

World 1361

Chapter 1361: Her Surname is 'Shi'? (7k)

"I'm here, what's up?"

Chen Mobai responded very naturally after hearing the voice on the phone.

"Uncle Chen, I've passed the public service examination and just received the notice of entry for a clerical position at the Yu Wood City Forestry Administration. Thinking that you will be my immediate superior in the future, I wanted to visit you tomorrow and also thank you for the care you showed me back at school."

The crisp voice of a young girl came through the phone, leaving Chen Mobai somewhat surprised.

Because cultivators have long lifespans, and with the effect of cultivation keeping them healthy, nearly everyone can live healthily until retirement.

Hence, government positions within the Immortal Gate are usually a case of one open slot for each individual, and it is difficult for successors to step in before a predecessor retires.

Those who manage to take over a position immediately upon someone's retirement are usually individuals with deep connections and backgrounds.

Some cultivators without connections, even if they pass the examination, could end up waiting decades for an assignment.

Hua Zijing, the former secretary of the student council at Dance Tool Dao Academy and an outstanding graduate, with the academy's support, only managed to land a post in some remote place, unable to choose freely.

Though Chen Mobai didn't handle affairs, as the highest-ranking leader of two cities, he had reviewed every government employee list; if he remembered correctly, no one was supposed to retire this year, right?

“That’s great news! Where are you now? If you’re in Yu Wood City, there’s no need to make a special trip. When I come over at the end of the year, I’ll treat you to a meal,” he said.

Chen Mobai spoke as he turned on his computer and logged onto the official website of the Yu Wood City government system. After logging into his account, he found the recent notification of public service personnel transfers:

A clerical staff member of the Forestry Administration, Tu Qiuqiu, who was conscientious and meticulous at work, was selected by the Forestry Administration of Wangwu Cave Heaven and transferred to the Imperial City for training in preparation for a future key role.

Due to Tu Qiuqiu’s transfer for training, Yu Wood City Forestry Administration was short-staffed and appointed Xiao Hei, an exceptional graduate from Dance Tool Dao Academy, to fill the vacancy, hereby notified.

This transfer notice came directly from the Forestry Administration of Wangwu Cave Heaven, no wonder Chen Mobai was not aware of it.

In theory, when the Imperial City directly transfers someone and then sends a replacement, the lower-level staff should notify him, the city’s highest leader. After all, for those within the official system of the Immortal Gate, such a move is quite subtle.

But because Chen Mobai was known in the Immortal Sect for his image of talent in Bitter Cultivation, he effectively delegated authority to the two city lords, and had repeatedly emphasized that matters which could be resolved at the lower levels should not bother him.

It was precisely this laissez-faire approach that had led to a small peak in development of the two cities during his term. Therefore, his annual performance review at Kaiyuan Hall was always excellent.

Even though the circumstances surrounding Xiao Hei’s transfer by Wangwu Cave Heaven were a bit delicate, Wen Ping thought that Chen Mobai, a Golden Core Master and councilor of Kaiyuan Hall, would not possibly have any mishaps on the official level, so she followed precedent and did not report it.

“There are no flights today that go directly to Yu Wood City, so I landed in Red Sandstone City and thought I’d pass by and pay a visit,” the girl said a bit playfully over the phone, which made Chen Mobai smile too. He then asked,

“With your background and status, wouldn’t it be better for you to stay in Wangwu Cave Heaven?”

After reading the official system notification about Xiao Hei being transferred, Chen Mobai knew that someone from the highest levels must have arranged this.

The officials at Yu Wood City Immortal Gate were speculating that Xiao Hei’s family had at least a ministerial-level background.

However, Chen Mobai was well aware that the girl’s family had connections that went all the way up to the heavens.

It must have been someone from the Five Peaks Immortal Mountains who had arranged this through the Upper Echelons of the Immortal Sect. At the very least, the arrangement was still within the rules, hence the pretext of a transfer.

Perhaps for other graduates of Dance Tool Dao Academy, landing a good public service position might be difficult, but for her, it probably came down to a matter of which department she wanted to join.

Which made Chen Mobai wonder why she would come to this place far from the Imperial City.

Certainly, it couldn’t just be because he was stationed here!

“That’s the situation. My mother is in Yu Wood City; her talent is average, without Foundation Establishment, so I want to accompany her through the second half of her life. After graduating from my studies in the Sea Territory, I started applying for civil service positions. Fortunately, this year there was a vacancy in the Forestry Administration, and I filled it,” the girl said frankly over the phone, not hiding the truth from Chen Mobai.

Hearing her words, Chen Mobai’s expression showed sudden understanding.

So it was to fulfill her filial duty!

That made sense!

“Your mother is also from Yu Wood City? Next time I visit, I’ll pay her a courtesy call as well.”

Saying this, Chen Mobai also remembered that Ancestor Baiguang was from the Yu family of Yu Wood City. Xiao Hei had been taken under the wing of the Five Peaks Immortal Mountains because of this connection.

However, Chen Mobai had only met Xiao Hei a few times and did not pry into these matters due to her association with Ancestor Baiguang.

Wait a minute...

Since she is from the Yu family, why does she have the surname “Shi”?

Suddenly, Chen Mobai realized this discrepancy, especially the last name, which reminded him of an embarrassing incident from his youth.

Chapter 1362: Her Surname is ‘Shi’? (7k)_2

She also happened to have the same surname.

Could it be...

“Alright, Uncle Chen, I will then wait for you at home in Yu Wood City at year’s end.”

At that moment, Xiao Hei’s voice came through the phone, sounding somewhat disappointed after being rejected twice by Chen Mobai, and she seemed quite dejected.

“Cough, cough, cough, what I mean is, it’s too late today, it’s not appropriate for a young lady to come over to my place this late, how about tomorrow morning?”

After considering the possibility, Chen Mobai suppressed the slight tremble in his voice, quickly changed the topic, and made amends for his previous refusals.

“Really!! Then Uncle Chen, send me your location, what time tomorrow morning, I will definitely be on time!”

On the other end of the phone, Xiao Hei’s mood instantly recovered, her voice full of vitality.

“Seven o’clock... no, whenever you find convenient. You must be tired from catching the flight tonight; rest well tonight, sleep until you naturally wake up, and when you want to come over, just give me a call.”

Chen Mobai’s attitude had completely changed, but Xiao Hei didn’t notice it; she declared herself still young and promised to be there at 7 AM sharp.

“Alright, rest well, have you booked your hotel for tonight? Do you need me to make arrangements?”

Unconsciously, Chen Mobai’s tone became very caring.

“Thank you, Uncle Chen, it’s already booked, you should rest early too.”

After saying goodbye, Xiao Hei on the other end hung up the phone.

Chen Mobai immediately sent the location of his house.

The girl quickly replied with a cute emoji saying “Received!”

Chen Mobai chatted with her for a couple more lines until she arrived at the hotel, then ended the conversation with some reluctance.

He looked up at the clock hanging on the wall!

It was twenty-three minutes past ten in the evening.

Should be in time!

Chen Mobai pulled up the phone number of Wen Ping, the City Lord of Yu Wood City, and called him.

Yu Wood City.

After the department dinner followed by some extra rounds of drinks with his small group, Wen Ping had just picked up his glass, preparing to toast with a capable subordinate, when he saw his mobile phone vibrating on the table.

