

World 931

Chapter 931: Rank-3 Talisman Paper and Talisman Ink This “Red Flame Sword Jue” is the cultivation technique of Fen Tianjing Di.

However, after the demise of Fen Tianjing Di’s Divinity Transformation, the sect’s core cultivation book, “Fen Tianjing Shi,” was also contested and fragmented. The “Red Flame Sword Jue” is a technique derived from the remnants of the “Fen Tianjing Shi.”

It consists of eighteen layers, with the highest level reaching Perfect Core Formation.

It also includes the “Crimson Flame Sword Talisman,” “Purple Fire Sword Talisman,” “Cyan Sunfire Sword Talisman,” “Green Flames Sword Talisman,” “Golden Flame Sword Talisman,” and “Great Sun Sword Talisman” from the first to fourth rank, a total of six types of talisman papers.

After the Sword Sha in the Sword Dao Realm, it also records two realms: Sword Practicing into Marrow and Sword Wipeout Thunder Sound.

Among these, Sword Practicing into Marrow is mastering the power of Sword Sha to perfection, smoothly and as one desires. Only then can one condense the overwhelmingly high-temperature power of Sword Sha into a single Sword Pill.

Strictly speaking, it’s not considered a realm of Sword Dao, but a signifier of the complete mastery of Sword Sha.

Sword Wipeout Thunder Sound is what counts as a Sword Dao Realm, and even Mo Douguang has yet to master it.

After reading the introduction, Chen Mobai didn’t take it to heart anymore.

He was sure he couldn’t master it.

On the contrary, for Sword Practicing into Marrow, he exhaled a breath of Green Flames Sword Sha, and with a thought guided by his Divine Sense, instantly condensed it into a thumb-sized, flame-like flowing Sword Pill.

He had already completed this step at the peak of Foundation Establishment, relying on his Fire Spirit Body.

What he considered a matter of course turned out to be a realm only present in the Core Formation chapter of the Red Flame Sword Jue.

This Fire Spirit Body is more useful than he had imagined!

Chen Mobai couldn't help but nod in satisfaction. He had thought that his talent was quite ordinary when he had "Heard the Path Foundation Establishment," but while it wasn't very useful for the Pure Yang Scroll, it was adding fuel to the fire for the Red Flame Sword Jue.

Normally, one would only be able to train and control the Sword Sha and Sword Pill after reaching Core Formation, but with a Fire Spirit Body, he had already taken control of it during his Foundation Establishment, dominating the Immortal Gates and the Eastern Wilderness, undefeated in Foundation Establishment.

After reading the part about Sword Dao in the Red Flame Sword Jue, Chen Mobai focused his attention on the talismans.

The book in his hand was the original text, with annotations by Ancestor Hunyuan, and also the insights and comments of Zhou Shengqing, a Fourth-Rank Talisman Master.

As Chen Mobai read, he felt somewhat nervous, knowing that he wasn't a genius, and his achievements relied solely on the resources he had accumulated.

While the way of talismans was the Cultivation Art he had spent the most effort on, his actual achievements were quite average. He feared that, apart from Sword Dao, he might not be able to comprehend these Sword Talismans either.

After going through it once, Chen Mobai's expression began to relax.

This isn't so hard, after all!

He took out the luxurious talisman-drawing tools provided by the Immortal Gate, grabbed a precious Rank-3 Talisman Paper, and began to draw.

Although his talent in talismans was merely passable, his foundation from the Immortal Gate was solid, and coupled with the fire-related nature of the talisman, it seemed to resonate with his Fire Spirit Body and Heavenly Fire Spiritual Root, allowing him to grasp all the essentials and insights after just one reading.

However, understanding is one thing; actually drawing the talisman would still require time and practice.

Chen Mobai naturally failed on his first attempt at creating the Golden Flame Sword Talisman.

But he had gained some insight and quickly took out another Rank-3 Talisman Paper and began to draw again.

This time he quickly passed the point of previous failure but got stuck at another difficulty later on.

Looking at the talisman paper that had burned to ashes, he took out the original Red Flame Sword Jue to read it again carefully and indeed discovered some ambiguities in the text.

This is a specialty of the Eastern Wilderness, where most of the inheritances of Cultivation Arts are not written clearly and straightforwardly. Instead, they try to beat around the bush, ensuring that without a teacher's guidance, even if you have the Cultivation Art, you can't learn it easily.

Chen Mobai shook his head, but there was nothing he could do.

He then took out the Golden Flame Sword Talisman that came as a gift alongside the Red Flame Sword Jue from Zhou Shengqing. This Talisman was personally refined by Ancestor Hunyuan, using Rank-3 Golden Sun Tree Leaves as the base for the Talisman Paper, soaked in a special medicinal juice and sun-dried in the shade.

Initially, Chen Mobai thought that he could substitute the Rank-3 Talisman Paper from the Immortal Gate, but after a careful examination of the Red Flame Sword Jue, he realized that until he had fully mastered the Golden Flame Sword Talisman, it would be better to follow the instructions.

In addition to the Golden Sun Spirit Tree leaf Talisman Paper, there was a Rank-3 Talisman Ink called Red Flame Gold Ink.

Fortunately, although these materials were all of Rank-3, only the most critical steps required the hand of a Core Formation Cultivator, and the rest of the processes such as preparing the materials and mixing the medicinal and ink solutions could be done by disciples.

As the current Elder of Divine Wood Sect, Chen Mobai immediately summoned the Town Guard of the Reward Virtue Hall, who managed the sect's treasury.

When Luo Xue'er, the Hall Master, received the message from the newly advanced Golden Core Cultivator's Heavenly Communication Device, she wondered if she had ever shown Chen Mobai any disdain during her leadership.

After confirming that she hadn't, she went to the Longevity Wood Dojo feeling a bit nervous.

"Elder Chen, I greet you!"

"Hmm, there's no need for formality, Hall Master Luo. When I was at the Reward Virtue Hall, I owed you much for your care. If not for your guidance, I wouldn't have been able to take up the role of Town Guard for Jian Country."

Chen Mobai had a fairly good impression of Luo Xue'er, probably because when she took office, Chen Mobai was clearly a direct disciple of the Sect Leader, and they had always respected each other.

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“I am merely acting as the hall master,” said Yin Qingmei. “After you, Elder Chen, have established your core, you will automatically become the master of our Reward Virtue Hall. From now on, you may call me ‘Niece-in-Discipline’ or just ‘Xue’er’.”

Although Divine Wood Sect had no written rule, Zhou Shengqing was the master of Shenmu Hall, and Fu Zongjue was the master of Penalty Evil Hall. Even before Meng Hong attempted core formation, preparations were being made for him to take over the Reward Virtue Hall.

However, because Meng Hong’s attempt failed, the plans were put on hold. Luo Xue’er had acted steadily in the subsequent decade and ensured logistics were without faults during the two wars, earning her merit without mistakes. It was only natural that she came to control Reward Virtue Hall.

Even though she was referred to by everyone in the sect as the master of Reward Virtue Hall, she remained very clear about her position.

Upon hearing the news of Chen Mobai’s core formation, she proposed at the most recent sect meeting that the Reward Virtue Hall had long lacked senior leadership guidance. The staff, including herself, were overly cautious in their duties and urgently needed Elder Chen to preside as the hall master of Reward Virtue Hall.

This would also fulfill the achievement of having all three hall masters in Divine Wood Sect to be Golden Core Cultivators.

Her proposal was naturally passed unanimously, but it’s not just about the agreement of people like Chu Zuoshu, it depends on whether Elder Chen is willing or not.

However, Chen Mobai had only returned two days ago, just met Zhou Shengqing, and was in retreat pondering over the Red Flame Sword Jue, so Chu Zuoshu hadn’t had the chance to come and consult him yet.

Instead, it was Luo Xue’er who was in luck to be summoned by Chen Mobai, getting to meet the leader ahead of time.

“The master of the Reward Virtue Hall, huh? That works.”

Chen Mobai thought for a moment and without much hesitation, he nodded in agreement.

He had once, long ago when he first joined Divine Wood Sect, wondered if he would one day become the sect leader.

More than twenty years passed and unexpectedly, he had skipped the role of sect leader and directly become an elder of the sect.

“Does the Reward Virtue Hall have any stock of Golden Sun Talisman Paper and Red Flame Gold Ink?”

Chen Mobai didn't forget the matter at hand and asked Luo Xue'er about the spirit materials needed to refine the Golden Flame Sword Talisman.

“Elder Chen, there are still three hundred and sixty-seven pieces of Golden Sun Talisman Paper in stock, but unfortunately we have no Red Flame Gold Ink.”

Luo Xue'er spoke honestly, with a tinge of nervousness in her eyes. This was the first task assigned by the leader, and she hadn't managed to fulfill it satisfactorily. She wondered what punishment she might face.

“Oh, why are there so many talisman papers but not a single piece of talisman ink?”

Chen Mobai was curious. The Rank-3 talisman paper and ink ought to be complementary, right?

“In our sect, Zhou Laozu is a Fourth-Rank Talisman Master, and the heads and deputy heads of the Talisman Making Department are Rank-3 Talisman Masters. However, they all practice the Longevity Scripture and specialize in wood attribute talismans. Hence, the sect has always stocked Qinghua Spirit Ink. Red Flame Gold Ink was only prepared once by Zhou Laozu himself, and that was thirty years ago. I believe it has all been used up by now,” explained Luo Xue'er.

