

World 1431

Chapter 1431: I Stand Irreconcilably Opposed to the Ascension Sect _4 “This place won’t have any visitors, but if you encounter a Cultivator from the Five Elements Sect in this Divine Tree Secret Realm, tell them I invited you as a guest.”

Chen Mobai had set up a Puppet factory within this Secret Realm, with the Puppet Division’s Li Yixian in charge of its operation. He would not restrict Qing Nu’s freedom, providing her with an excuse should she encounter anyone while wandering around.

Lastly, he reminded Qing Nu not to go near the Great Dao Tree.

By this time, the two had already arrived at the wooden house of the three-level Golden Sun Spirit Tree.

Chen Mobai talked with her for a while more, sensing that it was about time, first employed the Underworld Array Teleportation to leave the area, then clicked on Turtle Treasure to return to the city!

Amidst flickering silver lights,

Chen Mobai’s figure reappeared in Southfield City.

At the spot where he had initially disappeared with Qing Nu, the city’s Law Enforcement Cultivators had drawn a yellow line and erected a barrier.

As soon as he appeared, he was immediately spotted by the Law Enforcement Cultivators stationed there!

“Deputy Director Chen, you’re finally back. Quickly notify Master Qi!”

Chen Mobai’s face was already well-recognized by them, so as soon as they saw him, one of the middle-aged Enforcement Cultivators in charge immediately ran over with his team and instructed a subordinate.

Soon, a silver star brightened in the sky above Southfield City, and Qi Yuheng stepped out from the Void, looking at Chen Mobai with a slight frown.

“Where did you go?”

Chen Mobai indeed knew Qi Yuheng, and was somewhat surprised to see him arrive in person.

But he quickly realized that with Lin Daoming’s betrayal, if it weren’t for him being the foremost Nascent Soul of Immortal Gate, perhaps only the elders like Bai Guang and Qian Xing would have to come in person to maintain order.

“This matter is of great importance, it’s not appropriate to speak here.”

While Chen Mobai spoke, he gestured towards the Enforcement Cultivators of Southfield City; the middle-aged leader immediately led his team away.

“Reporting to Master Qi, Lin Daoming betrayed the Immortal Gate, colluding with the Ascension Sect Cultists to kidnap my subordinate Qing Nu. To prevent their success, I feigned compliance and activated the Big Transfer Talisman given by them. In reality, during the transference, I used the Void Secret Technique to follow Qing Nu, to ensure she wouldn’t fall into the hands of the Ascension Sect. However, my Void Walking seemed to be affected by the Big Transfer Talisman, and I ended up in a very remote place, hence my delayed return.”

Chen Mobai explained his situation, leaving Qi Yuheng uncertain whether to believe him or not.

“You are from the Righteous Law Hall; I have no authority to interrogate you. Follow me back to Wangwu Cave Heaven first and wait for the trial by the three Halls, three Departments.”

Hearing this, Chen Mobai nodded slightly.

He held a high stature within the Immortal Gate, especially regarding the major issue of Lin Daoming’s betrayal; surely, the case would not be so easily concluded.

However, in this situation, he was also a victim, and with so many witnesses in public, the Immortal Gate's interrogation would primarily aim to ascertain the true situation.

Since Chen Mobai couldn't perform Great Void Transference, Qi Yuheng arranged for the nearest flight directly from Southfield City back to Wangwu Cave Heaven.

Chen Mobai, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Law Enforcement, could officially be interrogated only by the Enforcement Department Director Wen Lianshan, the Deputy Hall Master Gongsun Jieli of the Righteous Law Hall, and the Hall Master Narcissus of the Righteous Law Hall.

However, due to the involvement of Lin Daoming and the Ascension Sect, aside from the Righteous Law Hall, it was certain that the Hall of Immortal Affairs and Kaiyuan Hall would need to send representatives.

This was the trial by the Three Great Halls of Immortal Gate.

Yet, those who were eligible to participate in the trial, upon learning about this matter, all wanted to refuse by any means, be it illness or interference during their cultivation, with some even falling into derangement.

Except for Chen Mobai who was directly involved as a member of the Weapon Dancing Sect and due to Lin Daoming's defection — the incident had too many potential implications!

They feared inadvertently getting dragged into it.

Thus, upon returning to Wangwu Cave Heaven, Chen Mobai found himself unexpectedly at leisure.

He was accommodated by Qi Yuheng in the Welcoming Immortals Hotel within the Five Peaks Immortal Mountains, and the next day Narcissus led Gongsun Jieli there.

Narcissus asked about the events, then revealed some news to him.

After Qi Yuheng rushed to Southfield City, he immediately pursued Lin Daoming to the outside of the Heavenly Curtain on Di Yuan Star via Void Teleportation Technique, traversing tens of thousands of miles through the starry skies, where they fiercely clashed.

Ultimately, if Yan Xinji had not arrived in his true form to provide assistance, Lin Daoming would likely have been slain by Qi Yuheng.

However, Qi Yuheng also depleted some elemental energy during the battle and went into seclusion upon returning, handing over the triple hall assessment committee matters to Ye Yune, the vice hall master of Kaiyuan Hall.

Upon hearing this name, Chen Mobai couldn't help but frown.

He had an average relationship with this woman!

Could it be that she would take this opportunity to trip him up?

But under the current circumstances, Chen Mobai also found it inappropriate to mobilize the Weapon Dancing Sect, as that would appear cowardly.

Fortunately, the matter regarding the Fetal Transformation Essence was unknown to others, as Yan Xinji and Lin Daoming had discussed it in the air. Otherwise, the situation wouldn't be so simple.

The problem still lay in how to explain Qing Nu's disappearance!

But Chen Mobai had already figured out a solution!

In the worst case, he could just claim that Qing Nu was taken away by a Big Transfer Talisman, and he was unable to track her using the Void Walking Technique, suggesting that Qing Nu might have fallen into the hands of the Ascension Sect.

Anyhow, until he controlled the highest authority of the Immortal Gate, Qing Nu would not return. Even if she was branded a cultist by the Immortal Gate like Kong Feichen, it wouldn't make any difference!

As Chen Mobai was thinking this way, the Three Great Halls of Xianmen finally classified the case as Lin Daoming's defection. Then, they agreed on the personnel and formed the triple hall assessment committee.

In a conference room in the Welcoming Immortals Hotel, Chen Mobai sat at the podium facing seven high-ranking individuals from the Three Great Halls.

Righteous Law Hall Master Narcissus, Deputy Hall Master Gongsun Jieliu, and Enforcement Department Director Wen Lianshan were all present.

Kaiyuan Hall was represented by Ye Yune and another rotating committee member named Shi Miao.

From the Immortal Affairs Hall, there were Vice Hall Master Bo Xiangqian and Lan Haitian.

"Commissioner Chen, this is a Mind-reading Talisman!"

Lan Haitian placed a talisman on the table and indicated towards Chen Mobai, who nodded in acknowledgment.

This would verify whether Chen Mobai was telling the truth or lying.

Soon, the seven individuals began asking about the details of Lin Daoming's defection, and Chen Mobai explained everything he knew.

"Why did Lin Daoming abduct your subordinate, Qing Nu, before his defection?"

Finally, Ye Yune asked a critical question.

“As far as I know, when Lin Daoming took over as the head of the Immortal Affairs Hall, he collaborated with Yan Xinji to initiate the Immortal Sprout cultivation project. Qing Nu was the proudest creation of this project, so he wanted to take her with him!”

Chen Mobai answered truthfully but omitted the Fetal Transformation Essence.

“Where is Qing Nu now?”

“She was taken away by the technique of Void Transport. I can only be sure that she is no longer on Di Yuan Star.”

“Do you have any connections with the Ascension Sect?”

This question was rather sharp. After hearing it, Chen Mobai looked up at Ye Yune and firmly shook his head.

“Qing Nu is my friend, and I am utterly opposed to the Ascension Sect, irreconcilably so!”

The Mind-reading Talisman showed that everything Chen Mobai said was true!

Chapter 1432: Saving the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple After the joint hearing of the three halls and the three departments, Chen Mobai’s suspicion was cleared.

The Immortal Sect respects personal privacy highly, hence once they confirmed that he was irreconcilably opposed to the Ascension Sect, they did not pursue further.