He glanced at it and his eyes widened instantly; he almost spilled his wine.

As soon as he saw the caller ID, he picked it up speedily, asked everyone to be silent, then cast a soundproofing restriction and carefully answered the call.

After saying a couple words, he kept nodding continuously.

“Yes, yes, yes!”

“Okay, no problem!”

“Don’t worry, I’ve got this!”

...

At the table, the heads of other departments of Yu Wood City were somewhat astonished as they exchanged glances, unsure who the important figure was on the phone, though it had made Wen Ping lower his posture so significantly.

“Sorry everyone, something urgent came up. Let’s end after this drink today; I’ll host another meal for you all another day.”

Once the call ended, Wen Ping straightened his expression and addressed everyone below.

Although others were puzzled, some quick-witted ones had already guessed who the caller was, promptly finished their remaining drink, and got up to leave.

“Director Zhu, stay for a moment.”

The director of the Forestry Bureau, Zhu Shiyong, was just about to grab his bag and leave when he heard Wen Ping call out.

His face showed surprise, as he was quite on the fringe of this small group.

But since he was the only one with the surname Zhu there, he stopped getting up, set his bag back down, and sat down again.

Soon, only the two of them were left in the private room.

“Chen, the council member, just called. He wants to see the latest files of the clerk Xiao Hei, who was transferred to your Forestry Bureau.”

Wen Ping spoke gravely to Zhu Shiyong, the director of the Forestry Bureau. Hearing this, Zhu Shiyong initially thought it was an issue not reported higher up, which might have upset Chen Mobai, causing him to slap his thigh in frustration.

“I knew it; the Imperial City headquarters wouldn’t transfer someone over for no reason. Could it be they want to investigate our accounts?”

Wen Ping remained silent after hearing this.

Because Chen Mobai had controlled Yu Wood City for so long, this was the first time he had called him after ten o’clock at night, and it was to look into Xiao Hei, an ordinary clerk sent over after operations by the Imperial City headquarters.

Such an obvious signal also caused tremendous anxiety in his heart as the City Lord.

As one of the Blessed Earth Cities with the richest southern wood resources at Immortal Gate, the yearly revenue of the Forestry Bureau was the largest portion of the official finances.

Though restricted by various laws at Immortal Gate, it was quite easy for them to make some benefits discreetly.

Although these benefits were taken within the rules, if someone were really to delve into it, they wouldn’t have a good outcome.

“I’m not sure, you better prepare quickly. Councilman Chen said he’s rushing over from Red Sandstone City, should arrive in about two hours.”

Chen Mobai’s tone on the phone was quite urgent, so Wen Ping didn’t dare to ask more, just firmly remembered the instructions commanded.

Hearing this, Zhu Shiyong’s eyes widened in disbelief.

“This late? The councilman is coming personally?”

Wen Ping looked out the window into the completely dark sky, got up impatiently, and urged Zhu Shiyong to quickly prepare Xiao Hei’s files.

Chapter 1363: Is Her Surname “Shi”? (7k)_3

In the official system of the Immortal Gate, there are many resources that aren't archived online.

Chen Mobai couldn't find any information about Shi Xiao Hei, so he decided to personally go to Yu Wood City to investigate her files.

So after he finished the phone call, his figure flickered with a silvery glow within the room and vanished from the spot.

Since flying inside the city without permission was prohibited, Chen Mobai didn't want his overnight rush to Yu Wood City to be discovered, so he directly used the Underworld Array.

In the city, he began teleporting in succession, even noticed by some passersby. However, he left so swiftly that many only saw a flash of silver light on the road surfaces and roof tops, then something resembling a figure.

But as they tried to take a closer look or use Divine Sense, they found nothing.

Chen Mobai naturally didn't know that this incident was broadcasted by the Unsolved Mysteries radio of Red Sandstone City that night.

After he left the city gate, he was like a fish leaping over the dragon gate, directly harnessing the “Red Misty Cloud Silk”, and with the fastest speed, headed toward Yu Wood City.

Still, he was careful to stay hidden, gathering the Five-Colored Light of the “Red Misty Cloud Silk” into a black cloud.

Under the guise of night, even if someone looked up, they wouldn't notice someone flying in the sky.

In the office of Wen Ping in Yu Wood City.

After Chen Mobai entered, he saw that both had empty hands and couldn't help frowning slightly.

"Where are the files?"

Hearing his question, Wen Ping was somewhat embarrassed and let Zhu Shiyong explain.

"It's like this, Councilor Chen, although Shi Xiao Hei's position has been transferred to our Yu Wood City Forestry Administration, her file is still at the Imperial City Forestry Administration and hasn't been transferred over. Our subordinates don't dare to rush the superiors; usually, we wait until they remember to send it over, or the employee goes to urge them."

Zhu Shiyong's words made Chen Mobai's face slightly darken, but this was indeed the official way of doing things.

Chen Mobai said, "Then bring out the Yu family's files."

Upon hearing that, cold sweat instantly broke out on Wen Ping's forehead.

Though the Yu family in Yu Wood City had dispersed, one of their lines had produced a Huashen Ancestor, so to pull the Yu family's file, wouldn't that mean bringing out Ancestor Baiguang's file too?

Chen Mobai was the top leader of Yu Wood City, and of course, he could look into this, but the message revealed by this request made Wen Ping and Zhu Shiyong suddenly feel weak at the knees.

"Not the main Yu family, just the side branches that split off, mainly the branches that have changed their name. Bring them to me with utmost speed."

Seeing the ashen faces of Wen Ping and the others, Chen Mobai realized their concerns and immediately spoke to alleviate them.

Chen Mobai didn't want Shi Wanyu's existence to be exposed, so he didn't mention her name.

But combining what he knew about Xiao Hei's background and what he had heard from Shi Wanyu in his youth—that her hometown was also Yu Wood City—he pinpointed the possible location of her files.

“Yes, yes, yes, Councilor Chen, but it might take a few days because the number of people is just too vast.”

After listening, Wen Ping immediately wiped the sweat from her forehead, indicating she would arrange it immediately.

Chen Mobai looked at the time, with nearly six hours left until seven in the morning, leaving him three hours after accounting for his return to Red Sandstone City.

“Where is the archive? I'll search it myself!”

After hearing this, Wen Ping was even more relieved and quickly took Chen Mobai there.

“You two wait for me outside.”

After Chen Mobai entered the archive, he immediately sent Wen Ping and Zhu Shiyong out.

Although he was a Golden Core Master and his Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun Diagram had broken through to the second level, giving him Divine Consciousness Intensity far surpassing Foundation Establishment Practitioners, facing Yu family archives amassed over more than three thousand years, he still found it somewhat challenging.

Luckily, he could now enter the state of the Guidance Book at any time.

In this state, he was like a ruthless calculating machine, starting from the origin of the family tree, and he quickly found Shi Wanyu's files.

One hour later, Chen Mobai walked out of the archive.

“Shi Xiao Hei will report here tomorrow. She has the second greatest talent among the graduates from the Dance Tool Dao Academy after me. Since she has been assigned to Yu Wood City, the academy has instructed me to take good care of her. In the future, you two, as her superiors, do not let me lose face in the academy.”

After Chen Mobai finished speaking, Wen Ping and Zhu Shiyong immediately nodded repeatedly.