After hearing Luo Xue'er's explanation, Chen Mobai had a moment of realization.

It was because there were no Rank-3 Talisman Masters in the sect who practiced the Red Flame Sword Jue.

Aside from him, the most proficient person in this sword technique within Divine Wood Sect was the head of the Sword Training Department, Xie Yuntian. However, he was focused on cultivating his Sword Dao Realm. He had barely managed to master the Green Flames Sword Slaughter and was only limited to using talismans.

"Put up a task in the Spirit Treasure Pavilion under my name, to collect the various spirit materials required for the Red Flame Gold Ink. Deduct the Contribution Points directly from my account. If it's not enough, let me know, and I'll personally supplement it with Spirit Stones."

The price of Rank-3 spirit materials was exceptionally high in the Eastern Wilderness.

And Chen Mobai planned to purchase these ingredients for the long term, as he was now a Nascent Soul Ancestor in the sect, practically untouchable. Whether he took the raw materials to the Immortal Gate's factories for processing or bought equipment to set up his own workshop in the Eastern Wilderness, he could cover it all.

"Elder, you worry too much. Your account currently has over a million sect Contribution Points. Even if you bought all the spirit materials in Giant Tree Ridge needed to refine the Red Flame Gold Ink, it would still be more than enough."

"Eh? Why is that?"

Chen Mobai was puzzled upon hearing Luo Xue'er's comment. He didn't remember having such an extensive amount of contribution.

Could it be a welfare provision for Golden Core Cultivators provided by the sect?

“Elder, have you forgotten? When you handed over the Spirit Rice to the sect, you had an agreement with the sect leader.”

Reminded by Luo Xue’er, Chen Mobai suddenly recalled.

The sect’s Spirit Rice needed to be purchased at ten times its value in contribution points, but initially, due to the large quantity provided by Chen Mobai, an agreement was made with the sect to only take a tenth, with the remaining nine-tenths withheld by the sect until after his core formation.

Upon hearing about the situation in the Rock Country, Chu Zuoshu, without waiting for Chen Mobai to return, added this portion directly to his account.

Besides these, since Chen Mobai had slain Nanxuan Jing, an enemy golden core cultivator in the Rock Country and stood out as the most meritorious, Chu Zuoshu suggested an additional reward of one million sect contribution points.

Of course, Chu Zuoshu, as the sect leader, didn’t have the authority to grant such a large reward. He could at most make decisions involving up to one hundred thousand points, while an expenditure of a million required a meeting approval from the Three Halls and Twelve Divisions, followed by a report to the nascent soul ancestors.

This process was naturally passed unanimously. The heads of the Divine Wood Sect Three Halls and Twelve Divisions were savvy individuals—who would dare to block Elder Chen?

After Fu Zongjue returned, he saw the proposal made by Chu Zuoshu and didn’t even blink, immediately approving it.

So, unbeknownst to Chen Mobai, his sect contribution points had already broken through a million!

He became the richest man in the sect, second only to the two ancestors.

This was indeed the treatment a golden core ancestor of the Divine Wood Sect should have. Chen Mobai knew well that the sect was actually indebted to Zhou Shengqing.

After all, every action taken by a golden core cultivator on behalf of the sect is a great contribution, starting at a hundred thousand points. Accumulated over the years, the sect would eventually be in debt.

[With this calculation, the Purple Electric Sword really came cheap.]

After listening to Luo Xue'er explain the sect's compensation for each action made by golden core cultivators, Chen Mobai compared it with the rewards he had received and couldn't help but nod in satisfaction.

This time, in the Rock Country, the Purple Electric Sword made a move and, having absorbed enough Thunder Essence, generously waived the spirit stones.

After Luo Xue'er left, Chu Zuoshu, who received the news, immediately rushed over.

"I greet Elder Chen!"

"Between you and me, brothers in arms, such formalities are unnecessary."

Chen Mobai personally got up to help Chu Zuoshu to his feet, but the latter was somewhat flustered.

In the Tianhe Realm, one's seniority was always determined by one's cultivation realm.

And the difference between core formation and foundation establishment was like that between heaven and earth.

Chu Zuoshu was acutely aware of the significance of the golden core realm and understood that the war with the Nanxuan Sect in the Rock Country was a matter of the sect's survival, so he held Chen Mobai, who had slain Nanxuan Jing, in the highest respect.

"You are about the right age. I heard from Fu Shixiong that you already received the Golden Liquid Jade Return Pill. When do you plan to attempt core formation?"

When Chen Mobai returned, he first met with Fu Zongjue and learned about this matter from him.

Chen Mobai's successful core formation had greatly boosted morale, so Fu Zongjue was thinking about whether the sect could produce another golden core cultivator.

Chu Zuoshu had been born and raised in the Divine Wood Sect, facing life and death with it, following it all the way from the Five Elements Sect era to now. Aside from the recent war with the Nanxuan Sect in the Rock Country, he had been leading in all other matters while at the peak of foundation establishment, in the absence of golden core cultivators.

In the twenty years as the sect leader, not only did the sect's territory expand, but talented disciples such as Chen Mobai, Yin Qingmei, and Hong He also grew rapidly, making significant contributions.

Granting him the Golden Liquid Jade Return Pill was also a well-deserved reward.

"I was just about to seek Elder Chen's insights on the intricacies of core formation."

Fu Zongjue said with excitement.

In the Tianhe Realm, cultivators always prioritized the pursuit of breaking through realms.

Compared to that, all desires like sect leader positions, beauty, and wine were considered distractions, demons of the heart, to be struck down with a sword.

So, with the Golden Liquid Jade Return Pill in hand and Chen Mobai as a successful example, Chu Zuoshu was already looking for someone to succeed him as sect leader, preparing to go into seclusion for core formation.

"I've heard that Hong He has also returned. Call him and Yin Qingmei over, and I will explain the key points of core formation to all of you together."

Chapter 933: Secret Technique Chen Mobai had long since completed his ten-year task of guarding Rain Country, but afterwards, he did not choose to return to the sect and instead undertook the task of guarding Cloud Dream Marsh.

Apart from him, E Yun did the same.

Because Cloud Dream Marsh was rich in resources, with many areas yet to be developed, with their cultivation level, controlling a Fang Market there made it easier to obtain cultivation resources than at the sect.

Many Foundation Establishment Practitioners in the Divine Wood Sect who still aspired to reach Core Formation took on the task of guarding Cloud Dream Marsh every so often.

Typically, they would guard for ten years, return to the sect to cultivate for ten years, and the cycle would continue...

As Chen Mobai's previous peerless direct disciple of the sect, Chen Mobai's talent was highly regarded by everyone in the Divine Wood Sect.

His personality, completely different from Chen Mobai's steady growth, preferred to put pressure on himself and continuously forced himself to break through realms and improve.

During the minor Foundation Establishment gathering initiated by Yin Qingmei, Hong He confidently sparred with Chen Mobai, only to be defeated without withstanding a single move under the Sword Sha.

Although this was a blow to Hong He, it paradoxically ignited his fighting spirit, making him even more diligent in his cultivation over the next ten-plus years, fighting against demonic beasts and enhancing his cultivation level while also honing his magic duel techniques.

With his own efforts, plus the abundant resources at Cloud Dream Marsh, Hong He finally felt his bottleneck loosen recently.

Without any hesitation, he immediately consumed a precious elixir he had painstakingly refined and wholeheartedly broke through, finally advancing to the late phase of Foundation Establishment after one year, and even mastered a Rank-3 spell.

Following his breakthrough, Hong He felt as if the sky was vast and the mountains and rivers long; everywhere he looked, every grass and tree was filled with vitality.

Just as he couldn't help but laugh heartily, preparing to return to the sect to rechallenge Chen Mobai's Sword Sha, a piece of shocking news changed his expression dramatically.

What? The sect and Nanxuan Sect have gone to war in Rock Country?

Without the care of Zhou Laozu, the Divine Wood Sect was surely no match for Nanxuan Sect, and they also had to guard against Liu Jia Mountain, which had been watching covetously for some time.

Upon hearing this news, Hong He instantly analyzed the situation between both sides, and just as he was preparing to take the Teleportation Array to Rock Country to aid his sect, the Fang Market director Wei Chunfu reported to him with a relaxed expression that the war was already over.

"It's over? Did we lose?"

Hong He had considered all the powers in the Eastern Wilderness and felt the sect's chances of victory were less than twenty percent. However, upon seeing Wei Chunfu's easygoing expression, he felt something was amiss.

"We won. Nanxuan Sect's headquarters at Baose Mountain Array has been breached by our sect, the Golden Core Cultivator Nanxuan Jing was killed by our sect's Elder Chen on the battlefield, and Golden Cliff's Gui Xian slew Nanxuan sect's Elder South Teacher Dao with his sword. Only Zhao Xuankang managed to escape."

"Elder Chen? Is he an external ally invited from outside the Barren by the two elderly ancestors?"

Hong He asked in surprise, as there were no Golden Core Cultivators surnamed Chen in the Eastern Wilderness.

“It’s Elder Gui Xian, Chen Guixian. He had left Giant Tree Ridge to find a secluded place for Core Formation and succeeded just in time for the great battle between our sect and Nanxuan sect.”

“Nanxuan Jing, thinking highly of his own cultivation level, was unaware that Elder Chen was a peerless Sword Cultivation Genius with talent even greater than Elder Mo. After achieving Core Formation, his Sword Dao Realm reached an unfathomable level.”

