer to the Fourth Layer.

Of course, besides the practice of Pure Yang Spiritual Power, this was because he needed to bring the Seven Yang body to Perfection before it was possible to make the breakthrough, a restrictive condition that held him back.

Later, when True Person Shao Yang calculated his remaining lifespan and compared it against his actual progress while cultivating the Eight Yang body, he became so desperate that he switched to practicing the Scorching Heaven Cultivation Technique.

Chapter 1196: The Return of an Old Friend It had been fifteen years since he reached Core Formation, and Chen Mobai had cultivated to the fourth layer of Gold Core!

Even in the entire history of the Immortal Gate, Chen Mobai was second only to the likes of the Yuanyang Ancestor and a handful of other notable figures.

After the breakthrough was successful, Chen Mobai couldn't suppress the joy in his heart.

He let out a long howl towards the heavens, stirring the nature's spiritual energy at the Top of Danxia Mountain, sounding like thunderous roars, echoing through the academy below in an instant.

Before long, the entire Red Sandstone City knew that Councilor Chen had achieved a breakthrough in his realm.

But after everyone heard the news, they just took it for granted.

After all, this was the Qualification of Deification, the uncontested number one in talent since this era of the Immortal Gate began.

A successful breakthrough was the norm; had he failed, that would have been big news.

This made Chen Mobai somewhat displeased.

He had worked so hard to consume elixirs for the breakthrough, hoping to create a stir within the Immortal Gate, reaffirming his reputation as one with the Qualification of Deification, and once again satisfy his small vain pride by showing off in front of friends and family!

But even his own parents, after hearing the news, only acknowledged with an "oh" in the family chat group, to indicate they knew.

Not to mention friends like Ming Yuhua, who didn't even call.

It was the female friends like Qing Nu who were considerate, all sending their congratulations first thing.

After contacting each of them, Chen Mobai suddenly felt quite uninterested.

Next, it would probably only be when he reached "Nascent Soul Formation" that he would once again cause a huge stir in the Immortal Gate.

But the Nascent Soul Formation stage, even with half the resources of the Eastern Wilderness at his disposal, felt somewhat difficult.

Chen Mobai thought it was time to add the cultivation of Primordial Dao Fruit to his list of goals.

He hung up the phone with Wen Ren Xuewei and took out the Earth Veins Elixirs he had refined.

There were twenty-one in total.

Among them, three were immature products from his initial attempts at refining, with poison content exceeding 1%, which he considered Waste Pills in his eyes.

But he didn't destroy them directly, considering that even in the Eastern Wilderness, they would still be regarded as having good quality.

Besides those three, the remaining eighteen were all products of his mature skills.

The poison in all of them was controlled within 1%, and there were even two pills that were nearly poison-free, meeting the standards even within the Immortal Gate.

Chen Mobai himself selected the nine of the highest quality and placed the other nine in a box, preparing to give them to his disciple Zhuo Ming in the future.

Speaking of which, Zhuo Ming had been fortunate in recent years, opening up canals in Rock Country and had found three strands of Qi of Creation.

Although Chen Mobai was disinclined to move, upon hearing this news, he still personally went to the Gao Huang Plateau, assisting Zhuo Ming with the All-things Altruistic Cauldron to extract them.

It turned out that Chen Mobai's guess was correct.

When refining the fourth strand of Qi of Creation, the effect on enhancing his Earth Spirit Root had already reached its peak.

Zhuo Ming, with the aid of Chen Mobai, refined these three strands but could not increase even 1 point of her Earth Spirit Root.

When Chen Mobai refined the fourth strand, his Earth Spirit Root only increased by 2 points, which was a meager gain at best.

With the change in his Spirit Root, he naturally didn't forget to visit the Divine Tree Secret Realm.

This time, he obtained a Grand Water Attribute Spell called Water Escape, which once mastered, would allow one to travel freely in and out of any place with water.

But Chen Mobai was unable to cultivate it and could only seal it away, to see if there would be a chance in the future to pass it on to a disciple with a Water Spiritual Body.

After the Qi of Creation proved no longer effective for his Earth Spirit Root, Chen Mobai didn't ask for more from Zhuo Ming, allowing her to refine the rest.

Looking at the nine finest Earth Veins Elixirs in his hand, Chen Mobai took one and consumed it.

Half a day later, he looked at the Spirit-Testing Instruments in his palm.

Earth Spirit Root 45.

This number caused the corners of his mouth to turn upward unconsciously.

It was probably because he had made progress in the first layer of the Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun Diagram, benefiting from its auspicious powers; he directly added a maximum of 5 points to his Earth Spirit Root, off to a flying start.