They assured that in the Yu Wood City Forestry Administration, colleagues were like one big, loving family. They would take care of her like a daughter, ensuring that she would never be wronged.

Chen Mobai nodded upon hearing this and instantly turned into a flash of silver light, vanishing from the spot.

This scene left Wen Ping and Zhu Shiyong with widened eyes in shock.

“Is this... Void Walking?”

Although the two were only at the Foundation Establishment level, being part of the Immortal Gate system, they had heard of this legendary technique that only Nascent Soul Cultivators were said to master.

Seeing Chen Mobai teleport away just like that felt exactly like the Void Walk described in legends.

They hadn't expected Councilor Chen, who was at the Golden Core Realm, to have already mastered this skill!

Realizing this, their admiration for Chen Mobai's cultivation talent grew.

Truly a man of Qualification of Deification.

“Today's matters must not be leaked in the slightest.”

Chapter 1364: Does She Have the Surname "Shi"? (7k)_4

Both of them entered the archive to inspect it and found no signs of disturbance. As they were leaving, Wen Ping suddenly made a solemn statement to Zhu Shiyong.

"City Lord, rest assured, I understand the gravity of the situation. If this gets leaked, we two small characters will definitely be the first to be dealt with."

Zhu Shiyong smiled bitterly and nodded. People within the Immortal Gate system knew that sometimes matters that one should not delve into could be truly terrifying.

Moreover, Chen Mobai had now become a core figure of the Dance Tool Dao Academy, one of the Golden Core Masters with the greatest power and connections in the Immortal Gate, apart from those with Nascent Souls.

Even if it could possibly involve Ancestor Baiguang, that would be an internal affair of the Weapon Dancing Sect, something they were even less qualified to interfere with.

However, at this moment, the two of them were also deeply shocked.

They wondered about the origins of Teacher Xiao Hei, who was about to take up a new post. Why was Chen Mobai personally investigating the archives at night, and entrusting them to take good care of her?

Had it not been for their clear knowledge of Chen Mobai's cultivation of Pure Yang Scroll and his single status up to now, they might have suspected Teacher Xiao Hei was Chen Mobai's illegitimate daughter.

Qing Sang Academy!

Gu Mingxuan, who was meditating and resting at night, suddenly received a strange call.

He frowned and hung up directly.

But the call kept coming, and after Gu Mingxuan hung up twice, being utterly annoyed, he was about to block the number.

“I am Chen Mobai. I need to speak with you, please return my call.”

Out of the blue, the strange number sent a message.

Upon seeing this, Gu Mingxuan’s pupils shrank suddenly.

He held his phone, his face alternating between shades, but remembering Chen Mobai’s power and status within the Immortal Gate, he ultimately sighed and made the call.

Sometime later, there was a knock on the door. Gu Mingxuan, who had thrown on an overcoat, opened the door.

The one at the door was none other than Chen Mobai.

“Sorry to disturb you at this hour of the night,” apologized Chen Mobai as he stepped into the room. After entering, he immediately set up a soundproof restriction.

Gu Mingxuan’s number had been found by Chen Mobai on the internal campus network of Qing Sang Academy.

As one of the academy’s teachers, everyone’s contact information was listed there.

Chen Mobai had found Shi Wanyu’s archival information, but it dated back to over forty years ago when she graduated to return to her hometown, documentation sent over from the Starlight Institute that had never been updated since.

Chen Mobai went to the address listed and found it long abandoned and empty.

He did not dare to use official means to investigate, and just as he was about to give up and return to Red Sandstone City to meet Teacher Xiao Hei, who was supposed to visit in the morning, he suddenly remembered Gu Mingxuan.

The first time he met Shi Wanyu, he had been present as well.

And because of that, he knew both were from Yu Wood City.

Since Gu Mingxuan was teaching at Qing Sang Academy, and Chen Mobai still held the position of Dean there, he easily found Gu Mingxuan's contact information.

"Dean, what brings you to me so late at night?" asked Gu Mingxuan, though he had already guessed why after Chen Mobai entered the room.

"Indeed, do you know where Shi Wanyu is living now?" Chen Mobai replied.

Just as expected!

Upon hearing Chen Mobai's question, Gu Mingxuan let out an internal sigh.

He hesitated for a moment, then provided an address.

"Thank you!" Chen Mobai had not expected to obtain it so easily and sincerely thanked Gu Mingxuan.

"After she graduated, she had a child out of wedlock and refused to reveal who the father was. Her parents disapproved, finding her an embarrassment, and her life has not been easy," Gu Mingxuan suddenly added just as Chen Mobai was about to leave.

Chen Mobai, who was turning to leave, suddenly stopped in his tracks.

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The next day.

Chen Xinglan was practicing health-preserving boxing in the living room early in the morning, a widely spread form of martial arts from the Immortal Gate, researched by the Imperial Medical Academy, best suited for activating all the muscles and joints in the body.

When Chen Mobai used to study, he would also practice it every morning on the playground, following the lead of the instructor.

In the kitchen, the already retired Tang Panchui was preparing breakfast, planning to make it a bit more lavish since Chen Mobai was at home today.

Ding dong!

Ding dong!

Just then, the sound of the doorbell rang.

“Old Chen, open the door!”

Tang Panchui thought it must be a neighbor or relative coming over for a visit, since many people, knowing Chen Mobai’s different status now, would find an excuse to show their faces when they knew he was home.

Even merely letting Chen Mobai know there was such a person was considered a big gain.

The sound of the door opening was heard, followed by a crisp young girl’s voice at the door.

“Grandpa Chen, hello, I’m Xiao Hei. I called Uncle Chen last night, and he told me to come here to find him.”

Hearing the young girl’s vibrant and energetic voice, Tang Panchui, for some reason, spontaneously wiped her hands with her scarf and stepped out of the kitchen.

She saw a young girl at the door, smiling and greeting Chen Xinglan.

The morning sun was not too harsh, the slightly soft rays of light illuminated the girl’s graceful and slender figure, bringing out her exquisite curves, and her waist-length, smooth black hair shone in the sunlight like a glossy lake surface, seemingly transparent.

For some reason, upon seeing the young girl, Tang Panchui felt an extraordinary sense of affinity.

“Are you Mobai’s friend? Come in and sit down, Old Chen, how can you let her stand at the door!”

Tang Panchui immediately invited Xiao Hei in, while the latter half of the sentence was a reproach to Chen Xinglan.

“Thank you, Grandma. I’m Shi Xiao Hei, who passed the exam this year and came to Yu Wood City’s Forestry Bureau to work as a clerk. Uncle Chen took great care of me at school, and now, since he is my immediate boss, I came over immediately to visit him after my appointment.”

Shi Xiao Hei spoke with a smile on her face, then set down a basket of fruit she’d been carrying on the living room table.

“You child, it’s enough that you came, why bring something with you?”

Tang Panchui saw the fruit and chided gently, to which Xiao Hei quickly responded that it was just a small token of her appreciation.

“Come, come, take a seat. Old Chen, go upstairs and call your son. Since an appointment has been made, why is he still in bed?”

Tang Panchui’s tone made Chen Xinglan give a wry smile as he went upstairs.

He knocked twice on Chen Mobai’s door, then called out a couple of times.

However, after waiting a bit, there was no response.

Chen Xinglan looked puzzled, preparing to go downstairs to call Chen Mobai when suddenly, the door opened.

“Eh?”