“It’s said that Elder Chen conquered Tribulation Thunder with his sword, with one sword summoning divine punishment and two swords defeating the enemy. Finally, with a single breath, he exhibited the profound Sword Practicing into Marrow, effortlessly beheading Nanxuan Jing and his unparalleled heroism was something to long for just thinking about it.”

Having heard Wei Chunfu’s words, Hong He stood there dumbfounded for a long time without speaking.

He’s achieved Core Formation!?

And I have just reached the late phase of Foundation Establishment!

Thinking back to when he emerged from seclusion and wanted to ask Chen Mobai about the Sword Sha using his Rank-3 Bi Bo Condensed Light, Hong He felt his cheeks grow slightly warm.

Fortunately, at that time he had only thought about it in his mind and had not yet spoken out to pressure himself.

Hong He liked having pressure, but challenging Core Formation as a Foundation Establishment Practitioner wasn’t pressure, it was madness.

How could he cultivate so quickly?

After regaining his composure, Hong He was shocked to learn that Chen Mobai had progressed from Foundation Establishment to Core Formation in just over twenty years.

Before joining the Divine Wood Sect, Hong He had had a fortunate encounter, which is why he could cultivate nearly as fast as someone with a Heavenly Spiritual Root and make rapid progress.

And in the Divine Tree Secret Realm, he had gained yet another divine opportunity.

Only with these could he have advanced swiftly after Foundation Establishment and cultivated to the late phase in just thirty years.

Yin Qingmei, with her Heavenly Spiritual Root, didn't cultivate as fast as him.

It was precisely because of this that he felt confident he could chase after Chen Mobai and even surpass him.

But now, he was being told that the very target he wanted to chase had achieved Core Formation!

This... seems beyond reach!

Although Hong He had great confidence in himself, he still held awe for the major milestone of Core Formation, and even with his rich opportunities, he wasn't completely certain of success.

And yet, Chen Mobai had succeeded on his first try after reaching Foundation Establishment Completion!?

Hong He thought deeply, considering Elder Chen's identity as a Sword Cultivator, and the environment before and after Core Formation, and felt he had vaguely guessed some "truths."

It must have been under the immense pressure from Nanxuan Sect, with the strong sense of responsibility to carry the sect's banner, coupled with an indomitable Sword Dao will and the firm belief of success or death, that Elder Chen took the step to Core Formation.

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The thought brought Hong He to admire someone else for the first time in his life.

The conditions under which Elder Chen had undergone Core Formation could be described as being under the watchful eyes of wolves—he had to leave the Sect to avoid notice, yet faced the immense pressure of not failing. If it were any other cultivator, just the weight of that pressure alone might have created a Heart Demon, likely resulting in the dispersal of their Spiritual Power and death before they could even trigger the Heavenly Tribulation.

But Elder Chen succeeded!

Hong He, who always liked to put pressure on himself, felt inferior to someone for the first time.

You see, Hong He originally looked down on Chen Mobai to some extent because he thought that since the latter had mastered the Sword Sha and had become an unrivaled Foundation Establishment expert, he should not be cultivating every day within the Sect, almost a disservice to his exceptional swordsmanship talent.

Now, however, Hong He understood.

He was too shallow.

Fighting demonic beasts, adventuring in Yun Meng Ze, even battling life and death against Rogue Cultivators, Loose Cultivators, and Devil Cultivators—all these were nothing but superficial pressures of physical life and death.

Only those who dare undertake the survival and protection of the Sect's legacy are truly courageous.

The more Hong He analyzed Elder Chen, the shallower he felt himself to be.

He suddenly felt that he could no longer hide in Yun Meng Ze but should instead learn from Elder Chen and shoulder the future of the Sect during his Foundation Establishment.

Therefore, Hong He immediately applied to the Sect to end his duty in Yun Meng Ze and, after taking the Teleportation Array through several Fang Markets, returned to Giant Tree Ridge.

Little did he know that upon his return, he would receive an immense surprise.

Elder Chen actually wanted to see him, and not just him, but also Yin Qingmei.

As both were disciples who'd been initiated by Fu Zongjue, and their Cave Dwellings were on adjacent mountains, the summons naturally led them to report first to Fu Zongjue.

Fu Zongjue, who was busy comprehending the Puppetry Technique of Liu Jia Mountain, used the Heavenly Communication Device to contact Chen Mobai after hearing from his two disciples and learned that it was to impart Core Formation Insights, which made him slightly doubtful.

“Junior brother, they have not yet reached Foundation Establishment Completion, isn't it too early?”

“Core Formation, like Foundation Establishment, involves the transformation of Essence, Qi, and Spirit. If we wait until Foundation Establishment Completion to rush it, it will already be too late. If our Sect can have more Golden Core Cultivators, we will grow stronger, and external enemies would not dare invade. I will first share my summarized insights with them, even if it just increases their chances by ten percent. Over a hundred years and several generations of disciples, who knows, we might gain another junior brother or sister.”

“Junior brother has a far-reaching vision and broad mindset, I am not his equal. I will trouble you to take care of my two disciples.”

After hearing this, Fu Zongjue also felt that in comparison, Chen Mobai had a much broader vision, while his own thinking remained trapped in the ancient notion that high-rank inheritances should not be easily imparted, and if they were to be taught, it would only be on a one-on-one basis.

Imparting the Core Formation Insights to Chu Zuoshu had been decided a long time ago, but to give them to Hong He and Yin Qingmei, by reason, would require informing Zhou Shengqing.

But Zhou Shengqing was currently averse to any disturbances, so it was appropriate for Chen Mobai and Fu Zongjue to just agree between themselves.

Hong He and Yin Qingmei were Fu Zongjue's disciples, and he had no reason to disagree.

After ending the Heavenly Communication Device call, Fu Zongjue informed them about Elder Chen's summons.

Upon hearing the words "Core Formation Insights," both Hong He and Yin Qingmei's breaths became rapid, their faces flushed, and their eyes filled with excitement.

The next day.

Hong He, who normally didn't pay much attention to his appearance, took the rare initiative to tidy up his attire, shaving off the beard he had grown over the years, and donning what he believed to be his most appropriate clothes.

He thought he had taken quite a bit of time, only to find out that Yin Qingmei had taken even longer.

God knows what she was doing; she only just barely appeared at the time of the summons.

"Elder Chen is a devoted cultivator of the Sword, focused on bitter cultivation—what use is your rouge and powder to him?"

Hong He himself was a bitter cultivator, and seeing Yin Qingmei, who had put on delicate makeup, he couldn't help but snort coldly, and headed towards the Longevity Wood Dojo where Chen Mobai was located.

“This is the most basic etiquette and also a sign of respect for Elder Chen. Didn’t you also shave your beard?”

Although Yin Qingmei and Hong He were nominally siblings, their relationship was average at best, as the latter had always been outside the Sect after his Foundation Establishment, returning only once every few years.

As for Yin Qingmei, with her Heavenly Spiritual Root, she was the treasure of the Sect, and she hadn’t been allowed to leave even a step during the two major battles.

If it were not for having Fu Zongjue as their master, the two probably wouldn’t even have anything to discuss.

“It’s too late. When the Elder summons you, you should arrive at least an hour earlier!”

By the time they reached the Longevity Wood Dojo, Chu Zuoshu was already waiting there, scolding the two as soon as he, as the Sect Leader, saw them.

Hong He frowned slightly and glared at Yin Qingmei beside him, who lowered her head and took the scolding obediently.

“Sect Leader, it seems that it’s the time for Elder Chen to summon us.”

As he was scolding, and not showing any signs of stopping, Hong He immediately reminded him.

Within the entire Divine Wood Sect, he only held the Nascent Soul Ancestors in awe, but he felt that with his own talents, he was bound to surpass any other Foundation Establishment Practitioner, including the Sect Leader.

Therefore, seeing that there was a possibility of delaying his chance to learn Core Formation Insights, Hong He spoke up to interrupt.

“Elder Chen’s disciples have arrived, we will put our matters aside for now.”

Chu Zuoshu was actually just looking for an excuse to pass the time, and once Hong He mentioned it, he no longer scolded Yin Qingmei.

“Elder Chen’s disciples? Is it Liu Shidi, or the two Shimeis, Zhuo and Luo?”

Although Hong He was arrogant, he knew about the three people from the Xiao Nanshan Lineage, who all reached Foundation Establishment, since they were the disciples of his former rivals.

“It’s Liu and Zhuo. Luo Shimei had an incident a few years ago and has gone missing, didn’t you know?”

“Eh?”

Hong He truly didn’t know, as previously, he only cared about Chen Mobai, and after Luo Yixuan’s disappearance, Chen Mobai chose to handle it quietly to avoid attracting unwanted attention.

After hearing what Chu Zuoshu said, Hong He frowned slightly.

He kept this matter in mind, thinking that if he had the chance in the future, he would activate his network to see if he could find this Luo Shimei.

At that moment, a yellow Escaping Light descended, revealing a woman dressed like a village wife, with a gentle demeanour.

“Zhuo Shimei, does Elder Chen have time now?”

Upon seeing Zhuo Ming, Chu Zuoshu couldn’t help but ask politely.

“Yes, it’s exactly what my master sent me to do, to take you up.”

Zhuo Ming, these recent years, had been Farming at Xiao Nanshan, always with a hoe and a fruit basket at her side, and without Luo Yixuan, who didn't care much for her own looks, to dress her up, Zhuo Ming indeed looked more and more like a village wife.

