

World 951

Chapter 951: Yan Jinye was Zhuo Ming's closest friend within the sect, and even before the latter had started on her Foundation Establishment, the two would often discuss various new methods of brewing spiritual wine.

This time, when Chen Mobai took Zhuo Ming to Black Cloud Mountain to transplant the Rank-3 Immortal Peach Tree, she asked Yan Jinye to come over and help look after some of the precious spirit plants in Xiao Nanshan.

Although most of Xiao Nanshan's spirit fields were planted with various kinds of Spirit Rice, there was one plant of Enlightenment White Tea that Chen Mobai had brought from the Immortal Sect.

This was a new variety of tea that Wen Ren Xuewei had created to replicate the original Enlightenment Tea. Her own best plant had already reached Third Rank Superior Grade, and the one given to Chen Mobai was at the very least capable of being cultivated to Rank-3.

In the years Chen Mobai spent in Core Formation, Zhuo Ming, using her divine skills of All Things Spiritual Communication, had combined this plant of Enlightenment White Tea with the earth's spiritual energy of Xiao Nanshan. Not only was the transplantation successful, but the plant was also growing robustly.

With ample spiritual energy and the most suitable growing environment, the Enlightenment White Tea was now at a critical point of transformation.

Once over this hurdle, the tea leaves it produced every year would be Rank-2.

Although Zhuo Ming's investigation through All Things Spiritual Communication indicated that this transformation would continue for another half a year, given the tea's preciousness, she asked Yan Jinye to come over and take care of it while she was away.

When Qi Rui arrived, he did not conceal his aura. Yan Jinye, who was tasked with watching over the place, immediately detected his presence and came out to greet him.

The two, who had not met for a long time, started chatting at the foot of the mountain.

“Though I originally thought Elder Chen was extraordinarily talented, I never imagined he would become the third Golden Core Cultivator in our Divine Wood Sect.”

Naturally, their conversation drifted to Chen Mobai, the young loose cultivator they had met on Green Light Island. Qi Rui had many feelings and great respect for him.

An unintentional act of kindness had rewarded him with an extremely valuable Foundation Building Pill, a lifeline for Qi Rui who had become rather despondent after a failed attempt at foundation establishment.

“Elder Chen is like a successor from a supreme holy land. Without his guidance on the method to resolve elixir poisoning, my cultivation level wouldn’t have improved so swiftly.”

Yan Jinye felt the same way. The Spirit Cultivation Method taught by Chen Mobai had greatly increased her success rate in elixir refinement.

Although she rarely used elixir pills to improve her cultivation level because she had listened to Chen Mobai’s teachings, she had traded the elixirs she refined for cultivation resources she needed, and now she was already at the peak of the early foundation stage.

Among those of the same cohort who had established their foundations, she was second only to Chen Mobai and the three competing for the position of Sect Leader, including Hong He.

As they chatted, they saw a pale red mist of clouds on the horizon, looking like a blazing fire sweeping across the sky, rapidly heading their way.

To their astonishment, the Mountain Protection Array of Giant Tree Ridge didn’t block it. Instead, it opened a gap, allowing the cloud of fire to pour in.

“Ah, Brother Qi is here too. Just wait a bit, and then I’ll catch up with you both properly.”

A familiar voice rang in their ears, and when Qi Rui looked up, he saw Chen Mobai standing atop the red misty clouds.

With the “Red Misty Cloud Silk” Magic Artifact being pushed to its limits by Chen Mobai, it transformed into a vast red cloud mingled with pale blue vapor, carrying a gnarled peach tree with branches as robust as dragons towards the summit of Xiao Nanshan.

A yellowish Spiritual Light from atop the cloud of red mist descended first; it was Zhuo Ming.

Transplanting this Rank-3 Immortal Peach Tree from Black Cloud Mountain was something Chen Mobai had been thinking about for a long time. Now that his cultivation level was sufficient, and Zhuo Ming’s mastery in spiritual planting complete, the master and disciple immediately proceeded with the action.

Chen Mobai quickly brought the Immortal Peach Tree back to Giant Tree Ridge after uprooting it with all its roots from Black Cloud Mountain.

“Sister Yan, lend me a hand!”

After descending from the “Red Misty Cloud Silk,” Zhuo Ming immediately waved at Yan Jinye, who promptly joined her. The two sprinkled two large buckets of specially prepared Spiritual Water around the well-dug pit on the mountaintop, and then, with extraordinary strength, Chen Mobai slowly lowered the robust, dragon-like Immortal Peach Tree with pinpoint accuracy into the center of the pit.

After completing these steps, Zhuo Ming used her Mother Earth Cultivation technique to connect the plant’s spiritual energy to the earth.