Chen Mobai immediately went to the Divine Tree Secret Realm and obtained another Grand Spell.

This time it was the Earth Escape Technique, which could be used by Zhuo Ming.

After coming out, he was about to consume another Earth Veins Elixir.

But he felt a message from his Longevity Dao Body.

The poison had already accumulated quite a bit, and if he consumed another elixir now, he might not be able to neutralize it in time, which could cause permanent damage to his body.

This was mainly because the Blood Spirit Pill he had taken earlier contained a bit too much poison.

Although the Flame Lighting Technique could neutralize the poison, after his breakthrough, the primary purpose of the Flame Lighting Technique was to purify Pure Yang Spiritual Power, which would probably take a year or two.

And he still needed to take the Golden Crow Pill every year, which would leave the Flame Lighting Technique somewhat overwhelmed.

This spell from the Pure Yang Scroll, mainly for purifying and tempering Essence, Qi, and Spirit, was being used by Chen Mobai to neutralize poison, which was an underutilization of its capabilities.

Fortunately, he had Green Charm Spiritual Tea obtained from Back to Sky Valley; otherwise, Chen Mobai would not dare to consume elixirs so recklessly.

However, this Green Charm Spiritual Tea was only of Rank-3 quality. Once Chen Mobai started taking Rank-4 elixirs in the future, the tea's effectiveness in neutralizing poison would be minimal.

If he had to rely solely on the Flame Lighting Technique then, Chen Mobai would have to be much more cautious about consuming elixirs.

But there was a solution to this as well.

The Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun Diagram had a total of seven layers. Apart from the first layer, “Phoenix Perched on Chinese Parasol Tree,” which laid the foundation, the remaining six layers were separately known as: Quality of Food, Drink has Ceremony, Heavenly Blessing, Response Earth Spirit, Law of the Five Tones, and Nine Virtues Introspection!

Among these, the second layer “Quality of Food,” once mastered, would bestow yet another innate talent of the Phoenix.

Chapter 1197: The Return of an Old Friend_2

The concept of “Quality of Food” refers to ingesting and refining only substances that are beneficial to oneself.

That is to say, when consuming elixirs tainted with elixir-poison, one would only refine the medicinal effects and expel the toxin with their breath.

Besides elixirs, this also applies to various types of Spiritual Rice and Meat, and so on, which, though cultivated using nature’s spiritual energy, contain some impurities and sediment to a greater or lesser extent.

Over time, as these impurities accumulate, they could erupt as one ages, affecting a cultivator’s body and lifespan, among other things.

But with the enhancement of “Quality of Food,” there’s no need to worry about such issues anymore. Chen Mobai, even if he consumed highly toxic substances, would only absorb the beneficial components and expel the toxins.

To describe this talent in another word, it would be “Immune to All Poisons!”

However, the cultivation of the Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun Diagram is indeed slow. Even with the help of the Biyu Wutong, although Chen Mobai’s speed is much faster than that of ordinary people, it is

feared that he would need to reach the Jindan Sixth Layer to cultivate “Quality of Food” and become immune to all poisons!

Chen Mobai is even considering whether or not to use the Devour God Technique of the Path of Heaven to quickly cultivate the Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun Diagram!

After all, in the Eastern Wilderness, he possesses the Fourth-Rank Everlife Wood, which provides him with an unparalleled condition to practice this Forbidden Technique.

But upon further consideration, he feels it’s better not to take this risk.

If his Practice Forbidden Technique were to be exposed within the Immortal Gate, the image he has built up over many years would collapse. People would think that his achievements were only due to the reliance on Forbidden Techniques.

It’s better to wait until there’s really no other way to succeed before considering it.

Chen Mobai gave himself a bottom line.

Half a month later.

Having stabilized his realm, Chen Mobai went down the mountain to visit Yan Bingxuan at the Mysterious Frost Company.

This company has now become somewhat famous within the Immortal Gate.

Because Chen Mobai invested all the Spirit Stones from the Void Blind Box he opened into Mysterious Frost Company.

Thirty intermediate-grade Spirit Stones, plus three hundred and twenty-seven lower-grade Spirit Stones.

These just in their most basic value, amount to 33,327,000 Good Deed Points, which could buy the company outright if that were converted into investment.

Moreover, Spirit Stones are a scarce resource in the Immortal Gate.

Ren Xuewei, with the backing of the Jumang Academy, was only able to secure five intermediate-grade Spirit Stones for her Evil Qi Energy Company located in the Linwu Cave Haven.