However, this was mainly because he has a special identity, with connections in high places.

After it ended, Ye Yune took Shi Miao and left first.

Narcissus spoke a few words with Chen Mobai, instructing him to keep to his work schedule and continue overseeing the Sky-Mending Group, then left with Gongsun Jielu and Wen Lianshan.

In the end, only Lan Haitian was left, sharing lunch with Chen Mobai.

The two were also comrades who had fought side by side in the past, and after their last interaction, they now considered each other allies.

“Lin Daoming has been identified as a traitor, but the higher-ups’ stance is to not publicize it, seal all his records, and delete all content about him from the internet...”

During the meal, Lan Haitian spoke about how the upper echelons of the Immortal Sect handled Lin Daoming.

Chen Mobai felt somewhat surprised.

“Such a significant matter of betrayal, just suppressed like that?”

After listening, Lan Haitian shook his head and then pointed towards the ceiling, Chen Mobai roughly understood.

The one whose intervention he dared not mention must be related to the Leading Star Ancestor of the Heaven-Repairing Lineage, if it were him who spoke up, then indeed, the matter concerning Lin Daoming could be suppressed.

However, at least the upper echelons of the Immortal Sect had classified Lin Daoming as a deserter, so in the future, if Chen Mobai possessed the strength, he could confront and take revenge directly.

Yet, for Chen Mobai, handling it low-key was better.

After all, if this matter were dug into deeper, discovering that Qing Nu possessed Fetal Transformation Essence, it wouldn’t just end lightly like today, there might be a thorough investigation on him.

Even possibly, like the Master Huakai, prompting the Leading Star Ancestor to personally intervene.

In that case, things would become serious.

Under the will of the highest echelon, the incident at Southfield City was defined as a terror attack by the Ascension Sect. Lin Daoming's name did not appear in the rolls of the Department of Law Enforcement for this case.

Since it was related to the Ascension Sect, it ultimately fell to the Sky-Mending Group.

After adding a few notes to the dossier, Chen Mobai dispatched the third intelligence group and the sixth combat group to Southfield City, to investigate if there were any remnants of the Ascension Sect.

Before Mo Huaixian who was the leader of the third group left, Chen Mobai told him about the store where he encountered the Yan Xinji puppet doll, requesting him to follow up on this clue.

After giving these orders, Chen Mobai quietly stayed in Wangwu Cave Heaven for three months.

During this period, Meng Huang repeatedly invited him, but he always used the excuse of being busy with official duties, his daily routine was either work or visiting the Divine Tree Secret Realm with Qing Nu after returning home.

Qing Nu's talent was exceptional; although the Black Emperor Abyssal Scripture was a Divinity Transformation Technique, she quickly got the grasp of it.

However, the transformation of Spiritual Power needed time, based on Qing Nu's own estimation, it might take about three years, then another three years for integration, so roughly six years later, she could attempt Core Formation.

Chen Mobai was also very pleased with this.

Knowing this, he also had to think about preparing resources for Qing Nu's Core Formation.

Today, Chen Mobai returned to Giant Tree Ridge.

Receiving the news, Gu Yan immediately came to pay his respects!

"Has there been any reply from Yan Shaoyin?"

As soon as Chen Mobai spoke, Gu Yan promptly presented a letter.

After reading it, Chen Mobai couldn't help but smile slightly.

Because the Five Elements Sect had provided half of the materials for the Infant-Feeding Elixir, so after Yan Shaoyin's refinement, he needed to hand over half of the elixirs produced.

Yan Shaoyin was very lucky this time; he succeeded in refinement on his first attempt.

However, in the reply, Yan Shaoyin also told the truth.

This batch of elixirs produced only two pills; one had slight imperfections, while the other one had significant defects.

These defects were naturally due to Dan Poison.

The meaning in Yan Shaoyin's reply was that he intended to keep the slightly flawed Infant-Feeding Elixir for himself, while the other severely flawed and exceeding standard Dan Poison would go to Chen Mobai.

Regarding this, in his reply, he also expressed deep apologies and offered to compensate with Spirit Stones or Spirit Rice.

Chen Mobai was not interested in these items; he only wanted Yan Shaoyin to immediately consume the Infant-Feeding Elixir.

Moreover, after the second layer of Vermilion Phoenix Facing the Sun, Dan Poison no longer affected him, thus the heavily flawed Infant-Feeding Elixir was essentially a non-toxic Nascent Soul Formation Spiritual Medicine in terms of the Immortal Sect version.

However, there would definitely be some difference in medicinal efficacy, as quite a few primary and auxiliary medicines were exchanged.

Chen Mobai still held a great respect for Yan Shaoyin's ability to refine the Infant-Feeding Elixir under these circumstances.

"Let's go, I will personally go to Back to Sky Valley and discuss this deal with Master Yan!"

After reading Yan Shaoyin's reply, Chen Mobai directly took Gu Yan and headed towards Xia Jun.

But he underestimated Yan Shaoyin's determination and caution.

"Sect Master Chen, the master went out to visit friends a few days ago."

The person who received Chen Mobai was the temporary leader of Back to Sky Valley, He Jintong, who looked slightly embarrassed, then took a Jade Vial out.

"This is a pill that the master left behind before he left, I was personally supposed to deliver it to the Five Elements Sect, I didn't expect Sect Master Chen to come personally..."

Chen Mobai frowned as he took it and saw a vermilion-colored Dan inside the Jade Vial, but the surface of the Dan had a ring of black lines, which were Dan Poison residues uncleaned from within the Dan.

He poured it out for inspection, felt the strong life force and Elemental Energy contained within the elixir, confirming that this was indeed the Infant-Feeding Elixir.

Chapter 1433: Rescue the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple_2

“Master Yan is being utterly shameless this time!”

Chen Mobai did not mince words, directly mocking him in front of the entire assembly from Back to Sky Valley.

“Sect Master Chen, please forgive us. My master is willing to compensate your sect with five hundred top-grade Spirit Stones and one thousand kilograms of Coiling Dragon Spirit Rice...”

He Jintong, facing Chen Mobai, the top sect leader of the Eastern Desolation, didn't dare show any temper and began cautiously.

“Do you think I lack these things?”

The coldness in Chen Mobai's words made He Jintong involuntarily wipe the sweat from his forehead, and he could only continue apologizing.

After Yan Shaoyin finished nurturing the batch of Infant-Feeding Elixirs, he guessed, from his understanding of Chen Mobai's character, that Chen Mobai would certainly not want an Infant-Feeding Elixir with excess Dan poison. But as this concerned his own Nascent Soul Formation, he gritted his teeth, took the elixirs and directly used the channels of the Starry Sky Commerce Guild to run over to East Yu.

He decided to rent the Rank-4 Cave Abode of the Star Heaven Dao Sect to prepare for Nascent Soul Formation, resolving to succeed or die trying!

If it weren't for the fact that he had sworn a Daoist Heart Oath during the refinement, Yan Shaoyin would have even thought about taking both Infant-Feeding Elixirs with him.

In any case, he was determined to risk it all in hope that this attempt at Nascent Soul Formation would succeed.

Fortunately, Yan Shaoyin still felt some attachment to Back to Sky Valley, so before leaving, he explained the situation to his true disciple He Jintong. In essence, the instruction was to stall.

To delay until the result of his Nascent Soul Formation was known; if it was a success, then that's wonderful, and he would reclaim all the indignities suffered over the years from the Five Elements Sect.

If it failed, then He Jintong could either directly submit to the Five Elements Sect or seek refuge with the Star Heaven Dao Sect.

Given their lineage's Alchemy, both factions would surely be willing to accept them.

"You from Back to Sky Valley will mortgage a thousand mu of your medicine fields to our Five Elements Sect, then I will reluctantly swallow this affront."

Chen Mobai offered a solution, upon hearing which He Jintong's face shifted between hope and despair. The medicine fields were the foundational core of Back to Sky Valley, even back when Ancestor Hunyuan was around, there were no incidents of mortgaging the medicine fields.

However, given the disparity in power and the precedent set by the Snow-blowing Palace's fall right before their eyes, wouldn't resisting just give Five Elements Sect legitimate cause to raise their forces?

"Sect Master Chen, this is a matter of great consequence. Could we please wait for my master to return before we make any decisions?"