Transplanting a whole Rank-3 spirit plant was a significant burden for Xiao Nanshan, considering its Spirit Vein Level was only just maintaining a Rank-3 after opening up several spirit fields.

However, precious spirit plants could grow symbiotically with spirit veins.

For example, this Immortal Peach Tree, due to its role in suppressing the earth’s spirit vein and gathering spiritual energy, made the existence of a Rank-3 Spirit Vein in Black Cloud Mountain possible.

This is why Chen Mobai decided to transplant the Immortal Peach Tree intact to Xiao Nanshan, instead of turning it into a spirit plant seed and taking it into his Golden Core Domain.

The Kindwood Mantra he had obtained from the Talent Tree allowed him to turn mature spirit plants into seeds, ensuring the success of the transplant. However, the energy within the seeds would need to be gradually stimulated over a long time to regrow into its former Grade.

This time, the transplant of the Immortal Peach Tree was in its original form to suppress and enhance the spiritual energy, thereby uplifting the Spirit Vein Level of Xiao Nanshan.

The source of the Spirit Vein in Giant Tree Ridge was once suppressed by Ancestor Hunyuan using three Everlife Woods, which assisted him in refining the Longevity Technique.

After the Earth Mother lifted the seal, spiritual energy spread throughout Giant Tree Ridge, creating the second-largest medicinal field in The Barren and establishing the Divine Wood Sect.

Chapter 952: Transplanting the Immortal Peach Tree_2

However, the diffusion of the spiritual energy was not uniform, with some areas at a Rank-4 and others only at a Rank-3 level.

Xiao Nanshan was originally Rank-4, but unfortunately, after it had been turned into vast spirit fields for planting Spirit Rice, the Spirit Vein Qi here was diluted and dispersed.

Previously, when Chen Mobai used this place as his cultivation dojo, he restrained the expansion of the spirit fields and even took the initiative to gather spiritual energy to enhance the spirit vein.

But after he moved to the Longevity Wood Dojo, Zhuo Ming, following his instructions, used most of the spiritual energy to supply the Rank-3 spirit fields, causing the spiritual energy concentration of Xiao Nanshan to decrease over time.

Chen Mobai had an attachment to this place, as it held the fondest memories for him and his three disciples. So, once he learned of the situation, he immediately took Zhuo Ming with him to Black Cloud Mountain.

After the Immortal Peach Tree settled on the mountain's peak, it became Zhuo Ming's main stage.

She stretched out her hands to touch the coarse tree bark, and streams of pure Earth Qi flowed from various parts of Xiao Nanshan, gently making contact with the slender and delicate roots of the Immortal Peach Tree, slowly merging and blending together.

Blue and yellow lights twined continuously, eventually becoming indistinguishable from one another.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Zhuo Ming opened her eyes while slightly out of breath.

"Reporting to Master, the transplantation is a success, but Xiao Nanshan's ley lines are after all different from those of Black Cloud Mountain. This Immortal Peach Tree is still adapting, and the grade of the fruit for the next two or three harvests may not reach the standards of Rank-3."

After hearing this, Chen Mobai looked at the Immortal Peach Tree, which indeed appeared to have diminished vitality compared to before, nodded, and opened his Golden Core Domain.

A pitch-black object, appearing to be neither stone nor flesh, flew out from nowhere and landed before everyone's eyes.

While Zhuo Ming and the others looked on in surprise, Tai Sui was already employing Earth Escape, arriving at the foot of Chen Mobai and gently rubbing against his trousers.

"I need to trouble you for a moment."

Chen Mobai patted Tai Sui then conveyed a message to it through his Divine Sense. It immediately nodded and transformed into a streak of yellow light, burrowing into the soil at the base of the Immortal Peach Tree.

Before long, the soil in that area began to darken slightly.

Zhuo Ming, who cultivated the Mother Earth Cultivation technique, felt the Earth Qi from the greater part of Xiao Nanshan surging towards this place. The Spiritual Energy of heaven and earth was also drawn in and then absorbed by the black soil, transforming into a higher grade Earth Element power.

This Earth Element power did not directly infuse into the Immortal Peach Tree but filled the soil around its roots.

Each time the Immortal Peach Tree absorbed a surge, another filled the gap that was left.

“This Tai Sui is an Earth Attribute spiritual creature; its presence makes the land the most suitable treasure spot for Earth Attribute spiritual power practice. Moreover, it can convert Earth Qi and spiritual energy into the gentlest Earth Element power, nourishing the growth of various spirit plants.”

“With such traits, Tai Sui is the best catalyst for refining top-ranked elixirs. Apart from that, it’s also a natural spirit field. Covering the peak of Xiao Nanshan, it is equivalent to a Third Rank Superior Grade spirit field, which can allow the Immortal Peach Tree to adapt faster in the presence of abundant Earth Element power.”