Yan Bingxuan transformed all these Spirit Stones into the rechargeable type.

Then she placed another order with Chai Lun to make more puppets. Now with enough Spirit Stones, her company's scale and amount of Five Elements Essence concentration could surge by six or seven times.

In addition to equipment upgrades, in recent years, the Yuanqi courses offered by the three institutes of Dan Zhu, Chixia, and Qingsang, though lacking top-notch talents, have educated a group of useful workers.

Yan Bingxuan, the nominal head of the Yuanqi department of these three institutes, guided these students who often interned at Mysterious Frost Company during their studies, applying what they learned to practice.

In return, she compensated the students with Good Deed Points at market rates without shortchanging them.

With sufficient equipment and manpower, Mysterious Frost Company's profit surged fivefold last year, reaching 5 million Good Deed Points.

It vaulted to becoming the second-largest taxpayer in Red Sandstone City, right after the Puppet Factory.

In third place was Chen Mobai's Flying Talisman Factory, with an annual profit of over 2 million Good Deed Points.

The main reason for this is the scarcity of technical talent.

While his sister Wang Xinying, a Foundation Establishment Practitioner, is in charge, her talent in talismans is mediocre, and she has not yet acquired the Third-Rank Talisman Maker title.

Furthermore, with the passage of time, the core technical staff of Flying Talisman Factory who were over eighty years old all retired, leading to a gap in skilled personnel.

If not for Chen Mobai's influence, and the hiring of some outstanding Talisman graduates from the three institutes, alongside the introduction of three different Rank-2 Talisman Papers and Talisman Inks into the market, the Flying Talisman Factory might have already begun to incur losses.

Over the years, the only noteworthy accomplishment of Flying Talisman Factory has been its collaboration with the Yan family to restore the Third-Rank Azure Sky Talisman Paper and Flying Rainbow Ink Talisman.

But even these products are only deemed of decent quality, only becoming hotly coveted items within the Immortal Gate once they're crafted into the Heaven Heart Sword Talisman.

However, as the Heaven Heart Sword Talisman is a talisman without a specific grade, its difficulty is no less than that of a Third Rank Superior Grade talisman. Previously, an ancestor of the Yan family and another Fourth-Rank Talisman Master had to work together to successfully draw it.

Chen Mobai felt that even if he learned how to draw it using the Enlightenment Tea, it would still be difficult to succeed without assistance, so he did not waste the precious leaves.

Just as he was thinking this, two old friends who he hadn't expected paid him a visit.

"Greetings, Councilor Chen!"

A man and a woman approached Chen Mobai, who was seated under the Biyu Wutong tree on Danxia Mountain, and immediately came over to greet him.

The man was tall and burly with thick eyebrows and big eyes, and the woman had a graceful appearance and a beautiful figure. Both were Chen Mobai's good friends from his days at the Cinnabarite Institute.

Luan Jingsheng and Chansi.

"It's been more than thirty years since we last met. Seeing you both return from Foundation Establishment fills me with joy."

Chen Mobai's face lit up with unmistakable happiness upon seeing the two who had returned from military service, and he joyfully brought out a jar of fine wine after a long time.

"I originally planned to continue serving in the Military Department to see if I could obtain Gold Core Spiritual Material, but after several assessments, I was eliminated,"

Luan Jingsheng spoke of his regrets. He had failed at Foundation Establishment during his time at the Cinnabarite Institute and chose to serve in the military. Unexpectedly, he was fortunate to take a transformative step amidst the intense crucible of the Military Department.

The same was true for Chansi.

Unfortunately, the competition within the Military Department was even more fierce and brutal than within the Immortal Gate. After staying for over twenty years and feeling that there was no hope left, they both chose to retire.

"What are your plans next? Are you going to pursue the opportunity to create a Five Elements Golden Core Pill in the big cities, or are you thinking of taking a civil service exam?"

Chen Mobai asked. Those who retire from the Military Department gain certain advantages when taking civil service exams, and their service time is also counted as work experience, encouraging Cultivators from the Immortal Gates to serve in the military.

“I will send my resume to the four major talisman factories and see if I can join one, like Wu Shangru. Meanwhile, I will also prepare for the civil service exam,”

Luan Jingsheng shared his plans. He was only in his sixties and believed that as long as he kept progressing in his cultivation, he might have a chance to attempt Core Formation.

So he wasn't giving up just yet.

Upon hearing this, Chansi shook her head and said, “I plan to find a job to support myself and pursue cultivation while preparing for the civil service exam. I don't want to struggle in the big cities.”

“If that's the case, how about joining my Flying Talisman Factory?”