Chen Xinglan looked at Chen Mobai who was coming out, puzzled.

Because his cultivation level had broken through early, Chen Mobai had always maintained a youthful appearance. He usually dressed quite casually, but today he had specially combed a mature slicked-back hairstyle and was wearing a rare formal suit.

However, Chen Xinglan, upon reflection, realized that since Chen Mobai was a leader, it was proper for him to appear mature when meeting with his subordinates.

Yet he failed to notice that the Chen Mobai coming down the stairs, upon seeing the vibrant young girl in the living room, tensed up and seemed a bit nervous.

“Here I am.”

Chen Mobai greeted the girl sitting on the sofa as if naturally, and the girl immediately stood up to greet him.

“Uncle Chen, from now on I’ll be working under you. Please take good care of me!”

After hearing her, Chen Mobai nodded immediately, indicating that there was no problem.

“Though I don’t manage affairs, my words still carry weight. I already gave Wen Ping and Zhu Shiyong a heads up last night. No one will dare to give you a hard time.”

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Chapter 1365: Conversation Along the Way (7K)

Chen Mobai suppressed the indescribable emotions that surged inside him and, looking at the lively young girl smiling and squinting her eyes as she spoke to him, suddenly felt a deep sense of satisfaction.

“Uncle Chen, it’s about time for me to go, I need to catch the train, so I’ll leave now.”

About an hour later, the girl checked the time on her phone screen, and got up, ready to bid farewell.

Chen Mobai opened his mouth, wanting to ask her to stay, but couldn’t think of an excuse.

“How about having breakfast before you go?”

Just then, Tang Panchui, who was in the kitchen, heard the stir and came out. She had just finished preparing breakfast and immediately invited the girl over.

“This...”

Xiao Hei hesitated and was about to refuse when Chen Mobai spoke.

“Have something to eat before you go, it won’t delay you much, I’ll personally take you to the station.”

Although it felt a bit abrupt, since Chen Mobai, a Golden Core Master, had spoken, Xiao Hei could only nod her head and expressed her gratitude to Tang Panchui.

“Son, here are the car keys, but you haven’t driven in decades, maybe I should take you later.”

While the family of four was eating breakfast, Chen Xinglan spoke.

After hearing this, Chen Mobai was about to shake his head and refuse, but quickly remembered something and nodded.

Although his driver’s license had been unused for decades, with his current learning abilities, especially with his expertise in the Guidance Book, he could master driving to the highest level in the blink of an eye.

However, he remembered that he also had matters to attend to in Yu Wood City, so it would be convenient to go with Xiao Hei in the same car later.

It would be a good opportunity for Chen Xinglan to give them a ride.

“Grandma, we’ll be going now. Goodbye Uncle Chen, and thanks a lot, Grandpa Chen!”

After finishing breakfast, Xiao Hei very politely said goodbye to all three, wishing them well.

“Ah, I also have some matters to handle at Qing Sang Academy, which train are you taking?”

Chen Mobai’s question surprised the three people who were present.

Especially Chen Xinglan and Tang Panchui, who hadn’t seen Chen Mobai take initiative to deal with Qing Sang Academy’s affairs in recent years, as issues were usually resolved over the phone in just a few words.

“What’s the matter that requires the principal himself to go?”

Tang Panchui was worried that something serious had happened.

“Recently, Mysterious Frost Company has hit a bottleneck in its development. I’m planning to again expand the enrollment scale for the Yuanqi system because I’m afraid the staff won’t handle it seriously; I need to oversee it personally.”

Chen Mobai made up an excuse; the last time he interfered with the operation of Qing Sang Academy was to cultivate a reserve force for Yan Bingxuan’s company by adding the Yuanqi system into the academy’s curriculum.

Now, he could only use this excuse.

Mainly because he was completely clueless about the official affairs of Yu Wood City, and Xiao Hei, being a public servant, might detect any ulterior motives if he gave a bureaucratic excuse.

“It’s the xxxx, I think there were no compartments left when I previously booked.”

As they talked, Chen Xinglan had driven the car out from the garage. Xiao Hei was just about to handle her large suitcase and open the trunk, but Chen Mobai was already steps ahead.

“Thank you, Uncle Chen!”

Xiao Hei sat in the back seat, and upon seeing Chen Mobai place the luggage and seat himself in the passenger’s seat, she immediately expressed her gratitude.

“As expected, there are no private compartments left.”

Chen Mobai used his own phone to book tickets and found, as Xiao Hei had mentioned, there were none available.

“The train should have spare compartments; with your status, Uncle, the attendants should be able to prepare one for you.”

Xiao Hei suggested this, but Chen Mobai immediately shook his head, continuing to humble himself in front of her.

“I’ve always disliked luxury; I don’t want to trouble the attendants. Let’s just get a standing ticket and stand in the aisle for a while.”

Chen Mobai conveyed his image as a Golden Core Master and a Kaiyuan Hall Councilor, yet humble and loving towards the people.

“Then, why don’t I give my compartment seat to you, Uncle, and I’ll sit in the dining car? It won’t be for long.”

Chen Mobai couldn’t possibly accept this and shook his head again, showing that he wasn’t such a person.

“If you don’t mind, Uncle, you can join me in my compartment?”

Chen Mobai, who had been waiting for this invitation, suppressed the urge to nod immediately, pretended to consider thoughtfully for a moment, then reluctantly nodded.

“Traveling with this old man for a journey, I hope you don’t mind.”

“Not at all, Uncle, you look very young. Considering your realm, you’re just like a youth of seventeen or eighteen.”

Hearing this, Chen Mobai looked at his excessively young face in the rearview mirror. Even his mature hairstyle and outfit couldn’t mask his vibrant, youthful vigor.

“Hahahaha!”

He couldn't help but laugh out loud, a response he wouldn't have had if anyone else had said the same thing.

Soon, they arrived at the station.

After helping Xiao Hei with her large suitcase, Chen Mobai thought about how to properly provide her with a Storage Artifact.

“What is your Cultivation Level now? Have you tried to open a Domain?”

After saying goodbye to Chen Xinglan, Chen Mobai, with gentleman-like grace, pushed the luggage cart alongside Xiao Hei as they entered the security checkpoint, asking as they walked.

“I just broke through to the Eighth Layer of Foundation Establishment, but because I still need to cultivate the Technique for Enhancing Spiritual Roots, my progress has been delayed for a while. Regarding the Domain, I last opened it just seven years ago. I guess it might still take another ten to twenty years before I can open it again.”

Chapter 1366: A Conversation Along the Way (7K)_2

Chen Mobai's talent, that of a Pure Yin Body, ranked amongst the very highest spiritual bodies within the Immortal Gate. However, because her Spiritual Root was in conflict, her primary goal was to elevate her own Water Spirit Root. Therefore, although she had access to top-tier resources both at the Dance Tool Dao Academy and the Sea Territory, her Cultivation Progress was significantly hindered.

“After you achieve Foundation Establishment Completion, if you want to try opening the Golden Core Domain, I can attempt to contact a few Nascent Soul Superiors, they might just do me the favor.”

Chen Mobai pondered for a moment before making this suggestion.

Opening a Portal requires the time of a Nascent Soul Superior, so it's common practice to accumulate a large group of cultivators who have reached Foundation Establishment Completion or new Core Formation achievers before arrangements begin.