He Jintong didn't want to become the eternal sinner of his sect, so he gathered the courage to speak these words in front of Chen Mobai, the sect leader of the Eastern Desolation's foremost great faction.

"Hmph, do you think Yan Shaoyin will even come back?"

Chen Mobai said mockingly, causing He Jintong's face to flush red, but ultimately he still managed to restrain himself, again apologizing to him.

“Well then, I’ll give you another choice. You should have the Alchemy Recipe for the Return to True Elixir that Yan Shaoyin refined last time, don’t you? You from Back to Sky Valley will collect the materials for three furnaces of these as compensation to me, and we’ll consider this matter settled.”

Upon hearing this, He Jintong’s eyelids twitched even more, as he opened his mouth with a bitter smile: “Sect Master Chen, my master used up practically all of our sect’s stored materials to refine the Return to True Elixir before. Even if we mobilize our connections to collect them now, we can at most gather enough for one furnace, three furnaces are truly beyond our ability.”

The Return to True Elixir is a type of elixir for enhancing the spiritual power of Golden Core late-stage cultivators. Originally, Yan Shaoyin had chosen this from Chen Mobai’s catalog of Alchemy Recipes, ruining two furnaces before finally succeeding in getting four pieces from the third.

Afterwards, Yan Shaoyin, with the help of the Return to True Elixir and the Nirvana Dan, advanced to the stage of Perfect Core Formation, ready for Nascent Soul Formation.

For Chen Mobai who is currently at the Golden Core Seventh Layer, this Return to True Elixir is especially suitable.

Moreover, the Return to True Elixir is a Third Rank Superior Grade product, well within Qing Nu’s capabilities.

“Since you can’t do that, then bring out a thousand mu of medicine fields for compensation.”

Chen Mobai said it casually, but He Jintong immediately changed his tune.

“Sect Master Chen, I will inquire with the medicinal material merchants partnered with our sect. We should be able to gather enough for three furnaces. It’s just that we might need to go through the Starry Sky Commerce Guild to order from the rest of the regions, which might take more time.”

He Jintong figured to delay as long as possible. Chen Mobai, however, saw through his intention at a glance. The main reason for coming this time was to pressure them and also to speed up and reinforce Yan Shaoyin’s determination for Nascent Soul Formation, so of course he could not allow Back to Sky Valley such leisure.

“Before the end of this year, the first furnace’s materials must be delivered to the Five Elements Sect; the other two, next year. If all the materials are not delivered by the beginning of the year after next, let Yan Shaoyin come to explain to me personally. If not, either compensate with another half furnace’s worth of materials for the Infant-Feeding Elixir, or mortgage the medicine fields of Back to Sky Valley in the Eastern Desolation Nineteen Prefectures to me.”

Chen Mobai issued the final ultimatum. Though his tone was calm, paired with his notorious reputation for obliterating major factions in the Eastern Desolation since his emergence, all the Foundation Establishment Practitioners of Back to Sky Valley felt a chill run through their spines.

He Jintong finally sighed and reluctantly nodded in agreement.

But even so, when Chen Mobai left, he was very “unhappy,” feeling that he had been played by Yan Shaoyin.

...

“Sect Leader, you seem to be in a good mood!”

On their way back, Gu Yan noticed Chen Mobai’s brimming smile and felt puzzled.

“The last Golden Core Cultivator in the Eastern Desolation who is not from the Five Elements Sect is about to become dust in history. How can I not be happy?”

Chen Mobai’s words left Gu Yan somewhat confused; she thought Chen Mobai had arranged for Rogue Cultivators to ambush Yan Shaoyin outside the Eastern Desolation.

Chen Mobai did not explain further and instead led Gu Yan to the Flying Dragon Pond Sub-mansion on the border.

A Rank-3 Green Charm Spiritual Tree had been planted here, and since it was Chen Mobai's asset, Han Zhiling, who served as the Town Guard for Summer Country, would come every year to collect the fresh tea leaves from here and from Dragon Horn Trench.

However, last year, Chen Mobai designated this place to Zhou Wangshen, who was leading the former True Disciples of the Five Elements Meridians to condense the Five Elements Essence here.

When he came out of seclusion this time, he found a Message Talisman from Zhou Wangshen stating that he had condensed twenty portions of the Five Elements Essence, asking if they should be delivered.

Chen Mobai had returned from Back to Sky Valley and took a detour to check this out.

Flying Dragon Pond was a Rank-3 Spirit Vein, more than sufficient to supply these Qi Cultivating Disciples for cultivation.

Even tempted by the Foundation Building Pill, those former True Disciples who believed their path had ended were extremely diligent in condensing the Five Elements Essence atop such a powerful Spirit Vein.

Everyone wanted to seize this glimmer of hope, to attempt Foundation Establishment once again.

"Greetings, Sect Leader!"

Zhou Wangshen was surprised to see Chen Mobai in person and immediately greeted him respectfully.

"You've worked hard."

While speaking, Chen Mobai took out a Jade Vial from his Storage Bag, which contained the Longevity Dew that he had Zeng Woyou refine.

Zhou Wangshen excitedly received it and then handed over the Five Elements Essence that had been condensed over more than a year to Chen Mobai.

Chen Mobai checked it and found the quality to be fairly ordinary.

However, since they were just beginning to condense it, this was normal.

“Going forward, I will have Gu Yan come for the Five Elements Essence. If you need any elixirs, Spirit Rice, or other resources, you can also mention it to her.”

As soon as Chen Mobai finished speaking, Zhou Wangshen courteously saluted towards the graceful Gu Yan behind him, who also returned a slight curtsy.

After they exchanged Message Talismans, Chen Mobai took Gu Yan back to Giant Tree Ridge.

However, on the way back, he deliberately detoured to the Tianpeng Mountain Sub courtyard.

He arranged for Gu Yan to liaise with the disciples of the Five Elements Sect there, while he himself headed straight for the summit.

Chen Mobai wanted to try and see if he could revive the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple.

In the flickering silver light, he had already teleported to the front of the ancient maple tree, which was over ten feet tall, with its trunk charred and devoid of branches and leaves.

Listening with Empty Valley Echo, he soon heard the spirit of the tree, nearly extinguished, and shook his head.

This Five-Cornered Ancient Maple could not be saved with normal methods of reviving Spirit Plants.

He wondered whether the Grand Spells of the Longevity Sect, Dead Wood Meets Spring, would work on it?

Before using the Grand Spell, Chen Mobai took out a drop of the Water of Ten Thousand Transformations, diluted it a hundred times using the method taught by Wen Ren Xuewei, scooped a ladleful, and watered the roots of the Spirit Plant.

Chapter 1434: Experience (7K)

“The ‘Dead Wood Meets Spring’ Grand Spell was originally created by the Heavenly Sovereign to heal Spirit Plants that failed their tribulation.

Among all spiritual beings, Spirit Plants face the most difficult tribulations, and out of hundreds, very few successfully transverse it.

Although there’s the One-Leaf Blindness Technique, the inherent spiritual nature of Spirit Plants is weak, and even a Fourth Stage Pinnacle Spirit Plant’s spirituality is like that of an infant, hardly ever capable of successful cultivation.

Thus, the ‘Dead Wood Meets Spring’ Grand Spell is extremely important for the Longevity Sect, as it can rejuvenate nearly dead Spirit Plants, shedding their encrustation and revitalizing them.

This Five-Cornered Ancient Maple was also a Fourth Stage Pinnacle Spirit Plant long ago. However, during its breakthrough, it was bombarded by the Heavenly Tribulation, leaving only a sliver of fundamental elemental energy behind.

And this tiny bit of elemental energy is the seed of hope for revival.

After saturating it with the diluted Water of Ten Thousand Transformations, Chen Mobai began to perform the ‘Dead Wood Meets Spring’ on the charred Five-Cornered Ancient Maple.

Last month, he refined this Grand Spell in shared training with Yin Qingmei and handed over the refined green bamboo Qingzhu Yin Xu Jian and other Magic Artifacts to them.

After returning, Chen Mobai used the empowerment of the Great Dao Tree to easily advance the ‘Dead Wood Meets Spring’ to the fourth stage level.

Still, the inherent quality of this Five-Cornered Ancient Maple was so high, Chen Mobai wasn't sure if he could succeed!