While she spoke, a yellow spiritual light surged out, enveloping Chu Zuoshu and the others, and took them towards the largest branch of the Longevity Wood.

Soon, the four of them had arrived at the wooden house door atop the branch.

The door was wide open, revealing a young man inside wearing a red-black long robe, with a handsome face.

And in front of him was a person who greatly surprised them, a member of the sect's Foundation Establishment, a delicate young girl.

"Gu Yan Shimei, I didn't expect to see you here."

As Sect Leader, Chu Zuoshu was familiar with every Foundation Establishment Practitioner within the sect and knew that she was recently Foundation Established.

She was extremely lucky in obtaining a pouch of Longevity Tree Sap in the Divine Tree Secret Realm and had traded it with Elder Chen for a hundred thousand Spirit Stones.

What brought her here today?

Could it be that after Elder Chen's Core Formation, she felt those hundred thousand Spirit Stones were too hot to handle?

"Shi Niece Gu Yan managed to obtain a secret technique in the Divine Tree Secret Realm that is very useful to me, and today Ming'er specially brought her here to talk about this matter," Chen Mobai said with a gentle smile, and at this time Gu Yan also stood up to take her leave.

“Ming’er, you can take Shi Niece Gu Yan down.”

Chen Mobai continued with a gentle smile, and Gu Yan stood up to take her leave again.

“Ming’er, you can take Shi Niece Gu Yan down.”

Chapter 935: Guidance “Stretch out your hand and pass me some spiritual power.”

Before Chen Mobai gave any guidance, he naturally needed to understand the foundation of his students.

Chu Zuoshu and the other two, though somewhat puzzled, obediently complied.

The Spirit-Testing Instrument that Chen Mobai had purchased from Qing Nu was proving to be extremely valuable.

Chu Zuoshu: [Metal 8, Wood 39, Water 13, Fire 17, Earth 23.]

Seeing the Five Elements Spiritual Root Value displayed on the screen, Chen Mobai nodded slightly. The dual attributes True Spirit Root were quite normal and considered excellent talent in both the Tianhe Realm and the Immortal Gate.

Unfortunately, Chu Zuoshu had not cultivated a dual-phase technique and, like Meng Hong, focused solely on the Longevity Scripture. For the sake of quick progress in his realm advancement, he had consumed many elixirs, leading to an unstable foundation. Even with the Golden Liquid Jade Pill, his chances of Core Formation were not high.

However, outwardly, Chen Mobai still nodded at Chu Zuoshu.

Hong He: [Metal 12, Wood 19, Water 53, Fire 14, Earth 12.]

The second to have his Spiritual Root tested was Hong He, and indeed, as Chen Mobai's previous chief disciple among the three thousand Qi Cultivation practitioners of the Divine Wood Sect, his Water Spirit Root talent was high enough to be called a genius.

It was a pity, however, that his Metal Spirit Root was average and he had not practiced a dual-phase technique. Moreover, he was affected by his environment, accumulating dan poison within his body.

Compared to Chu Zuoshu, Hong He's situation was much better. Firstly, his talent was more exceptional and secondly, he was younger with enough time to treat the dan poison and purify his spiritual power,

"Hmm, not bad."

Chen Mobai always adhered to an encouraging educational approach. After checking Hong He's foundation, he smiled and nodded, then turned to the last person.

Yin Qingmei's exquisitely made-up oval face was tinged with faint trepidation; she did not realize Chen Mobai was testing Spiritual Roots, thinking he was extracting spiritual power to check her cultivation level. Among the three present, her cultivation was the lowest.

She had only recently broken through to the Foundation Establishment Middle Stage.

For a Heavenly Spiritual Root, this pace was considered somewhat slow.

Despite her unease, Yin Qingmei still obediently extended her white jade-like right hand to pass a stream of Longevity Spiritual Power when she caught Elder Chen's watchful eye.

Yin Qingmei: [Metal 3, Wood 82, Water 5, Fire 4, Earth 6.]

She was indeed a Heavenly Wood Spirit Root, and with just a bit of guidance, Core Formation should pose no problem.

Content with the numbers on the Spirit-Testing Instrument screen in his palm, Chen Mobai nodded with satisfaction.

At this moment, Zhuo Ming, who had sent Gu Yan away, also returned.

Chen Mobai pointed to the cushion beside him, gesturing for his second disciple to sit down. Teaching one more was just as easy as teaching fewer, and since Zhuo Ming had the foundation from Hearing the Path Foundation Establishment, he too had the chance of reaching Core Formation in the future. It was good for him to listen now.

He first conveyed the Core Formation Insights inherited by the Divine Wood Sect in his own understanding and wording, then shared his personal experience. He also used the Water Controlling Technique to condense a small human model to give them the clearest understanding of the Core Formation process.

After discussing the Core Formation Insights, he began giving personalized guidance.

“Nephew Chu, you’ve reached the end of your peak years, so there’s no time for slowly purifying your spiritual power. Better to choose a suitable Body Training Technique and consume Spirit Rice to strengthen your physique.”

For Chu Zuoshu, Chen Mobai didn’t have a good solution either. After all, Chu’s cultivation journey over a hundred years, from Qi Cultivation to Foundation Establishment, was riddled with elixir consumption and dan poison deeply fused with his Longevity Spiritual Power.

To eliminate the dan poison, he would have to sacrifice most of his lifelong cultivation level, which was simply not worth it.

It’s better to remain resolute and aim directly for Core Formation.

After all, there were successful examples like Zhou Shengqing and Fu Zongjue. Plus, Chu Zuoshu also had the Golden Liquid Jade Pill, which could help him overcome this stage with the power of elixirs.

However, this meant that the transformation of body and Divine Sense was up to him.

Chen Mobai himself was not particularly adept with Divine Sense; it was Meng Huang who assisted him, coupled with the power of elixirs, to forcefully break through.

Only in terms of bodily strength did he have abundant experience, having spent considerable resources and time undergoing the process himself.

“Reporting to Elder Chen, after hearing your explanation about the three barriers of Foundation Establishment in Divine Wood City, I understood how important a strong body is for Core Formation. Therefore, I started the ‘Wooden Spiritual Body’ cultivation suitable for me, and have exhausted quite a few resources over the years to bring this Body Training Technique to the Foundation Establishment level. I wonder how much it will help with my Core Formation?”

Chu Zuoshu was straightforward; the Divine Wood Sect had numerous Body Training Techniques, but he could not cultivate the top-tier Wood Attribute Longevity Dao Body due to a lack of Longevity Tree Sap. Thus, he had no choice but to opt for the more common “Wood Spirit Body.”

The Wood Spirit Body was widely known in the Eastern Wilderness; even Loose Cultivators could access the Qi Cultivation portion of the method.

However, the part beyond Foundation Establishment was only available within the major sects of the Eastern Wilderness.

Chu Zuoshu chose this technique because the Wood Spirit Body could eventually be cultivated to Rank-3.

And conveniently, the Rank-3 Wood Spirit Body Cultivation Method was available in the Divine Wood Sect, suitable due to matching attributes. Zhou Shengqing had spent a lot of Spirit Stones to acquire it from an auction held by the East Barbarians.

Chu Zuoshu hoped to reach the Peak of Rank-2 before attempting Core Formation.

Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time. Even now, eating five meals of Spirit Rice daily and having concoctions from the Alchemy Department to assist in Body Training, he had only reached Rank-2.

“Wood Spirit Body, eh? It so happens I have 14 drops of Longevity Tree Sap left over from cultivating my Longevity Dao Body. Take it and refine it; it will boost your Wood Spirit Body to intermediate grade Rank-2. Whether you can reach the Peak of Rank-2 before Core Formation will depend on your luck.”

Chapter 936: Guidance_2

Longevity Tree Sap is the best spiritual object for Wood Attribute Body Forging Techniques. As Chen Mobai spoke, he took out a green-skinned gourd from his storage bag.

“Many thanks, Elder Chen!”

Chu Zuoshu, amidst the envious gazes of the other three people in the room, expressed his gratitude with a surprised look, quickly stood up, and received the Longevity Tree Sap.

“I will also impart to you a Precious Fire Forging Physical Technique that speeds up the refinement of Longevity Tree Sap. This secret technique requires a fully refined and freely controlled Green-sun Fire, do you have it?”

“Disciple happens to have one, but controlling it is not quite mastered.”

A complete Green-sun Fire is a Rank-2 peak spiritual object, extremely rare even within the entire Divine Wood Sect. Chu Zuoshu has an exceptional Wood Spiritual Root, but his Fire Spiritual Root is barely passable, so his control over this spiritual fire is merely sufficient for use.

“Then you will need to overcome this hurdle by yourself.”

Being a Fire Spirit Body like Chen Mobai, when using the Precious Fire Forging Physical Technique, he can directly utilize the highest efficiency in tempering, as the flames would not cause him any harm.

It was also for this reason that he was able to effortlessly cultivate Sword Sha.

As for Chu Zuoshu, he could only endure the pain of refining the body with spiritual fire himself. The longer he could endure, the faster the speed of refining Longevity Tree Sap would be, and if he couldn't hold on, he would have to stop.

After thanking Chen Mobai again, Chu Zuoshu, holding the green-skinned gourd dearly, sat to one side and gave way to Hong He.

“Elder Chen, I wonder what flaws I still have in my Core Formation.”

Chen Mobai used the Flame Lighting Technique to explore Hong He’s spiritual power and flesh, then looked at his Spiritual Root Value and suddenly noticed something amiss.