Upon hearing this, however, Xiao Hei, his apprentice, shook her head repeatedly.

“Let’s just go with the flow, and besides, I don’t feel I have any talent for the Space Path.”

Being a member of Wangxian Peak, she had been tested for various talents since she was young and knew very well that her affinity with the Power of the Void was not strong, making the possibility of opening a Domain at the Foundation Building Realm very slim.

“Talent is something that can be achieved through hard work and perseverance.”

Chen Mobai responded proudly after hearing her words.

“That’s something only Uncle could say.”

Xiao Hei playfully retorted after hearing his comment.

At this time, the two of them had already passed ticket inspection and boarded the carriage.

Since Chen Mobai had a standing-room-only ticket, his entrance into Xiao Hei’s compartment drew attention from a nearby attendant.

The attendant even came over to check, and upon seeing the name on Chen Mobai’s ticket, his pupils constricted. He took a closer look at the familiar face, albeit with a different hairstyle, and became noticeably anxious.

“Representative Chen, I will arrange...”

Chen Mobai quickly raised his hand to stop the attendant, indicating that he remembered he had something to do in Yu Wood City and did not need any special treatment.

“Yes, yes, if you need anything, just call me.”

With utmost politeness, the attendant escorted Chen Mobai and Xiao Hei into the compartment and even offered to carry their large suitcase, but Chen Mobai declined.

After entering the compartment, Chen Mobai, who was very familiar with its layout, settled his luggage and then sat down on the sofa by the window.

“Uncle Chen, let me make you a cup of tea.”

Xiao Hei immediately took the tea set from above and prepared to fetch water, but Chen Mobai stood up, indicating he would do it himself.

With a wave of his hand toward the table, a flash of silver light shimmered, and his usual tea set descended from the Domain.

Xiao Hei, witnessing this scene, was full of longing.

Opening the Golden Core Domain at the Foundation Building Realm was also one of the legends verifying Chen Mobai’s Qualification of Deification.

The water Chen Mobai used for tea was gathered by cultivators of the Five Elements Sect from a celestial lake atop a snowy mountain, inherently bringing a refreshing chill. Brewing this water to infuse the Snow Needle Immortal Bud was considered unparalleled.

Before long, the two were sitting opposite each other on the sofa by the window. Xiao Hei, smelling the freshly brewed Spiritual Tea, its fresh and elegant aroma, couldn’t help but close her eyes and indulge.

“This tea is really good!”

After taking a small sip, Xiao Hei immediately brightened up, feeling as though her Sea of Knowledge at the Purple Mansion had been cleansed and refreshed.

“This is a type of wild tea named Snow Needle Immortal Bud. I found it by chance deep in the Taixu Mountain Range close to my hometown. Regular consumption can enhance Divine Sense and clear the Purple Palace. If you like it, take this jar with you when we get off.”

Chen Mobai handed Xiao Hei a jar of tea leaves given to him by the Snow Peak Bai Family, but she repeatedly refused.

“This wild tea isn’t worth much. Consider it my thanks for letting me share the compartment...”

Chen Mobai persuaded her. After unifying the Five Elements Meridians, the Snow Peak Bai Family somehow found out he was collecting various tea trees across the Eastern Wilderness and immediately came to him, offering an ancient tea tree, a Rank-3 Snow Needle Immortal Bud, that had been in their family collection for a millennium.

Naturally, Chen Mobai wouldn’t accept. He wasn’t that kind of person!

But the Elder Bai Dingxian of the Bai family expressed a wish to exchange the ancient Snow Needle Immortal Bud tea tree for some Foundation Building Pills.

Since he used this excuse, Chen Mobai found it hard to refuse and agreed on the spot.

Zhuo Ming’s Mother Earth Cultivation had reached Perfection, and she could transform the land on Xiao Nanshan to suit the cultivation of Snow Needle Immortal Bud, a suitable cold soil of Snow Peak.

When the Snow Needle Immortal Bud was indeed transplanted, Bai Dingxian had many regrets.

In reality, by offering the Snow Needle Immortal Bud to Chen Mobai, he intended primarily to express a stance, especially during the time when the Five Elements Sect was collecting tea trees everywhere.

Since the Snow Needle Immortal Bud could only grow in his family’s environmental territory, showing Chen Mobai the attitude of the Snow Peak Bai Family, even if the Snow Needle Immortal Bud was

nominally under the Five Elements Sect, his plan was for it not to be transplanted and still have it under their care.

Little did he know Zhuo Ming's Earth Mother Cultivation was so formidable.

But by that time, it was too late for regrets.

Still, the Snow Peak Bai Family did not walk away empty-handed.

Chen Mobai specifically gave ten Taoist Talisman Papers to Bai Dingxian, each of which could be exchanged unconditionally at the Five Elements Sect for one Foundation Building Pill.

Within the next hundred years, the Snow Peak Bai Family would not have to worry about Foundation Building Pills.

Within his regret, Bai Dingxian immediately exchanged five Foundation Building Pills on the spot to placate the family Elders unhappy with him over the matter.

Chapter 1367: Conversation Along the Way (7K)_3

It is said that these five Foundation Building Pills helped a young elder successfully achieve Foundation Establishment.

Chen Mobai didn't pay much attention to the matters that followed.

Even the task of the Enlightenment Tea Tree absorbing the essence of the Snow Needle Immortal Bud was managed single-handedly by Zhuo Ming.

"Then I thank you, Uncle Chen."

After refusing twice, seeing that Chen Mobai was sincerely polite, Xiao Hei accepted it.

Mostly because she truly felt that this tea was useful for her cultivation. After all, due to her Spiritual Root, she could only practice Five Elements Cultivation, progressing slowly, but there were no such issues with her Divine Sense.

“You’re practicing Five Elements Cultivation. My friends and I opened a Mysterious Frost Company that uses a Formless Puppet to refine the Five Elements Essence, all of which is extremely pure and easy to refine. Do you want me to get you some, so you can achieve Foundation Establishment Completion in the shortest time?”

After giving her the tea leaves, Chen Mobai thought of his own condition at her age, already preparing resources for Core Formation, and couldn’t help offering to help her complete the realm of Foundation Establishment first.

However, Xiao Hei shook her head repeatedly, not caring much for it.

After all, within the Immortal Gate, only the major realms made a big difference.

Even if she could achieve Foundation Establishment Completion quickly, she would still need to wait for the opportunity to obtain the Golden Liquid Jade Pill due to seniority, so for the advancement of her realm, she took it in stride, focusing most of her efforts on enhancing her own Water Spirit Root.

“Actually, advancing quickly in realm is good too. That way you can dedicate some energy to other interests.”

As a member of the Sect of Realms, Chen Mobai began to instill his own philosophy in the young girl.

“No need, Uncle Chen. My grandma said I am at a late stage already. Due to my Spiritual Root, cultivation will definitely be slower in the early stages, but once the Spiritual Root is upgraded and purified, I can at least reach the stage of ‘Nascent Soul Formation’ in the future, even if I can’t compare to the Yuanyang Ancestor!”

But who would have known that Xiao Hei had a completely different philosophy, in fact, she belonged to the Foundation Faction!

Chen Mobai completely disagreed with Yu Huiping's statement.

As someone with a Pure Yin Body, as long as her Spiritual Root matched, she was essentially a female version of the Yuanyang Ancestor.