A beam of life-filled green light fell, but there was no response.

However, Chen Mobai did not get discouraged and continued to maintain the Grand Spell, letting the green light cover the entire Five-Cornered Ancient Maple while constantly listening for any signs through the 'Echoes in the Void'.

As time passed, he suddenly felt an extremely faint breath emerging from within the tree.

The Water of Ten Thousand Transformations, previously saturating the blackened and dried bark, began to seep in slowly and then the deteriorated and dead outer bark cracked bit by bit.

Seeing this, Chen Mobai immediately became spirited and continued manipulating the dilution of the Water of Ten Thousand Transformations, letting it fall like rain threads everywhere on the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple.

After a long while, the cracks abruptly expanded across the charred bark of the entire Five-Cornered Ancient Maple, then started to fall off in pieces, as if an invisible hand was stripping away its ruined coat to reveal the underneath timber texture.

Simultaneously, Chen Mobai's 'Echoes in the Void' captured the whisper of this elemental energy.

He closed his eyes and entered a deeper resonance.

In this moment, Chen Mobai himself seemed to become this Spirit Plant, experiencing the passage of countless years at an extremely slow pace.

He immediately entered the state of the Guidance Book, detaching his consciousness to avoid being altered and assimilated by these traces of the vast years.

In the state of the Guidance Book, Chen Mobai acted like an observer who pressed the fast-forward button, seeing the past unlimited glory of this ancient maple tree that was once the sovereign protector of this land, where a single leaf falling would start an autumn wind, and a single thought could shake the vastness.

It also endured numerous Heavenly Tribulations, barely surviving several times.

But during the last one, its immense elemental energy dispersed under the cosmic forces, and endless Tribulation Thunder fell from the sky, shattering all its proud Fire Maple Spirit Leaves, with extremely cold ground fire emerging and permeating its roots, trunks, and branches, freezing its True Spirit.

After losing its True Spirit, its vast and intense elemental energy started to rebel, burning it from within. If not for its power coexisting with this force for countless years, it might have been completely burned out, turning into mountains of ash.

Even so, under such a terrifying Heavenly Tribulation, only the main trunk was left.

The pain of near death—if Chen Mobai hadn't stepped out using the Guidance Book, he might have suffered along with it, severely damaging his Divine Sense.

Luckily, the robust Spirit Plant had incredibly strong life force.

Even after facing such a terrifying Heavenly Tribulation, the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple still retained the seed of revival elemental energy.

Under the continuous nourishment of the 'Dead Wood Meets Spring' Grand Spell and the Water of Ten Thousand Transformations, this ancient tree finally rejuvenated today.

Chen Mobai opened his eyes after a long while.

He had used up all of the diluted Water of Ten Thousand Transformations.

At this time, the charred bark of the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple had already shed most of its layer, and a few young buds had sprung from the previously burnt branch sockets.

This indicates that the Spirit Plant had fully revived.

It was quite simple!

Chen Mobai, seeing his own effortless rescue of the Spirit Plant, couldn't help but show a relaxed expression.

Of course, the quick response was also partly due to the effect of the Water of Ten Thousand Transformations.

After diluting another drop and watering half of it, he listened to the simple intention of the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple expressing satisfaction before stopping.

With the help of this Immortal Gate Spiritual Water, the just revived Five-Cornered Ancient Maple began to draw some spiritual energy from the earth's veins through its roots for self-healing and enhancement.

However, what follows is the most critical part.

It requires more careful observation to ensure that the freshly revived and still frail Five-Cornered Ancient Maple can repair itself correctly, receiving the supply of spiritual energy and rainwater.

This would require a Spirit Plant Master who is extremely familiar with the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple.

Apart from Chen Mobai, Zhuo Ming would be the one."

Chapter 1435: Experience (7K)_2

If it were before, Chen Mobai would have definitely asked his disciple to come over and help him with this task.

But now, he had another idea.

“Greetings, Sect Leader!”

At the foot of the mountain, Gu Yan and a newly promoted female Foundation Establishment practitioner named Wei Qiurong saw Chen Mobai descend, leading a dozen disciples from the Five Elements Sect, and respectfully greeted him.

Previously, the Foundation Establishment practitioner Xin Tingzheng who was here passed away last year in meditation, a natural end to a full life.

Before her Foundation Establishment, Wei Qiurong was an authentic transmission of the Spirit Plant Department, so she was assigned here.

This task, however, was also something she actively sought out.

After all, Tianpeng Mountain Sub courtyard was at least a fourth-grade lower-class Spirit Vein and had opened up numerous Rank-3 herb fields.

If she were to practice in Giant Tree Ridge, she could at most enjoy Rank-3 Spiritual Energy.

“I will activate the life force of this Five-Cornered Ancient Maple with a secret technique. In the coming years, this Spirit Plant will continuously absorb the Spiritual Energy of the land veins from Tianpeng Mountain and rejuvenate. During this process, I would like to invite a powerful Spirit Plant Master, a friend of mine, to come and help with the care. You all must remember not to neglect her.”

As soon as Chen Mobai’s words fell, Wei Qiurong immediately nodded seriously, indicating that the Sect Leader’s friend was like an elder to her, and she would respect her as she does the Sect Leader.

Chen Mobai believed this.

The Cultivators here were not as sharply defined in personality like those in the Immortal Gate, especially the Foundation Establishment practitioners of the Wood Vein of the Five Elements Sect, who revered every word of their Sect Leader as if divine.

Chen Mobai planned to let Qing Nu come here.

These days, he also told Qing Nu about the situation in the Tianhe Realm, feeling it was time for her to come out from the Divine Tree Secret Realm and make contact with the world.

It just so happened that the Spiritual Energy in the Divine Tree Secret Realm was mostly suppressed by the three Divine Trees, and Qing Nu could only maintain her practice by using Spirit Stones, worrying every day about the tens of thousands of Good Deed Points she used—such chatter had really made Chen Mobai's ears grow calluses.

Chen Mobai had considered letting Qing Nu practice in his Longevity Wood Dojo, but although he was the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect, there were also Zhou Shengqing and Fu Zongjue, making it difficult to explain the sudden appearance and background of Qing Nu.

After all, the Longevity Wood Dojo was the most important Spiritual Vein Core of the Wood Vein, it was not possible to just let Qing Nu, an outsider to the Five Elements Sect, stay for an extended period without cause.

Chen Mobai had also considered taking Qing Nu to Northern Abyss City, but just then, he had achieved the breakthrough with the Dead Wood Meets Spring technique, and so he thought of the Tianpeng Mountain Sub courtyard.

It is also a fourth-grade Spirit Vein, typically used by the sect's Foundation Establishment and Qi Cultivation practitioners, a bit of a waste.

For Qing Nu to use it as a place for Cultivation was just right.

First, he would arrange for Qing Nu to assume the identity of a friend of his, and when the time was right in the future, find a way to integrate her into the Five Elements Sect.

Thinking this, Chen Mobai returned to Giant Tree Ridge with Gu Yan.

As soon as he returned, he received another piece of good news.

Yue Zutao had emerged from seclusion.

He had successfully formed his Core, and his Realm was stable.

As the first chief legacy disciple after the sect's split, Yue Zutao's Talent was extremely superior; having locked his Cultivation Level after consuming the Tree Fruit of Immortality, and because he couldn't breakthrough Realms, he didn't use any Elixirs to enhance his Spiritual Power further—a fact that had honed his willpower. Later, with Chen Mobai's help, he solved this problem with the Dual Phase Technique, which was equivalent to undergoing Core Formation once.

Thus, it was within Chen Mobai's expectations that Yue Zutao would succeed.

“Greetings, Sect Leader!”

After forming his Core, Yue Zutao appeared somewhat spirited, exuding an air of confidence unlike his usual gentle demeanor, like a young scholar who just passed the imperial examinations.

“Hahaha, no need for such formalities. The sect has another Core Formation, and it's you—I'm very pleased.”

Chen Mobai warmly invited Yue Zutao to come over for tea, having prepared a pot of Snow Needle Immortal Bud beforehand.

“Without the Sect Leader's support and the private transmission of Core Formation Insights, I definitely wouldn't have succeeded.”

Yue Zutao clearly knew what the biggest reason for his successful Core Formation was.