The combined value of Hong He’s Five Elements Spiritual Root actually reached 110.

Had he consumed heavenly and earthly treasures that enhance Spiritual Roots?

At this moment, Chen Mobai also noticed that Hong He’s flesh was brimming with vitality, his vital essence was vigorous, and he seemed to have cultivated a Body Training Technique with profound achievement.

However, though his spiritual power was immense, it was also extremely mixed. This was not a sign of overuse of elixirs but seemed like a combination of spiritual power formed by practicing several different Water Attribute Cultivation Techniques.

“Nephew Hong, your body is strong, and your spiritual power immense, but it seems some of your spiritual power is not under your control. Why is this?”

As these words from Chen Mobai reached him, the expression on Hong He’s face slightly changed. He hesitated for a moment before explaining some reasons.

“To report to Elder Chen, in addition to practicing the Azure Waves Cultivation, I have also cultivated the Water Elemental Body and the Clear Spirit Technique. It is precisely because of this that I am invincible among my peers, possibly due to practicing three cultivation techniques concurrently, resulting in my spiritual power being somewhat unstable.”

“Water Elemental Body” is a Water Attribute Body Refining Technique, similar to the Wood Spirit Body.

The “Clear Spirit Technique,” on the other hand, is a Divine Consciousness Technique from the Divine Wood Sect, a bit more advanced than Chen Mobai’s original Nourishing Thought Forge God Technique but still achievable to Rank-2.

Hong He, able to maintain fast progress in cultivation while practicing three techniques, possessed a talent beyond what the term genius could describe, almost reaching Chen Mobai’s level.

“Your Water Elemental Body is already intermediate grade Rank-2, and given your young age, plus the resources of the sect, it’s certain you could reach the peak of Rank-2 before Core Formation. If you have a chance to advance to Rank-3, there would be an additional ten percent chance of successful Core Formation.”

“I did not probe your Sea of Knowledge at the Purple Mansion regarding your Divine Consciousness due to privacy concerns. However, your Divine Consciousness Intensity is stronger than your spiritual power, which must be rooted in your innate gift. Continue to maintain that clarity within your mind, and keep up with such cultivation.”

“The key issue is the complexity of your spiritual power. This situation is something I have also never seen before and requires careful consideration to find a solution. What kind of elixirs have you used in your usual cultivation?”

In response to Chen Mobai’s inquiry, Hong He replied honestly. They were all suitable for increasing and enhancing his Water Spiritual Power, but over the recent years, he had not consumed any, except when breaking through bottlenecks to ensure success; then, he used an elixir that helped overcome the barrier.

“Well, from now on you should not think about increasing your spiritual power anymore. Focus on honing it as forming the Golden Core is, after all, the condensation of spiritual power. Whether it is the body or Divine Consciousness, they are merely aids to the transformation of spiritual power.”

After advising Hong He on the primary and secondary aspects of Essence, Qi, and Spirit, Chen Mobai turned his attention to the last person.

Yin Qingmei!

This treasure of the Divine Wood Sect had fully blossomed into a great beauty. The aqua and white of her palace attire could not conceal her crystal-clear, snow-white skin, her slender and exquisite figure, the curvaceous outline of her oval face, and her picturesque eyebrows and eyes, like a peach fruit blooming in spring, charming and vibrant.

“I humbly request Elder Chen’s guidance,”

Yin Qingmei said as she rose from the cushion behind her. Her knees gently shifted across the floor as she moved to the position in front of Chen Mobai, after Hong He stepped aside.

“Hmm, Niece Yin is a Heavenly Spiritual Root. As long as you continue your cultivation in an orderly manner, achieving Core Formation will not be a problem.”

Chen Mobai, facing her, did not show the same attentiveness as he had for Chu Zuoshu and Hong He; he did not even use the Flame Lighting Technique to take her pulse and examine her body.

“Elder Chen, I...”

Yin Qingmei was somewhat unsatisfied. She had waited for so long only to receive this one sentence.

She thought about the supreme secret technique of the Qing Emperor’s Longevity Scripture that Fu Zongjue once revealed to her, which was said to lead directly to Divinity Transformation. However, Fu Zongjue stated that this cultivation technique was brought to the sect by Chen Mobai, and if one wished to cultivate it, they would need his personal approval.

This was the reason for Yin Qingmei’s excitement upon receiving summons from Chen Mobai.

She had thought that Elder Chen was about to impart the Divine Transformation Technique to her.

“Oh, is there anything else, Niece Yin?”

Chen Mobai asked curiously. He had heard about this Heavenly Spiritual Root from Fu Zongjue; she had achieved Foundation Establishment through Hearing the Path, but the sect chose not to publicize her existence in order to keep a low profile.

A true Innate Heavenly Spiritual Root, in addition to the full support of the Divine Wood Sect, would ensure that, unless Yin Qingmei recklessly used elixirs to increase her cultivation level, nothing could stop her from progressing past Core Formation.

Even Chen Mobai was considering whether to impart the Qing Emperor's Longevity Scripture to her.

However, since the cultivation technique dated back to ancient times, he was not certain whether it would be suitable for the current environment.

Furthermore, Chen Mobai also feared that the Divine Transformation Technique might conceal hidden maneuvers from the so-called Heavenly Sovereign of the Longevity Sect, and without absolute certainty of its safety, he thought it better to remain cautious.

After all, Yin Qingmei was a Heavenly Spiritual Root; just by cultivating the Longevity Scripture, she was at least guaranteed to achieve Perfect Core Formation.

There was no need to gamble the future of the sect on a mere possibility.

"No, thank you for your guidance, Elder Chen."

In the face of the scrutiny from the Golden Core Ancestor, a sense of reverence surged within Yin Qingmei. In the end, she dared not ask for the Qing Emperor's Longevity Scripture and quickly bowed down to pay her respects.

"Hmm, if you have any problems or questions above Core Formation in the future, you may come to me. However, I might enter seclusion and close off this training hall; you can tell Ming'er about any matters, and once I exit seclusion, I will summon her immediately."

"In the future, we will trouble Zhuo Shimei,"

Upon hearing Chen Mobai's words, Chu Zuoshu was the first to courteously address Zhuo Ming, followed by greetings from Hong He and Yin Qingmei.

Zhuo Ming seemed quite surprised, but after having established her own Foundation, and with the support of her Golden Core master Chen Mobai by her side, she confidently stood up to respond.

Soon, Chu Zuoshu and the others tactfully took their leave.

Having imparted his guidance to the three of them, Chen Mobai felt he had resolved a matter of concern.

If the Nascent Soul Great Elder from the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace did not come to attack, then the goal of the Divine Wood Sect would be to nourish more cultivators to achieve Core Formation, hoping to see the rise of the fourth, fifth, and even sixth Golden Core Cultivators.

"Master, Xue Ting has also prepared some gifts on behalf of the Snow-blowing Palace; would you like to meet her as well?"

After sending off the other three and returning, Zhuo Ming spoke to Chen Mobai.

Ever since Chen Mobai had achieved Golden Core status, those who wished to see him typically went through either of his two disciples.

"Then let's meet her,"

Chen Mobai valued Zhuo Ming, his second disciple, and since she had requested it and he had no pressing matters, he nodded in agreement.

Chapter 937: "Greetings, Elder Chen."

After entering the wooden hut, Xue Ting immediately gave Chen Mobai a grand salute.

“Niece Xue, you need not be so courteous. It has been many years since we last met, and seeing you succeed in Foundation Establishment brings me great joy,” Chen Mobai said.

Chen Mobai’s impression of Xue Ting was limited to the label of a disciple of the Snow-blowing Palace, but he was always gentle in his dealings with others. He reached out and a gentle wave of spiritual power surged forth, invisibly helping her to her feet.

“Reporting to Elder Chen, ever since I left Xiao Nanshan eighteen years ago, I have been constantly reminiscing about those times,” Xue Ting said with a touch of emotion after rising, which somewhat surprised Chen Mobai.

Has it really been eighteen years? He could not even remember when this disciple of the Snow-blowing Palace had come and gone.

“If you have time in the future, you are welcome to visit Xiao Nanshan more often. Ming’er will always be there,” Chen Mobai said with a smile. He intended to keep Zhuo Ming, his precious ward, in Giant Tree Ridge forever to protect her. Even someone with a Heavenly Spiritual Root like Yin Qingmei couldn’t compare to Zhuo Ming in his heart.

However, this meant that Zhuo Ming might feel quite lonely, so having a friend from outside the Divine Wood Sect would be a good thing for her.

“Thank you, Elder Chen. This is a congratulatory gift from our Sect Leader for your Core Formation,” Xue Ting said.

Though Xue Ting contemplated seeking Chen Mobai’s patronage, she knew she needed to find the right moment to bring it up. After all, the level of trust between the major sects of the Eastern Wilderness wasn’t very high, so she proceeded with the gift according to her status.

Chen Mobai nodded and Zhuo Ming immediately took the gift.

It was an exquisitely crafted box of ice, slightly transparent, with a red and a blue halo shining inside, dazzling to behold.

Chen Mobai was quite curious and opened it, his pupils widening slightly in surprise.

As Xue Ting was representing the Snow-blowing Palace to celebrate Chen Mobai's Core Formation, Kong Lingling had indeed brought out some items that matched the prestige of Core Formation.

At the bottom of the box were two intermediate grade Spirit Stones and above the stones lay a pair of crystalline jades.