Although there was no Divinity Transformation Technique suitable for a Pure Yin attribute within the Immortal Gate, once the young girl reached Nascent Soul, whether it's the Liu Yu Scripture or the Jade Purity Scripture, she would have suitable paths toward deification to ponder upon.

"As a cultivator, possessing an unyielding spirit, from the first day I started Qi Cultivation, I had just one goal for myself, and that is to ascend to become Immortals!"

Chen Mobai's words carried convincing power.

"Uncle has the Qualification of Deification, but I am different."

Seeing the look of admiration in Xiao Hei's eyes, Chen Mobai felt his vanity satisfied, but he wasn't quite pleased with the second half of her sentence.

"What level has your Spiritual Root reached now?"

Chen Mobai began inquiring about the key factor that shackled the speed of her cultivation.

Theoretically speaking, after so many years of study in the Sea Territory, given the background of the Five Peaks Immortal Mountains, she shouldn't lack resources. Her Water Spirit Root should at least be above 60 points, right?

"Two years ago when I graduated, the Spiritual Venerable bestowed Heavenly Realm Pure Water upon me. Under my grandma's protection, I refined half a bottle of the Heavenly Realm Pure Water on Wangxian Peak, and now my Water Spirit Root is exactly at 80 points."

Hearing this, Chen Mobai's mouth fell slightly agape.

He had been thinking about what excuse to use to invite her to eat fish daily and then explain why the Water Spirit Root would increase after eating the fish.

It turned out that his plan was unnecessary.

It just goes to show the resources of Wangxian Peak; even the Sea Territory's Spiritual Venerable had to pay respect to Ancestor Baiguang.

The last time I heard about someone from the Immortal Gate going to the Sea Territory for study and receiving Heavenly Realm Pure Water was the current Righteous Law Hall Master.

And because of that, Master Shuixian graduated and entered the Hall of Orthodox Law. She's now even taken charge of the Military Department and is just waiting for the Immortal Gate's change-over to officially take over as the new Righteous Law Hall Master.

"So, you have already achieved the Heavenly Water Spirit Root. Are you planning to switch to a different cultivation technique? Tell me about it, I can give you some advice."

Chen Mobai spoke again, wanting to showcase his usefulness.

"Uncle Chen, I'm at a late stage. I need to build a strong foundation for both Foundation Establishment and Core Formation, so according to my grandma's wishes, I'm going to continue practicing Five Elements Cultivation."

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai felt a mix of surprise and anger: "Why waste time continuing with Five Elements Cultivation?"

Although in the Immortal Gate, because of the long wait for Spiritual Medicines needed to break through major realms, many people practice the Art of Spiritual Root to kill time and improve themselves.

But as someone from Wangxian Peak, Xiao Hei only needed to cultivate step by step, and with his help, it would be easy for her to quickly obtain the breakthrough Spiritual Medicines. There really was no need to linger on Five Elements Cultivation with a Heavenly Water Spirit Root.

If it really came down to it, he could just open a mystery box and get her the Golden Elixir Spiritual Medicine.

She can't be this late in the stages!

“That’s how it is, Uncle Chen. My Water Spirit Root, though it’s surpassed 80, I’m also planning to transform it into an Ice Spirit Root. Once both Ice and Water Spirit Roots are over 80, if I then switch to practicing the Liu Yu Scripture, I could utilize up to eighty or ninety percent of my Pure Yin Body. As long as I manage to practice the Liu Yu Scripture, I’m confident I have a two or three in ten chance of Nascent Soul Formation, and there’s even a glimmer of hope for Divinity Transformation.”

Facing Chen Mobai, Xiao Hei had an instinctive trust in him, so upon seeing his frown, she couldn’t help but speak out her most crucial secret plan.

Chapter 1368: Conversation Along the Way (7K)_4

“So it turns out I was thinking too narrowly,” Chen Mobai reflected after hearing the explanation, feeling somewhat ashamed of himself.

Wangxian Peak, after all, was where Ancestor Baiguang resided, and his realm far surpassed Chen Mobai’s. Xiao Hei had been educated there since childhood, and the path of cultivation arranged for her was undoubtedly the most suitable and the best for her.

It seemed his concern had clouded his judgment, allowing him to see only what was before him.

However, this was also the greatest contradiction between the Sect of Realms and the Foundation Faction.

For someone like Xiao Hei, with a substantial background, pursuing a foundation was possible because there was no need to worry about anything before the “Nascent Soul Formation” stage.

It was different for a child from a poor family, where every resource for cultivation was fiercely contested from the Tianhe Realm, focusing primarily on elevating the realm.

Speaking of Ice Spirit Roots, Chen Mobai remembered his good friend Yan Bingxuan and suddenly realized something unsettling.

In terms of the enhancement of Spiritual Roots, he was practically an expert within the Immortal Gate.

Now, the combined sum of his Five Elements Spiritual Roots was absolutely top-ranked.

Perhaps only Wen Ren Xuwei with her Three-Element Heavenly Spiritual Root could briefly match his brilliance.

And he was confident that in the future, he would elevate it to an unprecedented level.

With the vast resources of the Tianhe Realm, he even wondered if one day, cultivating the Primordial Dao Fruit with a Five Elements Heavenly Spiritual Root would be incredibly smooth.

“Ice Spirit Root isn’t that a fusion of “Gold Water Spiritual Roots”? Wouldn’t that harm your Water Spirit Root?”

His Pure Yang Daoist Body required damaging the Wood Attribute to enhance the Fire Spirit Root.

If Xiao Hei tried to integrate to form the Ice Spirit Root, harming the Heavenly Water Spiritual Root that had just been enhanced to 80 points, wouldn’t that be putting the cart before the horse?

“It’s okay uncle, I still have half a bottle of Heavenly Realm Pure Water, and granny has calculated it. When my Water Spirit Root is damaged to 40 points and I take it again, it will recover back to the Heavenly Water Spiritual Root. In this case, my Ice Spirit Root can only be enhanced to around 40 points in a short term, but since I’m still young, I can just cultivate it well by myself later.”

Xiao Hei didn't consider Chen Mobai an outsider at all and shared her most secretive cultivation details with him.

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai immediately felt it was time for him to make a difference.

He started planning how to legally and reasonably 'launder' Azure Blood Carps from the Tianhe Realm and give them to Xiao Hei.

And also the Ice Marrow Pure Jade and Water Mist Ice Crystals from Kong Lingling's storage bag—both heavenly and earthly treasures hugely beneficial for the Water and Ice Spirit Roots.

By the time Xiao Hei was ready for Core Formation, it would seem like they just came out of a Void Blind Box.

And the Water Spirit Beads—having given too few to Tai Yi Wu Yan Luo previously, it seemed he still had dozens left. Maybe he could find an excuse to string them into a necklace or bracelet as a birthday gift for her.

Chen Mobai reviewed all the spiritual objects related to Ice and Water attributes he possessed, devising plans on how to legitimately 'whitewash' them within the bounds of the Immortal Gate.

Was there not also a Water Attribute Spirit Fruit?

Chen Mobai recalled another treasure he cherished.

However, upon consideration, he decided to restrain himself.

That item wouldn't be needed by Luo Yixuan for her Core Formation; better to save it for Qing Nu.