Thus, after forming his Core, he still held immense respect for Chen Mobai.

Chen Mobai asked him if there were any doubts about his Cultivation after forming his Core, and after answering them all, granted him the complete version of the Longevity Scripture.

This was revised by Zhou Shengqing after his Nascent Soul Formation, and it was the first truly successful Wood Attribute Nascent Soul Cultivation Method of the Five Elements Sect.

After receiving it, Yue Zutao scanned it with his Divine Sense. Seeing that the Nascent Soul Formation content was also included, he was very excited.

This represented that the highest heritage of the sect had been fully entrusted to him.

“I have a plan related to the future of our sect for hundreds of years. Previously, due to the lack of someone to control and execute it, it has been on hold. Now that you have formed your Core, I want to entrust this plan to you. Are you willing?”

“Just command me, Sect Leader!”

Hearing Yue Zutao’s response, Chen Mobai nodded with satisfaction, then spoke about the plans involving the Five Elements Commerce Association.

“When I was serving as the Vice Hall Master of the Reward Virtue Hall, I also thought about this issue. Our Five Elements Sect occupies the Eastern Wilderness. If we want to continue to grow and develop, even to support your further advancement to form a Nascent Soul, we must definitely step out of the Barren and interact with the other major sects of the Eastern Region.”

However, to his surprise, Yue Zutao had also long considered this point. He also shared his own ideas about the Five Elements Commerce Association, and Chen Mobai felt that he had indeed chosen the right person.

Although he also had a wealth of financial theories, under the relatively primitive commercial models of the Tianhe Realm, it was still necessary to have Yue Zutao, a local well-versed in various customs, to control it for there to be a chance of success.

Chapter 1436: Experience (7K)_3

Business isn't simple; having good products doesn't necessarily mean you can succeed in it.

There are many complexities involved, especially in a place like the Tianhe Realm where there are almost no rules, requiring an exceptionally capable leader to ensure there are no losses.

The success of Chen Mobai's Little Nan Mountain Shop is largely due to the backing of him being the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect, the largest sect in the Eastern Desolation.

With such backing, he was able to rely on good products to make a fortune across the Nineteen Prefectures of the Eastern Desolation.

"You take my order, go within the sect and choose the people you need – if this succeeds, when I retire, the position of Hall Master of the Reward Virtue Hall will be yours."

Upon hearing this, Yue Zutao was visibly excited.

Within the Five Elements Sect, the status of the Three Great Hall Masters is the highest.

In the future, if resources helpful for Core Formation are listed, he could also have the advantage of being the first to access them like the saying 'a waterfront pavilion gets the moonlight first.'

"This Qingzhu Yin Xu Sword and the Demonic Beast Inner Armor are specially refined for you; once you've achieved Core Formation, you can unleash their power."

At last, Chen Mobai took out an offensive and a defensive Rank-3 Magic Artifact, handing them over to an extremely excited Yue Zutao.

He had been thinking that after setting up the Five Elements Commerce Association and leaving the Eastern Desolation, he might go to the East Barbarians or East Land to purchase a Rank-3 Magic Artifact for himself.

He didn't expect that the Sect Leader had already prepared them for him!

This made him feel a surge of loyalty, as if willing to die for one who understands him.

"Thank you Sect Leader for this treasure!"

In his excitement, Chen Mobai taught him the mantra for cultivating the magic artifacts, which Yue Zutao memorized every word, even engraving them immediately onto a jade slip.

Chen Mobai also discussed other goods they could offer, such as Rank-1 talisman papers and talisman ink produced by the puppet factory.

These are essential for penetrating the markets of the East Barbarians and even the East Soil, where the industrial products from Immortal Gate will definitely strike effectively.

This strategy was already proven in the Eastern Desolation.

Now, all the low-level workshops for talisman paper and talisman ink in the Eastern Desolation had disappeared completely.

It's all monopolized by the Little Nan Mountain Shop.

In addition to talisman paper and ink, Chen Mobai suggested examining other Spiritual Objects within the Five Elements Meridians, like the Green-sun Fire and Longevity Tree Sap, and recommended Yue Zutao to promote these items as completely natural and pollution-free, ensuring Cultivators can refine and consume them confidently.

Though Yue Zutao had a limited understanding, he still took note of it.

Beyond that, Chen Mobai also prepared the Immortal Peach Fruit and Appearance-fixing Pearl, but emphasized that the Five Elements Commerce Association should keep a low profile when moving outside; these items should not be introduced initially.

The Immortal Peach Fruit is relatively straightforward as it only enhances Spiritual Power and, although marketed as free from Danless Poison, he guessed it would only be slightly more precious than ordinary elixirs since the cultivators in Tianhe Realm weren't extremely fearful of Dan Poison.

The cultivators here rarely enhance without the use of drugs.

However, the Appearance-fixing Pearl was different. Chen Mobai had learned that similar treasures exist in the Tianhe Realm but are extremely precious, almost fetching the price of a Fourth-order Elixir.

After all, female cultivators who hear about the possibility of eternal youth tend to go crazy.

However, currently, the pearls are still in the Jumang Academy's Spirit Pool, and because Chen Mobai had produced twenty at once, he would need to wait until the end of the year to transport them.

Additionally, due to Qing Nu's arrival, Chen Mobai also planned to include various elixirs from Immortal Gate into the product catalog.

Eventually, whether it's various elixirs, they could be unlocked for sale step by step as Qing Nu's cultivation level increased, along with the power of the Five Elements Sect.

Now led by Yue Zutao, the main goal of the Five Elements Commerce Association leaving the Eastern Desolation is to establish a solid foothold in the vast regions of the East Continent.

Backed by the rise in the Five Elements Sect's power, they aim to gradually list elixirs and talismans appropriate to their increasing capabilities.

Chen Mobai pondered that after he and Qing Nu achieved Nascent Soul Formation, they could start to sell the Golden Liquid Jade Return Pill and the Five Elements Golden Core Pill, and if he managed to reach Divinity Transformation, they would add the Nascent Soul Three Spirits Medicine.

Step by step, progressively!

After Yue Zutao left, Chen Mobai called for Ma Wuniang, the head of the Spirit Beast Department.

Previously, Chen Mobai had brought out the Devouring Heaven Serpent from the Divine Tree Secret Realm, managed by Zhuo Ming before her departure. After she left, this task was entrusted to the Spirit Beast Department.

As the Sect Leader's spirit pet, Ma Wuniang naturally exerted utmost care and effort.

Chen Mobai thought of Devouring Heaven Serpent as a soul vestige of Yang Jing, somewhat considering her as Qing Nu's younger sister, and intended to take her along to Mount Tianpeng for spiritual support.

Soon after, Ma Wuniang arrived with a Spirit Beast Bag.

Chen Mobai let the Devouring Heaven Serpent out, and he couldn't help mentioning how well it was kept, extremely plump and nearly twenty meters long.

However, it coiled lazily together, and upon seeing Chen Mobai, it symbolically stretched its head forward and chuffed an apricot plum, expressing affection.

"Sect Leader, the Spirit Snake is at a critical point of transformation, overcoming this stage would allow her to upgrade to a Rank-2 Spirit Beast."

Because Chen Mobai had ordered that only wood attribute materials be fed to the Devouring Heaven Serpent to nurture its potential towards the properties of an Azure Dragon, Ma Wuniang could only feed it melons, fruits, and Lingye.

Despite these circumstances, managing to raise it well wasn't a small task for Ma Wuniang.

"Hmm, good job, you've worked hard."

Chapter 1437: Appreciation (7K)_4

Chen Mobai calculated that it had been exactly fifty years since the Devouring Heaven Serpent came into his possession.

In such a short period of time, it had grown to the peak of Rank-1, which was already considered rapid growth for a demonic beast.

After rewarding Ma Wuniang, Chen Mobai placed the Devouring Heaven Serpent back into the Spirit Beast Bag and then went to the Divine Tree Secret Realm.

"Little Dust really should have told me about this!"

Upon hearing that this was a task assigned by Kong Feichen to his split spirit Yang Jing, Qing Nu immediately began to complain about her brother. After all, she was also at the Jumang Academy at that time and the task could have been given to her.