Chen Mobai immediately extended an invitation after hearing this.

With Chansi's skills in talisman-making at Rank-2 and her foundation in cultivation, her joining would undoubtedly be a huge boost to the Flying Talisman Factory.

“How could I refuse if Councilor Chen personally extends the invitation?”

After hearing this, Chansi smiled slightly and agreed without hesitation.

“It's a pity Luan is heading elsewhere. If I had both of you join, I could start a new production line for Rank-3 talisman papers and inks, making the Flying Talisman Factory the biggest and strongest,”

Luan Jingsheng hesitated upon hearing this, but looking at the young man in front of him, who was even younger yet already at the Golden Core Fourth Layer, he felt a surge of enthusiasm and resolutely decided to try his luck in the big city.

Chen Mobai could only express his regret.

The three of them drank a large jar of wine that night, and Chen Mobai even invited Shen Juanxiu to join them. She, soon to be a grandmother, burst into tears when she saw her friend Chansi, whom she hadn't seen in over thirty years.

Once the wine had worn off, Luan Jingsheng bid his farewell and prepared to leave.

Chen Mobai personally escorted him down the mountain.

Up on the mountain!

Cradling her inebriated best friend, Chansi, who, after Chen Mobai had left, suddenly opened her eyes that showed not a trace of drunkenness. She gently laid Shen Juanxiu down and walked over to the Biyu Wutong tree.

“Who would have thought I’d have the day to come back!”

Chansi’s gaze suddenly turned very strange. She reached out to touch the bark of the Spirit Plant, speaking in an indifferent tone, murmuring to herself.

And the moment her hands made contact, the Biyu Wutong tree, which had always been tranquil, began to tremble ever so slightly.

Chapter 1198: Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead As time passed, Chen Mobai noticed that people he knew were gradually aging and dwindling.

Luan Jingsheng and Chansi’s return from Foundation Establishment brought him a long-missed joy.

At least, after they had established their foundations, for the nearly two hundred years to come, whenever Chen Mobai thought of them, he would have two more friends with whom he could converse.

Although the Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun Diagram was still at the first level, Chen Mobai truly felt that the auspicious Qi blessing him seemed richer than before.

Right after the return of his two old friends, another piece of good news arrived.

Elder Yuanxu called him to say that his Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead was ready, asking whether he wanted it delivered, or if he would rather pick it up himself.

Even though logistics within the Immortal Gate were reliable, this Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead was too important to Chen Mobai, who thus decided to personally make the trip to Xixuan Dongtian.

He was also curious about how far the Daoist Academy had progressed in their research on the Legal Body Nascent Soul, and with a pass from Elder Yuanxu, he rushed there overnight.

“The cultivation principle of the Asura Dharma Aspect has essentially been completely researched; we now just need to find a substitute for the Soul Nourishing Wood.”

After receiving the Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead from Elder Yuanxu, Chen Mobai asked about the progress, and the latter, without any concealment, directly informed him about the current stage of research.

One can only say that a brain nearly at Divinity Transformation makes light work of understanding the Legal Body Nascent Soul.

“There are so many with Golden Core Perfection in the Immortal Gate who must be very interested in this experiment,” Chen Mobai asked another sensitive question.

Elder Yuanxu gave him a glance but continued with his work, simulating various spirit plants, trees, minerals, and jades of the Immortal Gate, to see which could replace the Soul Nourishing Wood.

“Although the Asura Dharma Aspect can also achieve ‘Nascent Soul Formation’, my research has found that after such a breakthrough, all potential is lost, leaving no possibility of advancement.”

“Therefore, within the Immortal Gate, only those who truly have no hope of ‘Nascent Soul Formation’ would crave this method and the Return to the Sun Spirit Water.”

“Your talent is so remarkable, a rarity in the world, you must not waste your future,” Elder Yuanxu, considering Chen Mobai part of the Patching Heaven Daoist Academy, rarely shared a few more words, fearing that with his peerless talent, Chen Mobai might actually cultivate the Asura Dharma Aspect using the Return to the Sun Spirit Water.

“Thank you for the guidance, Dean,” Chen Mobai naturally understood this; after all, in the Tianhe Realm, though rare, there were quite a few records about the Legal Body Nascent Soul.

Seeing Elder Yuanxu busy with research, Chen Mobai decided not to disturb him anymore.

He immediately took the Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead and returned to Red Sandstone City.

Having upgraded his gear, Chen Mobai excitedly headed to the Divine Tree Secret Realm.

With his cautious nature, he used a Formless Puppet once again to enter the longevity trial.

The Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead proved its worth, as Chen Mobai then enhanced all the spells that could evoke a reaction from the Great Dao Tree to the Rank-4 level.

Among them, he was most satisfied with the advancement of the Yi Wood Divine Thunder to “Illusory Thunder.”

If he had a Rank-4 alchemist to help, he could even condense the “Water of Ten Thousand Transformations.”

Besides this technique, the Kindwood Mantra, Jia Wood Jue, One-Leaf Blindness, External Incarnation, Echoes in the Void, and others, were all also elevated to Rank-4.

Of course, whilst the External Incarnation had also been empowered to understand the Heavenly Star Realm, unleashing its Rank-4 potential required a vast amount of Five Elements Essence to achieve the Heavenly Viscus, and Seventy-Two Earth Sha Qi to refine various apertures.

Chen Mobai planned to try passing down the method of condensing the essence of the Five Elements in the Divine Wood Sect after Zhou Shengqing achieved the Legal Body Nascent Soul.

Even if he hadn't understood the Primordial Dao Fruit by then, he could still enhance the External Incarnation's Heavenly Viscus Realm with the strength of the entire Divine Wood Sect Monks.

Furthermore, the essence of the Five Elements can be accumulated indefinitely, and even artificially synthesized Earthly Fiendish Qi will need these in the future.

The sooner he passed it down, the faster Chen Mobai's External Incarnation would reach completeness.

And besides, what if he suddenly understood the Primordial Dao Fruit?

After upgrading all his techniques to Rank-4, Chen Mobai had a sudden whim: could the Great Dao Tree empower one to Rank-5?

The idea excited him.

Rank-5 equated to a level on par with Divinity Transformation!

If he had a Rank-5 technique, he reckoned even a Nascent Soul wouldn't dare face its sharpness head-on.

But after careful consideration, Chen Mobai still refrained from acting on it.

Because the Great Dao Tree itself was only at the Fourth Stage Pinnacle, he thought it probably couldn't empower one to comprehend Rank-5 techniques.

Even if it were possible, he worried that his Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead couldn't withstand the pressure of a Rank-5 empowerment.

Moreover, as someone still in the Golden Core Realm, he feared his heart and mind couldn't bear being empowered with a Rank-5 technique.

After weighing the considerations, Chen Mobai prudently abandoned this bold notion that had suddenly emerged.

Steps must be taken one at a time; things at Rank-5 could wait until after "Nascent Soul Formation."

After leaving the Great Dao Tree, Chen Mobai went to check on the puppet factory he had set up in the Divine Tree Secret Realm.

Developing the resources of this secret realm had been an idea of his for a long time.

Initially, his plan was to have every Foundation Establishment Practitioner in the Sect touch the Longevity Sect's three Divine Trees to see if they could speedily extract all hidden heavenly and earthly treasures and Cultivation Technique Manuals, enhancing the Sect's strength.

Chapter 1199: Rank-4 Heavenly Calculation Bead_2

But after thinking it over carefully, as long as Zhou Shengqing completed his Nascent Soul Formation, the Divine Wood Sect could dominate the Eastern Wilderness, which essentially meant there would be no significant external pressures, so there was no need to rush things. Long-term development would be better.

However, he had discussed with Fu Zongjue and Zhou Shengqing that in the future, if a cultivator in the sect made a great contribution, they could be rewarded with the opportunity to interact with the three Divine Trees of the Longevity Sect as a reward for their merit.

Regarding this matter, Chen Mobai had conducted a questionnaire survey and found that the members of the Divine Wood Sect were very enthusiastic about it, with some even suggesting they would be willing to exchange sect contributions for this opportunity.

After all, more than two-thirds of the Foundation Establishment practitioners in the Divine Wood Sect had not succeeded with just one Foundation Building Pill, which indicated that they have the chance to gain good things from within the three Divine Trees.

Moreover, there were rumors in the Divine Wood Sect that Sect Leader Chen had progressed so rapidly not only because of his exceptional talent but also because he obtained the Longevity Sect's heritage in the secret realm of the three Divine Trees.

So after this rumor surfaced, many Foundation Establishment practitioners frequently visited the Spirit Treasure Pavilion to take on tasks, hoping to accumulate sect contributions. When the time came to implement this benefit, they could be the first to enjoy it.

However, this matter involved various aspects, so Chen Mobai held off on it, planning to wait until the unification of the Eastern Wilderness and the revival of the abandoned projects before using a large number of tasks to get the sect's cultivators involved.