She suffered much discrimination within the Immortal Gate and might not be able to exchange for the top-quality Golden Elixir Spiritual Medicine Golden Liquid Jade Pill. But he could probably arrange for the

Water Primordial Golden Core Pill with his connections, and adding the Water Attribute Spirit Fruit, Qing Nu could avoid utilizing the base of her Heavenly Spiritual Root.

After all, besides Wen Ren Xuwei, who might live longer than he would, Qing Nu was the most likely to keep pace with his cultivation progress.

He still needed to avoid playing favorites.

And there was still verification.

After reaching Yu Wood City, Chen Mobai planned to find Shi Wanyu and inquire more carefully if the young girl before him was truly his daughter.

Chen Mobai had indeed considered secretly obtaining a drop of Teacher Xiao Hei's blood and going to the hospital for a paternity test.

However, in the Immortal Gate, even though he was a Golden Core Master, paternity tests still required real-name registration and both parties had to be present.

Given Chen Mobai's status, pulling some strings and leveraging his connections might allow him to conduct the test in secret.

But if he went down that path, a third party would become aware of the matter.

Any secret known to someone other than oneself is no longer a secret.

Therefore, after careful consideration, Chen Mobai decided to abandon this idea for the time being.

If Shi Wanyu failed to yield any results, he would then seek Ren Xuwei's help, even if it meant destroying her public persona, to assist with a paternity test at the Imperial Medical Academy.

Is she truly his own daughter?

With a heart full of apprehension, Chen Mobai chatted with the cheerful young girl opposite him, wanting to ask her about her views on her father, yet fearing he might hear something that would unsettle his Dao Heart, he ultimately refrained from raising the topic.

The two conversed freely in the private compartment, Chen Mobai trying to showcase his abilities, but Teacher Xiao Hei had long since had all her affairs arranged by Wangxian Peak.

It was only her decision to attend the Dance Tool Dao Academy during university, which was slightly rebellious, and her plan to return home to serve her mother after studying in the Sea Territory, that were her own choices.

All of Chen Mobai's expertise in guiding cultivation and the like were useless to someone for whom the path to Heaven had been fully laid out.

While chatting, Chen Mobai realized he was somewhat unable to keep up with the girl.

The hot gossip and celebrity searches she talked about were completely foreign to him.

Because in his life at the Immortal Gate, he had been truly committed to bitter cultivation!

He did stay informed about the various affairs concerning his two scholarly mansions, governance of two cities, and even the Three Great Halls and the Four Great Daoist Sects whenever he emerged from seclusion.

But he was genuinely clueless about the trivial matters the girl discussed.

He was becoming a bit out of touch with modern life!

Chen Mobai admonished himself internally, deciding to make time to catch up on news and search trends from now on.

“Recently, Senior Sister Meng plans to return to her alma mater at Dance Tool Dao Academy, rumored to perform three songs, and she may even hold a concert in Red City Cave Heaven!”

Finally, Teacher Xiao Hei mentioned someone Chen Mobai knew.

“Senior Sister Meng Huang, right? I’m well acquainted with her. We attended Daoist Academy one after another, and coincidentally...”

Chen Mobai immediately began sharing stories about how he and Meng Huang had come to know, socialize, and ultimately cleared up misunderstandings to become good friends.

Of course, he omitted details that were inappropriate to share with a child.

“After my Core Formation, the friends who kept in touch were few, and Senior Sister Meng was one of them.”

“Whenever I went to Wangwu Cave Heaven to report, or she happened to pass through Danxia and Yu Wood City, we would always make time to meet.”

“We are the best of friends who truly understand each other.”

Hearing Chen Mobai’s story, Teacher Xiao Hei looked envious. She had made a few friends at the Dance Tool Dao Academy, but had mostly lost touch with them over the years.

“I really envy the lasting friendship between Uncle Chen and Senior Sister Meng.”

Chen Mobai listened and let out an awkward laugh.

Fortunately, it was then that the train arrived at the station.

Chapter 1369: Confirming It's a Daughter (7K)

After checking out of the train station in Yu Wood City, Chen Mobai and the apprentice Xiao Hei bid each other farewell and went their separate ways.

“Uncle Chen, if you’re coming over one day, let me know in advance.”

Xiao Hei, full of energy, waved to him and then boarded the car Chen Mobai had called for her.

According to previous plans, Chen Mobai was now supposed to head to Qing Sang Academy.

However, after seeing off Xiao Hei, he directly vanished from the spot using his teleportation ability.

Last night, upon receiving Shi Wanyu’s address, he had rushed over immediately.

But it was far too late.

Sensing the steady breathing of the person asleep inside the house, he remained silent for a long time before eventually deciding to leave first.

Chen Mobai’s feelings for Shi Wanyu were very complex. After so many years, that incident from the past was still the most unspeakable matter of his cultivation journey.

He hadn’t been tricked and taken advantage of many times in his life, but the impression this time left was the deepest.

He had thought that as time passed, by one hundred years later when Shi Wanyu passed away in meditation, he would be able to face it with a calm heart.

But who could have known...

In the sea of his heart, memories began to surface of his youthful days with Shi Wanyu, their acquaintance, exchanges, and eventually how they became strangers.

With his current level of cultivation, as long as he thought back, he could recall every detail of what he had experienced.

Amid consecutive teleportations, he arrived at the entrance of a flower shop.

The name of the flower shop was “Brushing Dawn.”

Seeing this, Chen Mobai silently paused for a moment.

After graduating from Starlight Institute, Shi Wanyu, because of her pregnancy, wasn’t able to establish her Foundation but was exempted from military service.

However, because she had a child out of wedlock, she was despised by her parents back in her hometown.

Still, she was their flesh and blood, so when Xiao Hei was born with the Nine Yin Meridian, her mother immediately sought help from the Yu family.

Later, Xiao Hei was personally taken away by Yu Huiping, who also asked the Yu family to take good care of Shi Wanyu, the mother, promising a reunion of mother and daughter once Xiao Hei’s fatal condition was cured.

After that, it was likely that every year, Shi Wanyu would visit the Five Peaks Immortal Mountains to see Xiao Hei for a month.

Hence, the mother and daughter had a very good relationship.

Chen Mobai had also inquired about Shi Wanyu's life in Yu Wood City through Gu Mingxuan. Despite the stain on her reputation for having a child out of wedlock, she was still beautiful and had the Yu family's backing, so there were quite a few suitors.

Some of these suitors were willing to accept Xiao Hei, the "tag-along."

However, Shi Wanyu had refused them all.

She used her savings and her parents' support to open a flower shop to enjoy life.

Though she couldn't be wealthy, she could still maintain her life.

The location of the flower shop was her own choice, with the first floor for customers and the second as her residence. There was also a third-floor loft, reserved for Xiao Hei.

Chen Mobai, through the glass door, watched the bustling figure inside, gathering his somewhat scattered emotions.

He checked the time, knowing that it would take about an hour for Xiao Hei to come over by car from the train station.

But since he had arranged the driver, they would take a longer route, adding another half hour.

It was enough time for him to meet with an old friend.

With that thought, Chen Mobai lightly pushed open the glass door.

Ding-ling-ling!

The chime of the bell at the entrance, a restriction, rang out, signaling to the shop owner that a customer had come in.

“Welcome...”

Shi Wanyu heard the sound of the bell and continued to cut the bright ice-blue roses without pause, but her snow-white neck was lifted, and she greeted the incoming customer with a professional smile.