"This Devouring Heaven Serpent is ultimately a product of the Ascension Sect, he must have been worried that the Immortal Gate would suspect you because of it."

Chen Mobai rarely spoke up for Kong Feichen.

"That still shouldn't mean that you have to take this risk. If it weren't for your Void Spirit Body, nurturing Jing'er and being discovered by people from the Immortal Gate would surely affect your future development in the Three Great Halls."

Qing Nu continued to berate Kong Feichen, this brother of hers never gave her a moment's peace.

"Come on, I'll take you to see the Tianpeng Mountain Sub courtyard!"

Chen Mobai decisively changed the subject.

“Actually, as long as I’m with you, it doesn’t really matter where we are.”

Upon hearing this, Qing Nu blushed and made such a statement.

Chen Mobai immediately shook his head, indicating that since he had the ability, he must provide her with the best cultivation conditions.

Qing Nu placed the Devouring Heaven Serpent into the Spirit Beast Bag, then took one last reluctant look at the wooden house where she had lived for half a year, and holding Chen Mobai’s hand, left the place.

Outside, the rich spiritual energy of the Superior Quality Fourth Grade Longevity Wood Dojo revitalized Qing Nu, making her take several deep breaths.

“This Giant Tree Ridge is the main camp of the Wood Vein of my Five Elements Sect, I originally joined the Divine Wood Sect here, step by step developing and elevating myself.”

Steering the “Red Misty Cloud Silk”, Chen Mobai flew up into the sky with Qing Nu, then pointed continuously at the lower expanses of medicine and spirit fields, introducing them.

“That over there is my Xiao Nanshan, which is also a Fourth Grade Spirit Vein. I transplanted an Immortal Peach Tree on the mountain top, which was originally Third Grade, but has now been transformed by me into Fourth Grade.”

In the midst of their conversation, Chen Mobai landed with Qing Nu on the top of Xiao Nanshan.

Chen Mobai wanted to pick a ripe Third Grade Immortal Peach Fruit for her to taste, but Qing Nu immediately stopped this action.

She had already achieved Foundation Establishment Completion, and consuming more would not enhance her further.

“This peach fruit is actually quite delicious.”

Chen Mobai was aware of this fact; he wanted Qing Nu to taste the flavor of the spirit fruit.

But Qing Nu resolutely shook her head and refused—the Third Grade Immortal Peach Fruit could be sold for tens of millions of Good Deed Points at the Immortal Gate.

It must not be wasted so!

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai simply laughed and picked one regardless.

“Besides enhancing spiritual power, this Immortal Peach Fruit can also improve your Spiritual Root; I hope it can boost your Water Spiritual Root Value to 100 points.”

Hearing this, and seeing that Chen Mobai had already picked it, Qing Nu had no choice but to accept it.

Starting this year, Chen Mobai had already instructed the Spirit Treasure Pavilion to stop putting this spirit fruit on the market until after Qing Nu finished eating them.

After eating the Third Grade and Fourth Grade Immortal Peach Fruits, together with the Azure Blood Carp, Qing Nu’s Heavenly Water Spiritual Root would certainly be upgraded to Immortal Water Spiritual Root.

Although he was unaware of the benefits of an Immortal Spirit Root, since he had the ability to enhance it, he would definitely max out Qing Nu’s Spiritual Root.

“Thank you!”

Qing Nu, whose thinking had not yet shifted from the Immortal Gate's perspective, regarded these items as very precious, carefully cast a preservation spell on the spirit fruit, then stored it in her Storage Bag.

Chen Mobai saw this scene, and with a smile, he took her around the bamboo grove and tea garden on the mid-mountain, where Rank-3 Pure Bamboo, Rank-3 Green Charm Spiritual Tea, Snow Needle Immortal Bud, and Enlightenment White Tea all amazed her.

At the foot of the mountain, however, the endless expanse of ten thousand acres of Spirit Fields seemed somewhat commonplace to her.

The scale of cultivation of this Spirit Rice, compared to that of the Immortal Gate, was truly smaller.

After visiting Xiao Nanshan, Chen Mobai then led Qing Nu away from Giant Tree Ridge.

"These three Fourth Order Spirit Plants are of the same species as the Talent Tree and Magic Treasure Tree in the Divine Wood Realm!"

Flying mid-air, Qing Nu pointed to the three Everlife Woods, and Chen Mobai nodded before beginning his introduction with his own.

"That one is Senior Brother Fu's arena, and the furthest and last one belongs to Senior Brother Zhou, who is a Nascent Soul Cultivator, the one with the highest cultivation level in our Five Elements Sect."

Hearing the words 'Nascent Soul', admiration appeared on Qing Nu's face, mixed with some concern.

"Will it cause them to suspect if you bring a stranger like me into the secret realms and large formations?"

"Hahaha, don't worry, as long as I'm not trying to split the Five Elements Sect, they will support whatever I do."

Chen Mobai briefly explained his achievements and status over the years in the Five Elements Sect, causing Qing Nu's eyes to flash with brilliance.

"So, in this world, you have such grand and magnificent achievements!"

"Having been educated by the Immortal Gate since childhood, I dislike division, so since joining the sect, I have always been preparing for unification. As of today, the Eastern Wilderness has unified the mortal world, and in the Cultivation World, only Back to Sky Valley remains—a modest achievement indeed."

Chen Mobai spoke with humble pride, and Qing Nu, with a face full of admiration, asked about his expeditions to unify the Eastern Wilderness.

Chen Mobai seemed to open a floodgate, endlessly narrating his actions in the Eastern Wilderness over the years.

Although he had made immortal fame here, he was lonely.

Because he had no one to share it with!

Even though he had senior brothers, friends, disciples, etc., the secret deep in his heart—that he came from the Immortal Gate—could not be shared with anyone.

But now, Qing Nu had arrived.

The achievements he had hidden in his heart for over fifty years could finally be expressed freely.

Because Chen Mobai's achievements in the Eastern Wilderness were too numerous, by the time they reached Tianpeng Mountain, he had only just roughly finished recounting them.

By this time, Chen Mobai's desire to share had almost completely dissipated.

“Let’s go, this is the Tianpeng Mountain Sub courtyard!”

He descended with his Red Misty Cloud Silk, and Wei Qiurong immediately flew over with an Escaping Light.

“Greetings, Sect Leader, and to this Fellow Daoist!”

She didn’t know how to address Qing Nu, but knowing she was a friend invited by Chen Mobai, her attitude was very respectful, though her eyes still carried confusion.

After all, Qing Nu was not a Golden Core Cultivator, and in her view, only someone of equal realm to the Sect Leader could qualify as his friend.

“This is Qing Nu, my dearest friend. She is here at my invitation to look after the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple; whatever she needs, you must satisfy.”

With these words from Chen Mobai, this was equivalent to the highest command, and Wei Qiurong immediately nodded seriously, then bowed to Qing Nu.

“Fellow Daoist Qing, my name is Wei Qiurong; here is my Message Talisman.”

Qing Nu found the concept of this primitive communication talisman intriguing, and Chen Mobai explained it to her through voice transmission before she realized it.

“I’ll take Qing Nu up for a look first.”

Letting Wei Qiurong wait at the base of the mountain, Chen Mobai and Qing Nu together reached the summit.

It was then that Qing Nu first learned, this world, indeed has Heavenly Tribulation.

Chapter 1438: Expressing Intentions (7K)

Qing Nu looked at the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple on the mountaintop, still with large patches of scorched bark, and as Chen Mobai spoke of the Heavenly Tribulation, Dead Wood Meets Spring, Water of Ten Thousand Transformations, and so on, she couldn't help but reveal a look of astonishment in her eyes.

“Why would there be Heavenly Tribulations in this world?”

Chen Mobai briefly shared his conjecture—the Heavenly Tribulation is a manifestation of disaster formed by the condensation of nature's spiritual energy. And because all the spiritual energy of the Immortal Gate is controlled by the Celestial Canopy and Earthly Network, it would not generate Heavenly Tribulations.

“Does that mean that the Immortal Gate is special, and all other different worlds outside the Immortal Gate should have Heavenly Tribulations?”

Qing Nu asked again. Chen Mobai thought for a moment and shook his head; he could not provide an answer.

“It is also possible that the Tianhe Realm is unique. Maybe the rest of the worlds, apart from this one, do not have Heavenly Tribulations.”