“This creature suits you the best. I will pass on the methods of using and controlling it to you. Take good care of it, and if you can cultivate it to Rank-4, I will reward you handsomely.”

After giving a brief introduction of the Tai Sui he had obtained from the Land of Ruins, Chen Mobai set up a branch of the contract to allow Zhuo Ming to also control it.

After all, this Tai Sui was Rank-3, and any ordinary Foundation Establishment Practitioner who encountered it would only be crushed by its might.

“There actually exists such a wondrous thing in the world!”

Yan Jinye, who was nearby, couldn’t help but express her amazement after hearing this.

She watched as the soil on the mountain peak turned black after integrating with Tai Sui. The initially wilting Immortal Peach Tree, which looked somewhat lethargic due to the recent transplantation, now visibly seemed a lot more vigorous. Its branches and trunks stretched out and began to actively absorb nearby water vapor and Spiritual Energy.

This scene made both her and Zhuo Ming's eyes shine with excitement.

This was a Third Rank spirit field that could be carried around, and in the future, if they encountered any extremely precious medicinal herbs outside, they could transplant them on the spot. Moreover, for Yan Jinye, an Alchemist, this was an elixir refining treasure.

"Yes, Master!"

Watching Zhuo Ming joyfully accept the contract of Tai Sui, Yan Jinye felt envious as she stood to the side, wishing she too were a disciple of Chen Mobai.

"This is the juice of Tai Sui, filled with abundant Earth Element power; you probably know how to use it better than I do."

As Chen Mobai spoke, he took out more of the black liquid he had collected earlier from his Storage Bag and handed it to Zhuo Ming. After receiving it, she said that with this, it would take about a month to help the Enlightenment White Tea undergo a transformative upgrade.

"Among the rice seeds that Xue Ting brought, one was the Glowing Grain Spirit Rice, which has high requirements for Earth Qi. Grown in the Xiao Nanshan spirit fields, its panicles might be stunted. I can use this liquid to mix and match a type of spiritual material, which might improve this rice variety."

Although Snow Country is cold, it has a vast expanse of extremely fertile black soil, which is quite suitable for growing Spirit Rice, though it generally performs mediocly in nurturing medicinal herbs.

It was precisely because of this that after obtaining the seedlings of Fire Spirit Rice and the method of cultivating spirit plants from Xiao Nanshan, Snow-blowing Palace had become self-sufficient in this type of spirit rice in just under ten years.

This time, Xue Ting brought over various types of grain seeds, all of which had quite high requirements for the earth's energy, with the Glowing Grain Spirit Rice being the most demanding. Zhuo Ming had previously been troubled by how to solve this problem but, upon receiving the Tai Sui, inspiration suddenly struck.

"Brother Qi, long time no see."

As Zhuo Ming and the envious Yan Jinye went off to try the Tai Sui juice, only Chen Mobai and Qi Rui were left at the scene. The former greeted very naturally, while the latter was somewhat reserved.

"I pay my respects to Elder Chen."

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai knew that the pure friendship from their time on Green Light Island could probably never return.

He sighed inwardly but also knew this was the norm.

As one's cultivation level became higher, the lonelier one would become.

That's why he hoped that among his friends, there would be those who could accompany him on his journey.

"Jing Huo is also at the sect. It's been a long time since we met, let's summon him for a drink together."

Chen Mobai said with a smile as he took out the Heavenly Communication Device and contacted Xi Jinghuo. At least for now, his friends were still by his side.

Soon after, Xi Jinghuo flew over, bringing Qi Hou with him.

"Zheng Deming, the senior brother, has also returned to the sect. He expressed his regrets to my grandfather that he has exceeded the age limit; otherwise, he would have also liked to compete for the position of Town Guard."

After three rounds of drinks, Xi Jinghuo mentioned a person.

It was Zheng Deming, the Foundation Establishment Practitioner who had once guarded Cloud Dream Marsh Qing Light Island. Twenty years ago, he was in the late phase of Foundation Establishment. He had come back specifically to vote after hearing about the Sect Leader's policy.

Zheng Deming's cultivation level ranked among the top in the sect for those at the Foundation Establishment stage. Unfortunately, because he was a Loose Cultivator, he wasn't allied with any of the two Nascent Soul Ancestors' lineages within the Divine Wood Sect, so he always had to go to Cloud Dream Marsh to gather resources for his own cultivation.

However, he had a good relationship with Xi Yisheng. It was the latter who vouched for him and brought him into the Divine Wood Sect.

"Brother Zheng said if you had been Sect Leader when the division happened, his achievements now would definitely not be less than those of Meng brother and Chu brother."

Xi Jinghuo's attitude towards Chen Mobai was relatively calm. Although more respectful, he still treated him as a friend and spoke rather freely.