But when she saw Chen Mobai walking in, she was stunned in place.

The rose and the scissors in her hand lost control and fell from her palm.

Chen Mobai’s figure flashed with silver light as he teleported in front of Shi Wanyu and caught the falling scissors and rose.

“Long time no see.”

After exchanging glances and remaining silent for a long time, it was still Chen Mobai who took the initiative to speak. As he did, he handed over the rose and scissors to the beautiful woman in front of him.

Chen Mobai had thought that after more than forty years, Shi Wanyu would have aged considerably.

After all, at the age of seventy-one and being of the same generation as him, even a Qi Practitioner, no matter how well-maintained, would start to show signs of aging.

But the Shi Wanyu before him, although she had lost the innocence and vibrancy of their first meeting, had gained a mature charm from the years that had passed.

The white blouse, along with the grey apron decorated with cut flowers, outlined her more rounded and fuller figure compared to the past. Below her waist, which would encompass a gentle grasp, were black work pants that failed to conceal the outstanding contours of her legs, which appeared even more slender and straight when she stood.

“Long time no see, do you... Councilman, would you like to buy some flowers?”

Shi Wanyu, after receiving the rose and scissors, seemed to have finally calmed her shocked emotions, and with a slight tremble in her voice, she asked softly, looking down.

“When we graduated, you invited me to a meal, during which there seems to have been some event that I have no memory of. I wanted to ask you about it.”

Chen Mobai directly brought up the incident from the past while looking at the elegant and alluring Shi Wanyu in front of him.

“That... I...,” Shi Wanyu, hearing Chen Mobai actually bring up that incident, became even more flustered, knowing she had been in the wrong. Instinctively, she wanted to defend herself, but in the end, she simply lowered her head and began to apologize.

Chapter 1370: Confirming It's a Daughter (7K)_2

“I'm sorry.”

If apologies were of any use, he wouldn't have a daughter now.

Chen Mobai saw the look on Shi Wanyu's face and already had his answer, but he still needed to hear those words from her own lips.

“I met a girl named Xiao Hei on the Five Peaks Immortal Mountains while I was establishing my Golden Core Domain earlier.”

He spoke again, touching Shi Wanyu's heart, and as expected, hearing Xiao Hei's name, the one who had been lowering her head suddenly lifted it, widened her eyes, and looked straight at him. Those beautiful almond eyes were filled with panic.

“Do you have something you want to say to me?”

Chen Mobai didn't continue speaking, because, after he mentioned Xiao Hei, Shi Wanyu had already understood why he had come today.

"I'm sorry!"

But Shi Wanyu still apologized, her eyes slightly moist, as if she was ashamed and repentant of her past actions.

However, what Chen Mobai wanted to hear was not that.

"Is she my daughter with you?"

Seeing Shi Wanyu sobbing continuously, Chen Mobai could no longer hold back and directly asked.

"Yes!"

Shi Wanyu nodded gently, giving him the answer he wanted to hear.

Phew!

After a long breath, Chen Mobai felt a great burden lifted from his shoulders, and deep inside, an inexplicable joy surged forth.

Originally, he had planned to consider marrying and having children only if he encountered a bottleneck in his cultivation that he could not surpass.

As his cultivation level grew higher and higher, even having confidence in reaching the Nascent Soul stage, he thought he might never have offspring in this lifetime.

But unexpectedly, he had a daughter so many years ago.

No wonder Xiao Hei has the Nine Yin Meridian!

He cultivated the Jade Lock Golden Barrier Secret, his innate Yuan Yang firm, and theoretically, even though he could exchange vital essence during union, that bit of Yuan Yang would never be depleted.

Thus, Xiao Hei was born without a hint of True Yang.

If it were not for the superior medical techniques of the Immortal Gate, it would have been a fatal condition.

But now, she had overcome the tribulation of life and death and transformed into a Pure Yin Body, one of the top Spiritual Bodies highly sought after in the Immortal Gates.

Yet soon, Chen Mobai spotted something amiss.

Relying on the Jade Lock Golden Barrier Secret, he had always been unrestrained when meeting with Meng Huang.

How come she had never conceived?

Or was it that Shi Wanyu possessed a special constitution, which allowed her to combine his genes and conceive Xiao Hei with the Nine Yin Meridian without any Yuan Yang.

Chen Mobai intended to ask Shi Wanyu about this, but he felt somewhat embarrassed to broach the subject.

But soon, he remembered a crucial person from that incident.

Chen Chun from The Divine Machine Mansion.

After his time with Shi Wanyu, she was the one who had dealt with the aftermath.

She also told Chen Mobai that Shi Wanyu wanted a child, and hence had orchestrated that setup.

But at the time, Chen Mobai thought his Yuan Yang was locked and that, despite being taken advantage of, it would be impossible for him to leave behind any descendants, so he didn't pay it much mind.

Besides, with Chen Chun's background not inferior to his own, he eventually let her go without pursuing the matter with Shi Wanyu.

Now, it seems that Chen Chun hadn't told him the whole truth.

Surely, she knew everything about Xiao Hei's birth.

"Do you know Chen Chun?"

Chen Mobai thought of this and couldn't help but ask Shi Wanyu.

"You already knew then."

At this moment, Shi Wanyu had stopped her sobbing, standing in front of Chen Mobai with her head lowered, her cheeks flushing even redder upon hearing this.

It was indeed she who had wished to Chen Chun for a child by Chen Mobai.

"After the birth of our daughter, have you seen Chen Chun again?"

Chen Mobai saw that she still remembered Chen Chun, and couldn't help but ask again.

"Yes."

Shi Wanyu immediately nodded; that incident was the most memorable event of her life, so she remembered all related people and things very clearly.

“Where?”

Chen Mobai immediately pressed.

“On the Five Peaks Immortal Mountains. It seems she knew I was there; one year after our daughter was well-cared for, I met her on the way down the mountain.”

Chen Mobai immediately thought of Chen Chun’s background upon hearing this; as one of the disciples of Qian Xing, being in the Five Peaks Immortal Mountains made perfect sense.

“What did you talk about?”

Shi Wanyu immediately recalled the situation back then, but her meeting with Chen Chun seemed to be just the latter waiting for her. They had a casual conversation in which Chen Chun mostly inquired about Xiao Hei’s condition.

That year was precisely when Xiao Hei underwent the tribulation of the Nine Yin Meridian and transformed into a Pure Yin Body afterward.

After learning about this, Chen Chun congratulated her and then left.

Listening to Shi Wanyu, Chen Mobai remembered something Chen Chun said afterward, “Maybe when you two came before me, it was to bring this child into the world.”

Chen Mobai’s second encounter with Shi Wanyu was in a small alley in Red City Cave Heaven.

Through what Chen Chun told him, Chen Mobai learned about the three obstacles to his Core Formation.

Proceeding according to the direction given by Chen Chun, he effortlessly succeeded in forming his core, thereby establishing the reputation that would secure his path to Divinity Transformation.

At that time, Chen Mobai thought it was a stroke of good fortune for him.

But who knew, she wasn't waiting for him!

Her target was his daughter?

This person from The Divine Machine Mansion was something else, able to calculate events decades into the future.

The realization made Chen Mobai admire her, but it also increased his wariness.

Now that he knew Xiao Hei was his daughter, he would not allow her fate to be manipulated by others.