Last year, when he started the puppet factory, he needed a group of Sect Disciples from the Puppet Division to come over, so he had Yi Shaoqing from the Formation Division set up a Large Formation around the locations of the Great Dao Tree, Talent Tree, and Magic Treasure Tree to prevent them from entering and encountering danger.

Of course, the main reason was that Chen Mobai often anchored these three locations, using the Turtle Treasure to travel between two realms. Sealing off these areas could eliminate the risk of being discovered.

Beyond these three locations in the Divine Tree Secret Realm lay an expansive forest.

It was the source of materials for the production of talisman paper in the puppet factory.

Besides the heavily protected Golden Sun Spirit Tree and Qingyang Spirit Tree, Li Yixian had almost finished cutting down the Red-sun Spirit Trees near the puppet factory this year.

When Chen Mobai visited, he saw that the originally bare area had expanded in size.

Considering the need for more Spirit Wood resources in the future, Chen Mobai also began to think about sustainable development.

He posted a tree-planting task in the Spirit Treasure Pavilion, allowing Disciples from the Spirit Plant Department to come in and replant seedlings in the cleared areas.

Seeing rows of fresh green seedlings, he nodded in satisfaction.

By his side was Sun Gaochang, the inspector of the Spirit Plant Department and one of Chen Mobai's friends.

Chen Mobai tended to trust his own people, so he entrusted Sun Gaochang with the task of planting the trees.

"Sect Leader, we have discovered a total of six Golden Sun Spirit Trees and seventy-six Qingyang Spirit Trees within this secret realm. However, since most of the Spirit Vein Aura here is concentrated around the Longevity Wood, it might be better to transplant them to the Eastern Wilderness for continued growth," Sun Gaochang reported.

This past year, Sun Gaochang and the Disciples of the Spirit Plant Department did more than just plant trees in the secret realm.

Their main task was to survey the Spirit Wood resources within the secret realm.

"Does Elder Sun mean to suggest transplanting them to Giant Tree Ridge?" Chen Mobai asked after hearing this, to which Sun Gaochang hesitated slightly but still shared his own opinion.

"Reporting to the Sect Leader, Giant Tree Ridge is already sustaining quite a few Golden Sun Spirit Trees and Qingyang Spirit Trees. Along with the nearly ten thousand mu of Spirit Fields planted with Spirit Rice over the years, the carrying capacity of the Spirit Vein is almost at its limit. I believe it would be better to transplant them to a different courtyard or to directly make them into Tree Seeds," explained Sun Gaochang.

Giant Tree Ridge, despite being one of the most superior Rank-4 Spirit Veins of the Eastern Wilderness, had been under the guidance of Zhuo Ming for the past twenty or thirty years, with all the unused and deserted Spiritual Lands turned into Spirit Fields, pushing the usage of the Spirit Vein to its limit.

As the supervisor of the Spirit Plant Department, Sun Gaochang was well aware of this situation.

In Giant Tree Ridge, aside from the Longevity Wood, there were thirty-five Golden Sun Spirit Trees and four hundred ninety-eight Qingyang Spirit Trees, all of which required the support of Rank-2 and Rank-3 Spirit Veins. They also formed the foundation of the Sect's Array of Ten Thousand Woods, so the supply of Spirit Vein Qi had to be sufficient.

However, due to the large-scale conversion of the scattered Spirit Veins into Spirit Fields over the years, some locations with Spirit Trees were beginning to lack Spiritual Energy.

But this was an order from Chen Mobai, the Sect Leader, and the Spirit Rice planted by the sect was distributed as a benefit to all Sect Members. Any deficiency would also cause dissatisfaction among his own department's Disciples. Therefore, although the Three Halls and Twelve Divisions discovered this issue, they dared not hinder it.

They dare not mention this matter to Chen Mobai, so they could only consult with Yue Zutao and subsequently decided to reduce the scale of the medicinal fields in Giant Tree Ridge, fallback on cultivation and return the land to forest to ensure the supply of spiritual energy for all the Spirit Trees.

Sun Gaochang knew that if the Golden Sun Spirit Tree and the Qingyang Spirit Tree in the Divine Tree Secret Realm were transplanted out, Giant Tree Ridge would have to redesign some Rank-3 and Rank-2 Spirit Veins. In that case, he estimated that the remaining medicinal fields would be almost completely gone, so he tactfully voiced his admonition.

Chen Mobai was actually unaware of these matters. After hearing about it, he was very surprised and began to inquire further.

...

"Why didn't you tell me about this earlier?"

In Shenmu Hall, Chen Mobai spoke with a displeased expression to Yue Zutao.