The crystals were deep blue with a bone-chilling cold; the jades a warm, glossy red.

Having completed the mineral identification course at the Daoist Academy, Chen Mobai recognized these items from the Tianhe Realm.

"Cold Ice Condensing Crystal, Thousand-year Warm Jade!"

Moreover, this Cold Ice Condensing Crystal was even colder and deeper in blue than the one previously used to assist Yan Bingxuan's Foundation Establishment. It was clearly of Rank-3 quality.

The Thousand-year Warm Jade went without saying; it was also Rank-3.

This Cold Ice Condensing Crystal wasn't of much use to Chen Mobai, but it could help Yan Bingxuan in condensing her Ice Soul Divine Light. She was due to return at the end of the year, so it would make a suitable gift for her, though he would have to think of an excuse for its origin.

As for the Thousand-year Warm Jade, it was compatible with Chen Mobai's attributes. As he had taken Yan Shaoyin's refined Golden Liquid Jade Return Pill for his Core Formation, some residual toxicity remained in his body, which he needed to cleanse through cultivation practice of the Flame Lighting Technique. The Warm Jade would assist him in clearing the toxicity more quickly.

"True Person Kong is very thoughtful. Please convey my thanks when you return," Chen Mobai said sincerely, internally admitting that resources were indeed more abundant in the Tianhe Realm.

Such items were unavailable for purchase even at the Immortal Gate, regardless of Good Deed Points.

Chen Mobai continued to chat with Xue Ting, but as the sky darkened, Zhuo Ming spoke up.

“Master, Sister Xue also specially purchased some grain seeds from the Snow-blowing Palace as her personal gift to congratulate you on your Core Formation,” said Zhuo Ming.

Sure enough, when Chen Mobai heard about the grain seeds, his eyes lit up.

Among the Hundred Arts of Immortal Cultivation, he truly loved farming alone.

On Xiao Nanshan, despite Zhuo Ming’s All Things Spiritual Rhinoceros ability to crossbreed three types of Rank-2 Spirit Rice, they couldn’t develop Rank-3 Spirit Rice.

Chen Mobai knew this was due to a lack of variety in their experiments. With the addition of grain seeds from the territory of Snow Country, they could attempt over a hundred more crossbreeding experiments, potentially producing Rank-3 Spirit Rice.

“Oh? Is that so?”

Chen Mobai excitedly took the large box of well-separated seeds from Xue Ting, carefully picking up each seed and holding it in his palm, using his divine sense to feel the dormant vitality hidden within.

All were meticulously selected, full and plump seeds.

“Niece Xue has been very considerate,” Chen Mobai said, satisfied as he accepted the box of seeds while continuously nodding in praise to Xue Ting.

“If Elder Chen is happy, then Xue Ting is also happy,” Xue Ting said.

“Hahaha, let’s go, let’s go to Xiao Nanshan,” laughed Chen Mobai.

After receiving the new seeds, he completely put aside the Cold Ice Condensing Crystal and the Thousand-year Warm Jade, eagerly taking Zhuo Ming and Xue Ting toward Xiao Nanshan.

By the time the three of them arrived, dusk was falling.

But Zhuo Ming was quick to ready two mu of the Spirit Field and began sowing the seeds handed to her by Chen Mobai using the most suitable methods. Xue Ting, alongside her, rolled up her palace dress sleeves and adeptly used a hoe and other spiritual tools from her storage bag to help.

Chen Mobai naturally gave instructions from the sidelines.

Although he had reached Core Formation, his skill in Spirit Plant cultivation had been completely surpassed by Zhuo Ming.

Zhuo Ming's All Things Spiritual Communication divine skill had allowed her to integrate all the teachings of the Divine Wood Sect's Spirit Plant Masters over the years, making her a Rank-3 Spirit Plant Master.

Whenever the Spirit Plant Department encountered any precious and withering herbs over the years, it was Zhuo Ming who resolved the issues.

After completing his ten-year Town Guard duty in Jian Country, Chu Zuoshu even proposed that Zhuo Ming succeed him in holding the golden flame.

Chapter 938: However, Zhuo Ming was after all too young, and his cultivation level was not high, so his proposal was rejected at the meeting of the Three Halls and Twelve Divisions.

Now, those who had rejected the proposal back then, upon hearing the news of Chen Mobai's Core Formation, were already trying to find connections, hoping to explain themselves to Zhuo Ming.

It wasn't long before Liu Wenbo, hearing the news, rushed over as well, carrying a hoe in all seriousness, knowing that under Chen Mobai's mentorship, other skills might be optional, but farming was a must.

Many hands make light work, especially since all three of them were at the Foundation Establishment stage.

Soon, this large box of seeds was all planted.

By this time, the sky had completely darkened, and the group naturally made use of what was available – Liu Wenbo caught a couple of rice paddy fish, Zhuo Ming went to another peak to catch Spirit Chicken, and Xue Ting skillfully fetched Mountain Spring Water to boil Spirit Rice.

Chen Mobai, of course, lay on a large rock, directing them as they worked.

Over the years, the disciples' culinary skills had well and truly matured.

It was also time for him to enjoy these benefits.

“Indeed, it is only here that one can feel relaxed in body and mind, free of worries and restraints. In the eighteen years since I left Xiao Nanshan, I have been missing this place at every moment.”

Xue Ting, holding a section of Jade Bamboo Spirit Rice, suddenly spoke with a touch of emotion.

“I miss it too, it feels like it's been a long time since we've all eaten Spirit Rice and farmed together.”

After hearing this, Zhuo Ming also spoke with a somewhat naive sentiment.

Since Luo Yixuan left the Divine Wood Sect, Chen Mobai began to focus on Core Formation, and their branch's farming and team-building activities started to diminish.

Liu Wenbo started to say something but then hesitated, ultimately bowing his head and silently eating the grilled fish in his hand.

“Xuan’s Soul Lantern is still lit; I will definitely bring her back,” Chen Mobai calmly stated; by now, he had enough confidence to traverse the Eastern Wilderness without hindrance.

His primary objective in the Tianhe Realm now was to find his missing young disciple.

After finishing the meal, Chen Mobai told Zhuo Ming to take good care of Xue Ting, and then he went back to the Longevity Wood Dojo on his own.

...

At Dongyi Bright Mirror Mountain, the location of the sect base of Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace.

Zhao Xuankang had already been kneeling on the cliff top for an entire month.

His complexion was ashen, his body devoid of spiritual power, enduring the biting cold winds on the mountain top like a mortal, experiencing torture as excruciating as being flayed, both physically and mentally.

But he dared not let out any cries of pain, as if he feared disturbing something, clenching his teeth and enduring the suffering.

That’s because the Nascent Soul cultivator, Golden Wind Ancestor of the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace, resided beyond the cliff in the void.

It was a stone cottage suspended in the air, linked to the edge of the cliff by a pitch-black iron chain extending from a stone pillar.

The dense Spiritual Energy of the entire Bright Mirror Mountain rippled incessantly in the void beyond the cliff, as tangible as flowing water.

With every sway of the stone cottage, induced by the iron chain, it made contact with the Spiritual Energy, creating ripples on the surface of the void, spreading towards the cliff where Zhao Xuankang knelt.

Each rush of Spiritual Energy was like a howling cold wind, scraping against Zhao Xuankang's body like a knife, causing him to grunt involuntarily.

His golden robe was already stained red with much of his blood, yet he dared not argue or scream, merely gritting his teeth and bearing it.

Time passed indeterminably, and just as Zhao Xuankang's consciousness began to blur, a figure bathed in golden light, as if composed of luminous rays, emerged from the stone cottage, gestating in the void beyond the cliff.

"I pay my respects to the Ancestor!"

Zhao Xuankang immediately sobered up and began kowtowing to the colossal golden figure non-stop.

"Speak, why did the mission in the Eastern Wilderness fail?"

The tranquil voice of the Golden Wind Ancestor resonated, and Zhao Xuankang immediately recounted in detail his and Nanxuan Jing's experience after they went to the Eastern Wilderness.

"Divine Wood Sect, Chen Guixian!"

After listening to Zhao Xuankang's description, the Golden Wind Ancestor remembered this name.

Under the adverse effects of the Technique of Nightmare Prayers, yet still able to achieve Core Formation, an unrivaled genius of the Sword Dao.

Having just formed his core, he managed to slay Nanxuan Jing. Was he another Ku Zhu?

"Ancestor, Nanxuan Jing's death in the Eastern Wilderness is entirely my responsibility, but I still ask you to keep me alive, so I can avenge my junior brother," Zhao Xuankang didn't try to defend himself, knowing the ancestor loathed such people, but he still tactfully pleaded for his own case.

“With just you? You couldn’t handle someone who has just formed their core, and with Zhou Shengqing about to undergo Nascent Soul Formation, how can you take revenge for Nanxuan? Expect me to take action?” the Golden Wind Ancestor said coldly.

“Ancestor, the death of junior brother Nan cannot go unavenged. Otherwise, all the sects in the East Land will think the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace is easy to bully. I can falsely claim that the Divine Wood Sect possesses spiritual objects left by Ancestor Hunyuan for Nascent Soul Formation, stirring up Devil Cultivators and Rogue Cultivators to snatch them. I could even visit Huangquan Dao and ally with the Ghost Cultivators there to obliterate the Divine Wood Sect!”

Zhao Xuankang briefly laid out his strategy. After his Core Formation, he was specifically in charge of the darker affairs of the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace, engaging with all sorts of underworld connections that could not be brought into the light.