The two left the question at that. Should a third different world come along for verification, they would likely find the answer.

Qing Nu was a distinguished graduate of Jumang Academy. Although she didn't master All Things Spiritual Communication or Echoes in the Void, her own expertise as a Rank-3 Spirit Plant Master was already sufficient. After Chen Mobai informed her of various details regarding the care of the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple, she would have no problem tending to it.

Afterward, Chen Mobai deployed the Wooden House Talisman, which he placed on the summit of Mount Tianpeng.

He also set up a Cloud Mist Array to envelop the area, protecting his and Qing Nu's privacy.

For the next month, Chen Mobai also stayed on Mount Tianpeng, mainly to accompany Qing Nu as she adapted to the new environment.

While taking care of the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple, Liu Jingxian, the Patriarch Liu, paid a visit.

He brought along ten Azure Blood Carps, following Chen Mobai's request.

The eldest disciple had gone to Dongwu, and apart from seeking heterodox Golden Cores, he was also looking into ways to expand the business routes of the Little Nan Mountain Shop.

Since both Tianpeng Mountain and the Liu family were located in Cloud County, Chen Mobai directly asked Liu Jingxian to deliver the fish.

Chen Mobai had consumed the Azure Blood Carp multiple times before, totaling an increase of 8 points to his Water Spirit Root.

Consuming more afterward proved to be useless.

"So it turns out that the fish I ate back then came from here. But, no, if the Azure Blood Carp can enhance the Water Spirit Root, why didn't my Spirit Root show any change during the academy entrance test after consuming it so many times?"

Atop Mount Tianpeng, after trying a mouthful of the fish stewed by Chen Mobai, Qing Nu revealed a look of sudden realization but then asked with confusion.

"For each Azure Blood Carp, only after a single cultivator has consumed the entire thing can it enhance the Water Spirit Root. The more people who eat it, the more the effect is diluted. That is why even if you eat it several times, you cannot complete the full effect to enhance your Spiritual Root."

Chen Mobai smiled upon hearing this and explained the reason.

He was prudent; after learning about the Azure Blood Carp's effect, he ate it with his parents. Later, he checked with the Spirit-Testing Instruments and found this particular detail.

"So that's how it is. No wonder every time you invited me to eat fish, you were also bringing along your classmates like Yan Bingxuan."

After hearing the explanation, Qing Nu finally understood why, back in Red Sandstone City, whenever she and Chen Mobai had their delightful dates, he would always bring along third wheels like Yan Bingxuan.

"According to my experience, each Azure Blood Carp can permanently enhance the Water Spirit Root by 1 point. I'll use the Spirit-Testing Instruments to test you again tomorrow."

The next day, Chen Mobai took special initiative to find the old model of Spirit-Testing Instruments, which he hadn't used for a long time, from his Storage Bag.

"Do you still remember? You sold this to me back then. Although its response is quite slow now, I've always kept it."

Seeing the severely aged Spirit-Testing Instruments in Chen Mobai's hand, Qing Nu was deeply touched and couldn't help but throw herself into his embrace once again.

Enjoying the warm touch of her delicate body, Chen Mobai took hold of Qing Nu's snow-white right hand, letting her channel Spiritual Power into it.

Several minutes later, the screen of the Spirit-Testing Instruments displayed the values of the Five Elements Spiritual Root.

[Gold 4, Wood 8, Water 82, Fire 1, Earth 23].

The typical value of a Heavenly Water Spirit Root, yet the total sum reached 118 points, which astonished Chen Mobai.

“When I first entered the academy, I had thoughts about Lasting Spring Cultivation, so I practiced the Earth Gathering Art, and later, wishing to be as renowned as you, I did not give up and had cultivated it to the Ninth Layer.”

Qing Nu, nestled in Chen Mobai’s arms, spoke with a hint of pride.

In the resource-deprived environment of the Immortal Gate, being able to cultivate the Earth Gathering Art to the Ninth Layer showed tremendous diligence.

Judging by the time, she certainly never neglected this Spirit Root Enhancement Technique since her Foundation Establishment.

“Not bad at all, keep it up. The Eastern Wilderness here also contains Qi of Dragon Vein. I will ask my two disciples to gather materials later on, and then you can try refining a batch of Earth Veins Elixir for consumption.”

In reality, Chen Mobai had surplus Earth Veins Elixir, but according to Immortal Gate standards, these were not up to par, and he planned to leave them for Zhuo Ming, as there was no need to worry about Dan Poison with Green Charm Spiritual Tea available.

But if Qing Nu could refine Earth Veins Elixir without Dan Poison, why bother consuming his substandard products?

“I’m afraid that even with Earth Veins Elixir, to raise my Earth Spirit Root to over 80 points would at least require Core Formation, probably even Nascent Soul Realm.”

At that moment, Qing Nu also realized why Chen Mobai wanted her to apply to view the original Lasting Spring Cultivation text—clearly, he hoped she would succeed in practice.

But a Three-Element Heavenly Spiritual Root, truly, was extremely difficult to achieve.

Chapter 1439: Expressing Intentions (7K)_2

“In the Eastern Wilderness, there are many ores suitable for practicing the Earth Gathering Art, such as this Life Stone, which can directly refine and enhance the Earth Spirit Root, as well as more profound Qi of Creation...”

Chen Mobai shared his own experience of enhancing his Earth Spirit Root, and as Qing Nu listened, she became increasingly astonished at the abundance of resources in the Tianhe Realm.

“Then your Earth Spirit Root must have a very high value now, right?”

Upon hearing Qing Nu’s words, Chen Mobai smiled faintly, then channeled his Spiritual Power into the palm-held Spirit-Testing Instrument.

A few minutes later, Qing Nu’s eyes widened in disbelief as she looked at the displayed Five Elements Spiritual Root Value.

“Probably by next year, my Nine Suns Physique will be able to complete its first transformation. By then, my fire spiritual roots value could be raised to 100 points. I wonder what the benefits of an Immortal Fire Spirit Root are?”

After showing off his substantial Spiritual Root Value, Chen Mobai patted Qing Nu, who was in his arms, indicating that the second Azure Blood Carp was cooked and ready to eat.

“I once attended a lecture by the Three Extremes Sage at Jumang Academy, where the relationship between Spiritual Roots and the human body was explained. It was said that a Cultivator had raised his Spiritual Root Value to 100 points and experienced a ‘Hearing the Path’.”

The incident mentioned by Qing Nu caught Chen Mobai’s attention.

During his own Hearing the Path Foundation Establishment, he had directly obtained a Fire Spirit Body, and as a result, he found the cultivation of Fire Attribute Techniques and arts almost effortlessly successful.

Could he experience Hearing the Path again and if so, could the effects stack?

These were things that Qing Nu did not know.

After all, the Three Extremes Sage had only casually mentioned that in class as an anecdote for them to listen to.

Chen Mobai also remembered something Wen Ren Xuewei had mentioned, that most studies on Immortal Spirit Roots were held at the Repairing Heaven Institute while a smaller portion was at the Imperial Medical Academy.

It seems after returning to the Immortal Gate, he would need to find a way to look up this information.

With this thought in mind, Chen Mobai started to recall his experience in enhancing the Wood Spirit Root.

He immediately instructed Wei Qirong at the foot of the mountain to procure Jade bamboo shoots from Green Bamboo Ridge.

The next morning, Chen Mobai re-measured Qing Nu's Water Spirit Root and found that it had only increased by 1 point after consuming two fish.

He had thought that no matter how many more fish were eaten at one time, the increase would still be limited to just 1 point.

That day, he only cooked one fish for Qing Nu, but upon testing on the third day, he found that there had been no increase at all.

After numerous experiments, Chen Mobai had Liu Jingxian deliver another ten fish and had Wei Qirong eat a few as well. He and Qing Nu kept summarizing their findings and eventually came to a conclusion.

The Azure Blood Carp was indeed useful for enhancing the Water Spirit Root, but the effect was weaker for Cultivators with higher Water Spirit Root Values.

For Qing Nu, who already possessed a Heavenly Water Spirit Root, it took two fish to just barely raise her value by 1 point, and after reaching an increase of 4 points, even if she consumed second-rank Azure Blood Carps, they could no longer offer her any further enhancement.