Indeed, it was his command to plant Spirit Rice, intended to enhance the Qi and physical conditions of the entire Divine Wood Sect's disciples, but because he had been busy cultivating, he hadn't paid much attention to this matter afterward.

Zhuo Ming was a straightforward disciple. Following Chen Mobai's orders, for twenty or thirty years after her Foundation Establishment, she tirelessly turned the entire ten thousand mu of idle barren land in Giant Tree Ridge into Spirit Fields for cultivating Spirit Rice.

She was Chen Mobai's disciple and was acting on Chen Mobai's command, so who would dare to stop her?

After Yue Zutao offered a wry smile and admitted his fault, Chen Mobai's expression eased slightly, and he began to reflect on himself, "I can't entirely blame you for this, I, as the Sect Leader, also bear responsibility..."

As he spoke, he had the people from the Spirit Vein Division bring over the model map of the entire Giant Tree Ridge. Then, looking over the Spirit Fields scattered across Giant Tree Ridge, he marked various fragmented terraced fields.

"These areas, after this batch of Spirit Rice is harvested, we won't sow them again..."

If the Eastern Desolation Plateau were to be entirely developed, the Spirit Fields of Giant Tree Ridge would actually become redundant. Therefore, Chen Mobai began to resolutely make new plans for Giant Tree Ridge.

In the future, only Rank-2 Spirit Rice, such as Jade Bamboo Spirit Rice, which was of high quality and required detailed cultivation, would be planted here.

The rest of the various Spirit Rices would be gradually transferred to the families under his command or to the Eastern Desolation Plateau.

After completing this matter, Chen Mobai visited Zhou Shengqing's Longevity Wood Dojo.

He spoke with the Purple Sun Puppet, Fu Zongjue, who was standing guard outside and learned that no unexpected events had occurred.

It was just the normal fluctuations of spiritual energy. It was at the end of last year that Zhou Shengqing sent a message saying he needed Spirit Stones, so Fu Zongjue sent all two thousand of his accumulated top-grade Spirit Stones into the dojo.

That was a good thing, signifying that Zhou Shengqing was condensing his Nascent Soul and needed a vast amount of spiritual energy to help transform the Rank-5 Soul Nourishing Wood.

To this, Chen Mobai was naturally overjoyed.

Unable to contain his curiosity, he used his fourth rank Echoes in the Void to listen to the fluctuations inside. Sure enough, a terrifying conglomerate of energy was condensing within.

If all went smoothly, in another year and a half, Zhou Shengqing would be able to successfully complete Nascent Soul Formation and leave seclusion.

Feeling pleased, Chen Mobai returned to Danxia Mountain.

He took out a piece of top-grade Spirit Stone, as per his custom after finishing cultivation, brewed a pot of Green Charm Spiritual Tea to drink, and then slowly purified his own Pure Yang Spiritual Power using the Flame Lighting Technique.

This was a slow and steady effort that did not require too much concentration but did demand a considerable amount of time.

As Chen Mobai multitasked, he noticed the fourth stage pinnacle Biyu Wutong tree beside him, and an idea struck him, so he used the Echoes in the Void technique.

The Longevity Sect's grand spell at the fourth stage allowed him to easily listen to the fluctuations of the Spirit Plant.

But before long, his brows furrowed.

Chapter 1200: Blooming Moment Through the Echoes in the Void, Chen Mobai heard the inner joy of the Biyu Wutong Tree.

It was a very pure, joyous emotion, similar to his own, of meeting an old friend.

But Chen Mobai found this quite peculiar.

The Biyu Wutong also had friends?

For thousands of years, it had been arranging the Fire Vein and suppressing spiritual energy on Danxia Mountain, and only those who cultivated at the mountain peak could come into contact with it.

Chen Mobai didn't need to check his phone to recall who had occupied the mountain peak.

Prior to him was Shi Qing, and before that, the previous headmaster of Red Dawn Institution, Xiao Boxiu, who had already retired to enjoy his later years.

Moreover, as a Golden Core Master, if Xiao Boxiu were to come to Red Sandstone City, he would surely notify Chen Mobai.

The Kaiyuan Hall would also be informed.

The cultivators who had occupied the peak of Danxia Mountain before Xiao Boxiu didn't need further consideration, as they had all passed away.

So, after thinking back and forth, Chen Mobai quickly locked onto a target...

The former Master of Flower Bloom Courtyard, whom he once executed.

After all, from Lan Haitian, he learned that she had disbanded her mortal form, making it possible for her to return.