Until now, he still had to consider the reputation of his honourable sect, so he hadn’t pushed things to the extreme.

He just covertly used a Devil Cultivator to cast a curse in secret, ruining Chen Mobai’s path, and after tracking down his movements when he left the Eastern Wilderness, he managed to guide the Tai Sui in the Land of Ruins to devour him, thinking his plan was foolproof.

Little did he know, Chen Mobai’s talent and fortune far exceeded his expectations, and despite that situation, Chen Mobai was able to successfully return after forming his core.

Moreover, he obtained a fearsome Fourth Order Sword from somewhere, and with his unparalleled swordsmanship talent, it was like adding wings to a tiger; under the Unity of Man and Sword, even Nanxuan Jing, skilled in Magic Duels, was slain.

“Still not enough. If Zhou Shengqing undergoes Nascent Soul Formation, how will you cope then?” continued the Golden Wind Ancestor with a chilling tone.

“If Zhou Shengqing forms his Nascent Soul, I implore the Ancestor to expel me from the Dao Palace immediately. Claim that the actions of your disciple have nothing to do with you or the sect, that it is

purely personal enmity that prompted me to provoke conflict between the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace and the Divine Wood Sect, a heinous crime.”

Hearing Zhao Xuankang’s words, the Golden Wind Ancestor snorted coldly but stopped the incessant cold winds of the precipice.

A streak of golden light surged from the stone house, entering Zhao Xuankang’s Dantian Qi Sea. In an instant, the sealed spiritual power within him began to surge, and his Gold Core, previously imperceptible, was once again under the control of his divine sense.

“I have no desire to waste precious lifespan on that place in the Eastern Wilderness. This is your last chance. I will send Xuan Shu to the Eastern Wilderness as well, with you two, one in the light and the other in the dark. If you two can take down the Eastern Wilderness, I will also give Xuan Shu a chance at Nascent Soul Formation.”

Upon hearing these words from the Golden Wind Ancestor, Zhao Xuankang’s expression revealed a slight shock.

Xuan Shu, the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace’s former Saint Heir, who had established his core a hundred years ago with a Wind Spiritual Root.

After Core Formation, he had been under the personal tutelage of the Golden Wind Ancestor here and only descended from the mountain ten years ago.

Although Zhao Xuankang did not know of Xuan Shu’s cultivation level, he couldn’t fathom it, implying it was surely higher than his own.

And Zhao Xuankang was at the mid Foundation Establishment stage!

And when he heard the Golden Wind Ancestor talk of giving him a chance for Nascent Soul Formation, it was clear, this distinguished Saint Heir of the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace, who overshadowed the three major sects of the East Barbarians a hundred years ago, and even had a considerable reputation in the East Land, likely had reached the Core Formation late stage.

[Is the Ancestor hinting for me to assist Xuan Shu in forming his Nascent Soul?]

As Zhao Xuankang left, a sudden realization dawned in his heart.

Originally, he had not planned on using the bill of Ji Zhenshi at Shake Mountain Peak to lead the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace into the Eastern Wilderness to carve out a path. It was Nanxuan Jing, after receiving a sign from the ancestor, who approached him, because Zhao Xuankang was most familiar with the Eastern Wilderness.

He originally thought it would be a straightforward task, but he never expected to take such a tumble at the Divine Wood Sect's door.

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Chapter 939: Core Formation Grand Ceremony Time quickly arrived for Chen Mobai's Core Formation ceremony.

He himself was not too fond of such high-profile events, but for the Eastern Wilderness, a sect announcing a Core Formation was equivalent to gaining another Sky-Pillaring White Jade Column, and they would wish to broadcast it so that the entire world knew.

As soon as the news of Chen Mobai's Core Formation spread from Rock Country, Chu Zuoshu and others had already started preparing for the event.

After Fu Zongjue and Chen Mobai returned one after another, all that remained was to set a date.

In a leisurely manner, a month passed by.

“Back to Sky Valley’s congratulatory gift, two bottles of Rank-3 Spirit Pills, presented by Ye Bopei!”

“Snow-blowing Palace’s congratulatory gift, a pair of Water-Fire Spirit Jade, presented by Xue Ting!”

“Jian Country’s Snow Peak Bai Family’s congratulatory gift, eight taels of Snow Needle Immortal Bud...”

Chen Mobai sat upright on the dais in front of Divine Wood City where he had previously preached on Foundation Establishment, watching Chu Zuoshu, the Sect Leader, greet each visitor one by one, while a loud-voiced cultivator by his side announced each congratulatory visitor and their gifts, sparing him, the elder, from not recognizing them.

This was necessary, for Chen Mobai was famously known as a cultivator who practiced bitter cultivation, and aside from Xue Ting, he only knew the major families of Jian Country and some families he had come into contact with from Yun Country.

The sequence of arrivals at the Core Formation ceremony had been arranged in advance, and soon enough, the vast square was filled with seated guests.

“Five Elements Sect’s congratulatory gift, one Mountain Suppression Stone, presented by Kong Shanxu!”

With the arrival of the last guest—a cultivator with a square face and thick eyebrows—accompanied by Chu Zuoshu, all the esteemed guests for the Core Formation ceremony were present.

“I didn’t expect the Five Elements Sect would also send someone over,” Chen Mobai said, somewhat surprised; the relationship between the two sects was not quite deadly foes, but at the very least, they never dealt with each other.

“Congratulations to Elder Chen for the successful formation of his Gold Core, may you live for five hundred years!”

Accompanied by the congratulations and the rising of all guests, Chen Mobai also stood up with a hearty laugh, raising his cup of wine and downing it in one gulp.

Then, the customary sermon began.

A Golden Core cultivator was expounding upon the insights and experiences of Foundation Establishment, a chance that cultivator families in the entire Eastern Wilderness probably wouldn't have in their lifetimes, so everyone listened with respectful expressions, completely focused, afraid to miss a single word.

Chen Mobai was now a master of lecturing, after all, he had the rich experience of teaching at the Immortal Gate.

Kong Shanxu from Five Elements Sect and Ye Bopei from Back to Sky Valley both had normal expressions at first, but after listening to the beginning, their eyebrows raised, and as they listened intently, their eyes were filled with shock.

Such numerous details within the realm of Foundation Establishment!

By the end, everyone was listening so intently that they almost seemed enchanted, and by the time they came to their senses, the Elder Chen on the high platform had already ceased his explanation.

Is it over just like that?

"Having heard Elder Chen's explanation, I still have many doubts; may I ask for guidance?"

This was said by Ning Leshan from Golden Cliff, and it was also arranged in advance. Chen Mobai smiled and nodded his head.

"Today you have all come to attend my Core Formation ceremony, which means we are fated to meet. I will randomly choose three individuals to answer one question each."

Upon hearing this, the cultivators present brightened up, wishing that Chen Mobai would choose them.

However, the three individuals had been arranged in advance, with Ning Leshan following Xue Ting.

As for the third, Chen Mobai glanced over and eventually pointed at Liu Jingxian, the Foundation Establishment elder from the Liu family of Yun Country.

“Why did Elder Chen choose him?”

Cultivators who were unaware of the background started discussing amongst themselves, but soon someone provided the answer.

Elder Chen’s Eldest Disciple hailed from the Liu family of Yun Country; Liu Jingxian getting this opportunity was clearly due to Liu Wenbo’s influence.

Liu Jingxian was not highly cultivated, merely at the peak of the early foundation stage. At 167 years old, he didn’t have much time left to live, but because of the emergence of Liu Wenbo from his family, he was not worried about his successor at all.

Especially after Chen Mobai’s Core Formation, their Liu family could now be considered a direct lineage of a Gold Core.

And being chosen by Chen Mobai after the Core Formation ceremony, Liu Jingxian looked even more radiant, as if he had rejuvenated by a decade. He raised the issue that he had encountered in his cultivation, wanting to know how to break through the bottleneck that had troubled him for decades.

After inquiring about Liu Jingxian’s cultivation technique and examining his Spiritual Root, Chen Mobai presented three methods for breakthrough.

“Thank you, Elder Chen, for your guidance.”

With Liu Jingxian’s sincere words, Chen Mobai nodded and was about to conclude the day’s Core Formation ceremony.

Suddenly, his expression turned solemn, and he looked up at the sky.

A resplendent golden Jade Bridge extended from the distant horizon, with a straight-backed youth in a golden robe, hands behind his back, standing at the forefront of the bridge, flying towards the airspace above Giant Tree Ridge.

A Golden Core Cultivator!

Without a word, from the surging of nature's spiritual energy around them, everyone discerned the cultivation level of the newcomer.

"Who approaches!"

A beam of Spiritual Light rose from one of the Everlife Woods at the center of Giant Tree Ridge, and the figure of Fu Zongjue appeared, confronting the youth in the golden robe, his expression stern.

"I am Xuan Shu, here to extend my congratulations to True Person Chen on his Core Formation."

The youth in the golden robe had an ordinary appearance, but his demeanor was exceptionally lofty. He stood upon the Jade Bridge, with the flow of air around him creating a faint roaring sound.

"The Saint Heir from Xuan Xiao Dao Palace!"

Upon hearing this, Fu Zongjue couldn't help but feel shock in his heart.

In his youth, he coincided with Xuan Shu, except the latter was the most dazzling genius of that era, unrivaled throughout the East Barbarians, with a reputation so great that even within the Eastern Wilderness, it was illustrious.