Chen Mobai felt a slight disappointment but didn't dwell on it.

After all, aside from Azure Blood Carp, there were plenty of aquatic products that could enhance Water Spirit Roots in Yun Meng Ze.

Additionally, there was the Immortal Peach Fruit.

That morning, Chen Mobai woke up Qing Nu, who was naked in his arms, and measured her Spiritual Root Value again. Seeing the value of water at 88, he couldn't help but smile slightly.

If quality isn't sufficient, quantity will compensate.

The great tide of demonic beasts in Yun Meng Ze had already begun to subside this year, so at his command, various aquatic products capable of enhancing the Water Spirit Root were personally delivered to her by the Cultivators of the Five Elements Sect in water tubs.

Moreover, Qing Nu had also consumed her first third-rank Immortal Peach Fruit yesterday. This Spirit Fruit was of high quality, and its effect was not diminished for her, increasing earth, water, and wood by 1 point each.

All that was left was to wait for Qing Nu's Core Formation before she could consume a fourth-rank Immortal Peach Fruit, making the Immortal Water Spirit Root almost assured.

Having resolved this matter, Chen Mobai felt much more at ease.

"I'm heading back to the Immortal Gate, and I'll leave this place in your care."

That day, after watching Qing Nu finish eating her stir-fried fish with Jade bamboo shoots, Chen Mobai bid farewell to her.

Qing Nu's eyes showed a hint of reluctance, but she knew that the man before her was different and that he had many commitments back at the Immortal Gate.

"Okay, I will take care of things here, don't worry."

Qing Nu suppressed her emotions and said to Chen Mobai with a smile.

During this time, the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple had already absorbed half a jar of diluted Water of Ten Thousand Transformations. The previously scorched and dead bark had completely shed, revealing a tree trunk revived with new vigor.

However, after its rebirth, this Ancient Maple was only at the ordinary third-rank level, and it might take a very long time to recover to the Fourth Stage Pinnacle.

This was due to the effect of the Water of Ten Thousand Transformations. Otherwise, Chen Mobai estimated that the revived Spirit Plant would have only been at best Second Order High Grade.

But for Chen Mobai, this was already enough.

After all, he would need the Five-Cornered Ancient Maple only after reaching Nascent Soul Formation.

Chen Mobai left a jar and a half of the Water of Ten Thousand Transformations for Qing Nu and then held her, who was dressed in an ancient-style dress, in his arms for a long time before he reluctantly left Mount Tianpeng.

The feelings between the two had naturally become a matter of course. Qing Nu's willingness to follow Chen Mobai to the Tianhe Realm had already revealed her intentions, and during their time in the Divine Tree Secret Realm, they had both expressed their feelings openly to each other.

Chen Mobai also promised Qing Nu that at an appropriate time, he would hold the ceremony to become Daoist couple with her in this world, announcing it to the whole Eastern Wilderness.

Chapter 1440: Expressing Intentions (7K)_3

Qing Nu, however, expressed that as long as she could be with him, that was enough; nothing else mattered.

But because Qing Nu's Original Yin was very important for her cultivation, the two had not yet broken through the final barrier.

However, this matter was not a challenge for the experienced Chen Mobai.

Before Qing Nu reached Foundation Establishment, she had already mastered the critical technique. With her talent and the reverse deduction over the past half-year, combined with Chen Mobai's personal guidance, she had finally mastered the Jade Lock Golden Barrier Secret a few days ago.

With no more concerns, they had already tried that sort of thing during their time in the Divine Tree Secret Realm.

Qing Nu's reaction the first time made Chen Mobai feel an unprecedented passion.

This was something he had never experienced before—a union filled with affection and nearly a hundred percent spiritual compatibility.

When Qing Nu came from the Immortal Gate, the pair of black silk stockings that she wore on her long legs made a ripping sound in his hands.

In the wooden cabin of the Divine Tree Secret Realm, Chen Mobai did not leave the room for three days and nights.

Since that day, Qing Nu, in order to conform to local customs, started wearing ancient-style long dresses or cheongsam, which Chen Mobai found even more attractive.

And it was for this reason that he had no time for Meng Huang during that period.

“Maybe, we’ll leave tomorrow...”

As Chen Mobai was about to leave riding on the “Red Misty Cloud Silk,” he saw the tall and elegant Qing Nu and suddenly asked the question, and she immediately looked up, her face and eyes filled with joy.

That night, the summit of Mount Tianpeng was sleepless once more.

The next day, with great willpower, Chen Mobai released Qing Nu, who was only wearing a pure white bellyband from his embrace. Amidst her reluctant gaze, he quickly dressed himself and left swiftly using the Underworld Array.

...

“Chief Director, these matters all need to be dealt with as soon as possible!”

In the headquarters of the Sky-Mending Group, Lin Yin handed a large pile of files to Chen Mobai, who had just emerged from seclusion, looking somewhat exhausted.

As the deputy chief director, in Qing Nu’s absence, she had to take up the work of Chen Mobai’s secretary and had not had any rest or sleep for an entire month.

“Thank you for your hard work.”

Chen Mobai naturally noticed the dark circles suddenly appearing under Lin Yin’s eyes and felt a bit sorry.

After all, during this period, he had used his cultivation breakthrough as an excuse to seclude himself, but in reality, he was playing the role of a blissful immortal couple with Qing Nu at Mount Tianpeng.

Although he was accustomed to being a hands-off shopkeeper, he still felt somewhat guilty for pushing his subordinates to such an extent.

“Chief Director, if this continues, I can only resign.”

Lin Yin was also at her limit.

As a Foundation Establishment Practitioner serving as the deputy chief director, she was actually somewhat overburdened. During Chen Mobai’s seclusion, she was almost solely in charge of the management and operation of the Sky-Mending Group, but because the department knew too many secrets, the Golden Core Masters from The Three Great Halls would occasionally come to say hello.

After all, every family has an unruly child or two. According to the rules of the Immortal Gate, if one is brought into the Department of Law Enforcement, then it must be made public to the entire Immortal Gate community.

However, because of the special status of the Sky-Mending Group, it can keep the cases it handles confidential.

Therefore, the higher-ups from The Three Great Halls frequently would come to greet and ask the Sky-Mending Group to help cover things up.

Lin Yin dared not offend any of these people but also dared not make any promises because Chen Mobai did not like these practices.

However, only Chen Mobai could refuse them, so during the time of his seclusion, the pressure on Lin Yin was tremendous.

“See if there is anyone suitable in the group for promotion.”

Chen Mobai wanted to find a secretary similar to Qing Nu. Because Qing Nu was unattached and only listened to Chen Mobai, she was very decisive in refusing the advances of unacquainted Golden Core Masters.

Lin Yin had been waiting for him to say this and immediately mentioned a few names.

Among them, the one Chen Mobai was most familiar with was naturally Zhongli Yi, who, after failing at Core Formation, came back to the Sky-Mending Group. She was previously the deputy head of the fourth group, a friend of Qing Nu, and also from the Zhongli family. Logically, she would be the most suitable.

But who knew, as soon as she heard about being Chen Mobai's secretary, she immediately shook her head and refused.

The reason was very sufficient.

"Chief Director, as you know, our family has a long history, and our network is immensely complicated. Any councilor from The Three Great Halls can easily find connections with our family. When they pass a message, how can I dare reject it!"

After hearing Zhongli Yi's complaints, Chen Mobai understood.

Those with family backgrounds could not act as decisively as Qing Nu did.

It seemed that he would have to find someone with no background or someone who was solely loyal to him.

Regrettably, there was no such person in the Sky-Mending Group!

Chen Mobai thought for a moment and decided to recruit from outside.

Lin Yin had no objections to this, but she subtly reminded him that the Sky-Mending Group, being a secretive department within the Immortal Gate, had a mediocre reputation, and with a high death rate and high entry barriers, it was not easy to recruit.

Chen Mobai was well prepared for this.

He clearly understood the biggest reliance he had to occupy his current position.

Therefore, this new recruit must also be a graduate of the Dance Tool Dao Academy, which naturally meant they would be on the same side as him, and preferably someone of commoner background, without any complex connections within the Immortal Gate.

If it was someone he was familiar with, all the better!

After considering these conditions, Chen Mobai quickly thought of two people.