However, after Chen Mobai took over the Top of Danxia Mountain, even if the former Master of Flower Bloom Courtyard had recovered to her peak state, it would be impossible for her to infiltrate undetected and communicate with the Biyu Wutong.

Recently, only two people had come here.

Luan Jingsheng and Chansi!

In the midst of thought, Chen Mobai considered the Devour God Technique.

Since both of them were born before Shi Qing was slain, it wasn't a reincarnation through disbanding the mortal form, but more likely the pre-emptive planting of a God Seed using the Devour God Technique.

So, which of them might be the one who possessed Master Huakai's body?

With a thought, Chen Mobai already had his phone out, planning to call Lan Haitian to handle the matter.

But then he remembered that Chansi was currently working at his Flying Rainbow Ink Talisman factory, and all her family and close ones were around her.

Even though he wasn't certain if Chansi was the person Shi Qing had possessed, to be cautious, he decided to detain her first.

However, he couldn't spook her and needed to think of an excuse to lure her up the mountain to face her fate.

As for Luan Jingsheng, he had recently received notification of employment at a large factory and had left Red Sandstone City. Chen Mobai planned to detain Chansi first, then notify Lan Haitian to use the power of the Immortal Gate to deal with him.

After spending a long time in the Eastern Wilderness, Chen Mobai's first instinct in such matters was to err on the side of caution, even if it meant to wrongly kill rather than let go.

The Flying Rainbow Ink Talisman Factory!

Chansi, having just joined the factory half a month ago, demonstrated excellent workmanship. Under her command, the process for making Rank-2 Talisman Paper was improved, boosting efficiency by thirty percent.

Tang Panchui, the foreperson, couldn't praise her enough and, knowing she was alone, often invited her over for meals.

Today, as Chansi was directing the workshop process, she suddenly received a call from Chen Mobai.

Chen Mobai mentioned he had some free time and intended to try drawing the Heavenly Heart Sword Talisman, asking Chansi to bring up the Azure Sky Talisman Paper and Flying Rainbow Ink from the factory's stock to the mountain.

"This should have been my task."

Wang Xinying watched Chansi depart with the items, her lips pouting unhappily.

Previously, whenever Chen Mobai required Talisman Paper and Ink, it was she who delivered them to the mountain.

But she was unaware that this trip was more than just a delivery.

“Councilor Chen, here is the Talisman Paper and Ink you requested.”

Chen Mobai looked at the charming Chansi before him, uncertain whether she was indeed Shi Qing.

But after decades of decisive actions in the Eastern Wilderness, he had long fostered a resolute temperament.

“Thank you for making the trip.”

Chen Mobai said with a smile, taking the items from her hands.

As Chansi was about to respond with a polite dismissal of the effort, a five-colored brilliance shot out from the sleeve of the young man in front of her, coiling around her like a spirit snake, trapping her within its confines.

“Councilor Chen, what is this for? Even if you’re a Kaiyuan Hall Councilor, detaining a citizen of the Immortal Gate without reason is against the law. I can report you to the Department of Law Enforcement.”

Chansi’s eyes shone with intelligence, but soon her face displayed an expression of shock and anger, struggling to rise and vehemently protesting.

At this point, Chen Mobai also remembered that this was Immortal Gate territory, where, without evidence, even cultivators from the Department of Law Enforcement couldn’t lay hands on anyone; they could only monitor.

Accustomed to acting with impunity in exterminating sects in the Barren, he had become somewhat lawless.

This habit was bad and needed to be restrained.

While thinking this, Chen Mobai maintained a calm demeanor and attempted to intimidate Chansi, “Detaining a citizen of the Immortal Gate is indeed a crime, but capturing remnants of the Ascension Sect is an act of merit.”

“What are you talking about! I am a retired cultivator from the Military Department; without evidence, your slander will not go unpunished by the Hall of Orthodox Law!”

Chansi, with anger on her face, was not intimidated by Chen Mobai, a Kaiyuan Hall Councilor.

In the Immortal Gate, at least on the surface, equality was staunchly upheld.

“Whether it’s true or not, we’ll see when I notify Lan Haitian to come and take you. You can explain it to him yourself.”

The Sky-Mending Group in the Immortal Gate held a certain level of privilege in dealing with matters of the Ascension Sect.

Lan Haitian surely had methods to determine whether Chansi was indeed possessed by Shi Qing or had a God Seed planted within her.

As Chen Mobai spoke, he took out his phone, ready to dial.

“Wait!”

Chansi suddenly spoke up to stop him. The look of shock and anger vanished from her face, replaced by a frown as she coldly stared at the young man before her, with his pure and exquisite features.