Chapter 940: Core Formation Ceremony_2 It is said that in the East Land, Xuan Shu was also remarkably brilliant, engaging in discourse with the Taoist Children and Saintesses from the Holy Land Major Sects.

After returning from the East Land, Xuan Shu quickly achieved Core Formation, but after that, there had been essentially no news from him.

Unexpectedly, instead of the Golden Wind Ancestor from the Xuan Xiao Dao Palace coming, they sent this seedling for Nascent Soul Formation.

“Visitors should be treated as guests, please come down and have a drink of light wine.”

Although Fu Zongjue was apprehensive due to Xuan Shu’s reputation, given that they were at Giant Tree Ridge, even if the Golden Wind Ancestor, the Primordial Infant Great Cultivation himself, arrived, they could resist. He quickly regained his composure and even extended an invitation to Xuan Shu to come down.

“I came in a hurry and did not prepare any gifts, so I’ll come down to ask for a drink.”

Xuan Shu was proud yet not arrogant, and wouldn’t fall into a trap by entering the Large Formation at Giant Tree Ridge.

“If that is the case, I ask that you please leave.”

Fu Zongjue tactfully reminded him that the Divine Wood Sect and the Xuan Xiao Dao Palace had become irreconcilable deadly foes after the killing of Nanxuan Jing.

However, today was the Core Formation ceremony for Chen Mobai, and he did not wish to fight.

Moreover, most importantly, with Zhou Shengqing in closed-door cultivation, neither he nor Chen Mobai were a match for this Xuan Shu.

“I am here not only to congratulate True Person Chen on his Core Formation but also to ask for the settlement of a debt.”

Without further ado, Xuan Shu narrowed his eyes as a fierce chill began to gather around him as its epicenter.

“What debt?”

“My junior brother Nanxuan Jing died at the hands of True Person Chen. His life must be compensated with the life of a Divine Wood Sect’s Golden Core Cultivator.”

With that statement, Fu Zongjue knew the visitor was foe, not friend. He sneered and without wasting more words, immediately controlled his Puppet Body to retreat towards Giant Tree Ridge below.

Suddenly, with a whoosh!

A brilliant azure light burst from Xuan Shu’s fingertips, and just as Fu Zongjue’s Puppet Body turned around, it was cleaved in two.

The azure light slashed the clouds and clove the sky, its momentum unceasing as it descended toward Giant Tree Ridge.

A clear and resplendent Sacred Tree Divine Light soared into the sky as the Divine Wood Sect’s Array of Ten Thousand Woods activated spontaneously, neutralizing Xuan Shu’s attack into nothingness.

“Does the Divine Wood Sect’s three Golden Core practitioners only dare to hide within their Large Formation?”

Xuan Shu stood on the Jade Bridge, looming in mid-air, and called out loudly towards Giant Tree Ridge. His voice naturally carried into Divine Wood City.

The crowd exchanged glances, but none dared utter a word, as if they were struck silent and didn’t dare look towards Chen Mobai on the high platform.

In their eyes, Xuan Shu's disruption of the Core Formation ceremony would surely incur Elder Chen's great wrath.

In these circumstances, it was still with him that they made eye contact.

What if Elder Chen was petty.

"Nephew Chu, what's the background of this Xuan Shu?"

Chen Mobai was not thoroughly familiar with the forces on this side of the Eastern Wilderness, let alone an outsider like Xuan Shu.

His mood was naturally not very good, and he was already prepared to step onto the field with his Purple Electric Sword.

"Reporting to Elder Chen, I do not know the origins of this person either."

Xuan Shu had secluded himself in Bright Mirror Mountain for a hundred years, and the younger generation from the East Barbarians didn't even know this person, let alone Chu Zuoshu.

"He is the previous Saint Son of the Xuan Xiao Dao Palace."

The one who spoke this was Kong Shanxu of the Five Elements Sect.

Chen Mobai glanced at him and gave a nod, then transformed into a crimson flame of light, like a shooting star soaring into the sky, rushing towards Xuan Shu in mid-air.

"Junior Brother Chen, do not act rashly!"

Unfortunately, before he could leave the Array of Ten Thousand Woods, Fu Zongjue stopped him.

“Brother, if we do not respond and are blocked at our door, where will the Sect’s dignity be?”

With the Sect’s Large Formation as a backbone, if there’s a trend toward an untenable defense, then retreat immediately, Chen Mobai thought.

“All right, Junior Brother, make sure not to overdo it. I’ve already sent someone to notify Brother Mo. Together, the three of us will surely be able to capture him with ease.”

Fu Zongjue, being the least advanced in his cultivation, was used to ganging up with Zhou Shengqing and Mo Douguang. Thus, sensing that Xuan Shu was about to make a move, he promptly withdrew, intending to regroup with reinforcements before engaging again.

“I shall rely on Brother Fu to back me up!”

As Chen Mobai spoke, he had already stepped outside the coverage of the Array of Ten Thousand Woods.

[Good, this person is indeed as proud as I expected. When we clash, I’ll initially feign weakness. Once he believes he can hold out against me, I’ll surge forward and strike him down in one move, giving him no chance to flee back into the formation.]

Standing on the Jade Bridge, Xuan Shu noted Chen Mobai stepping out of the formation. His facial expression remained calm, but his eyes sparkled with anticipation as he envisioned his opponent, decapitated, merely a few breaths later.

The so-called unparalleled Sword Cultivation Genius was merely a boast of the small region of the Eastern Wilderness. His real strength and talent, if taken to the East Land, were probably only at the level of a major Sect’s entry-level disciple.

But he was a true genius, capable of holding conversations with those Saint Land Taoist Children and Taoist Saintesses.

After slaying this Chen Guixian, he would force Zhou Shengqing to leave seclusion. Then, he would gradually take care of the remaining Golden Core Cultivators from the Eastern Wilderness and eventually clear out the Rank-4 demonic beast in Yun Meng Ze. After that, he could start preparing for his “Nascent Soul Formation”.

Xuan Shu’s plan for his own ascension to Nascent Soul was crystal clear. Even the Golden Wind Ancestor, in his eyes, was nothing more than a chess piece to be used.

Upon his Nascent Soul Formation, he would unify the three regions of the East Barbarians, Eastern Wilderness, and Dongwu, establish a super Sect to develop this Land of Ruins, collecting resources for his Divinity Transformation, and thereby establish a Holy Land outside of the East Land.

“The thing I hate the most is people without manners.”

At this moment, Chen Mobai’s voice reached him, and Xuan Shu scoffed, his fingertips gleaming with an azure-gold sharpness.

As he prepared to use his Heavenly Wind Finger, a suddenly deep and muffled thunderclap boomed in the sky.

Chen Mobai drew a streak of purple light from his Storage Bag, and with a thunderous rumble in the sky, amidst flashes of lightning and thunder, the Purple Electric Sword had already descended upon Xuan Shu’s head.

His Heavenly Wind Finger was instantly broken. Xuan Shu’s expression changed slightly as he triggered a Defense Spirit Talisman from his sleeve, creating a barrier of wind to block in front of the Purple Electric Sword.

However, as the thunder crashed down from the sky, layers of the whirlwind were shattered.

Seeing that even this Third Rank Superior Grade Spirit Talisman couldn’t stop the Purple Electric Sword, Xuan Shu’s eyes widened in shock. He could only spit out a Gold Jade Treasure Pearl, a golden radiance erupting furiously to envelop his entire body.

Simultaneously, two more Defense Spirit Talismans were triggered, forming a triple layer of protection along with the Treasure Bead.

Amidst the deafening roar!

Xuan Shu couldn't help but stagger back step by step.

The Purple Electric Sword was eagerly drawing Pure Yang Spiritual Power from Chen Mobai's Dantian Qi Sea. Although their paths varied, both were of the most yang and rigid aspect, with an eighty percent compatibility.

In the eyes of over a hundred Foundation Establishment Practitioners from around the Eastern Wilderness in Divine Wood City below, a dazzling and brilliant column of purple lightning burst from the Sword Artifact in Elder Chen's palm, striking the illustrious, once high-and-mighty Saint Heir of the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace, atop the Jade Bridge, down like a golden ball.

Is this the greatest Sword talent from the Eastern Wilderness in a millennium?

Many had doubted the boasts of the Divine Wood Sect, but after witnessing this scene, they felt it was an understatement.

Since the Eastern Wilderness had been opened up, there had never been such an impressive Sword Cultivator!

Boom!

At that moment, Xuan Shu finally halted in mid-air. After a burst of dazzling azure-gold light, he managed to forcefully redirect the direction of the purple column of lightning.

Chen Mobai was somewhat surprised as that powerful surge had just overpowered his grip on the Purple Electric Sword.

While the main reason was that his own cultivation level was insufficient to fully wield the power of the Purple Electric Sword, it was indeed true that a Core Formation Late Stage cultivator should not be underestimated.

However, he never intended to defeat Xuan Shu in the first place, he merely wanted to strike a couple of blows for the sake of the Sect's honor.

After all, with an ample reserve of Spiritual Power, using the Purple Electric Sword wouldn't deplete his Elemental Energy, and he could also practice his proficiency with the Fourth Order Sword.

Purple Electric Sword: [Master, this opponent is somewhat strong...]

Chen Mobai: [No matter, our Unity of Man and Sword should cut him twice as a formality, just to show face. There's no need to defeat him.]

Purple Electric Sword: [I mean, we should add more Spirit Stones.]

Chen Mobai: [...]