"Hahaha, blame me for coming to the Eastern Wilderness too late!"

Chen Mobai laughed loudly and raised his cup to drink it all in one gulp.

After a few cups of wine, Qi Rui's mindset had also adjusted. He formally came before Chen Mobai and offered a toast.

"Thank you!"

These two short words contained all his emotions.

Chen Mobai smiled and clinked cups with him. As the alcohol entered his throat, he felt as if his body had become a bit lighter.

It was as though a layer of karma that had been binding him was lifted away, settling a worry in his heart.

...

A month quickly passed.

All Foundation Establishment Practitioners who could make it back to the sect had returned.

In front of them all, Chen Mobai formally succeeded as the third-generation Sect Leader of the Divine Wood Sect and the position of Hall Master of Reward Virtue Hall.

“We pay respects to the Sect Leader!”

On this day, it was not just the Foundation Establishment Practitioners, but all the Qi Practitioners within Giant Tree Ridge, who, at this moment, paid their grand respects to Chen Mobai.

It was also on this day that the spirit vein in Giant Tree Ridge started to fluctuate violently.

Zhou Shengqing took the first step in his transition from Broken Elixir to Infant!

Chapter 953: Pure Yang Demon Refinement Zhou Shengqing’s “Nascent Soul Formation” caused the spiritual energy of much of Giant Tree Ridge to gather toward his location. After the energy condensed and thickened, it transformed into droplets of clear Spirit Dew. Under the sunlight, it shimmered with a multicolored radiance, trickling onto the Everlife Wood where he was.

Each drop was equivalent to the essence of a Spirit Stone, but once it fell into the area where Zhou Shengqing was, it was like a drop of rain falling into a great river, merely causing a slight ripple.

Fu Zongjue took all the Puppet Manuals from Liu Jia Mountain and moved them in front of the Divine Wood where Zhou Shengqing was in seclusion, guarding him while experiencing the process of Nascent Soul Formation.

After dealing with the matters of the Town Guard vote, Chen Mobai also hurried over.

“The process of Nascent Soul Formation can be as short as a month or two or as long as two or three years, depending on the cultivator’s foundation. I will stay here to guard; the affairs within the sect will be troubling Junior Brother Chen,”

Fu Zongjue was referring to the “Infant Formation Experience” left by Ancestor Hun Yuan. If a cultivator’s foundation is weak, the step of breaking the elixir can be completed quickly, but they might fail at the step of transforming the infant due to a lack of sufficient elemental energy.

If the foundation of the Gold Core is too solid, just the step of breaking the elixir might lead to failure.

However, compared to that, many cultivators in the Tianhe Realm do their utmost to solidify their foundations.

After all, those with a weak foundation are bound to fail, but those with a robust foundation always have ways to break the elixir into an infant.

What kind of foundation a cultivator will have during Nascent Soul Formation, for the most part, is established during Core Formation. Further growth afterwards would require some extremely rare heavenly and earthly treasures.

Since Zhou Shengqing dared to attempt Nascent Soul Formation, his foundation naturally wouldn’t be bad.

But this is just the method of Nascent Soul Formation in the Tianhe Realm. The Immortal Gate, although it has not studied the process of Nascent Soul Formation as thoroughly as Foundation Establishment and Core Formation, still has far more detailed knowledge.

Compared to Tianhe Realm's Broken Elixir to Infant, the Immortal Gate's method of Nascent Soul Formation is gentler, using cultivation techniques in combination with elixirs to slowly dissolve the Gold Core over a long time, nurturing and cultivating the Nascent Soul.

"The Array of Ten Thousand Woods has already been activated, during Brother Zhou's Nascent Soul Formation, I hope nothing occurs like what happened during Meng nephew's Core Formation,"

While Chen Mobai was speaking, a faint Spiritual Light had already begun to shine above Giant Tree Ridge, expanding into a protective dome that spread outward.

"During Nascent Soul Formation, the spiritual energy from all of Giant Tree Ridge will majestically converge here. It would be best for the other cultivators of our sect to refrain from cultivating with nature's spiritual energy during this period, to avoid accidents."

At that moment, Fu Zongjue recalled another matter recorded in the Infant Formation Experience and made sure to emphasize the instruction.

"Oh, there's that as well?"

Chen Mobai genuinely did not know because at the Immortal Gate, regardless of which major boundary was being broken through, there was always an independent cultivation room and supply of spiritual energy, so there was no need to worry about this issue.

During the conversation, he closed his eyes and began attempting to refine the spiritual energy of the surroundings.

Sure enough, he found that the spiritual energy, which he could usually absorb and refine into Pure Yang Spiritual Power effortlessly, was now like a slippery fish in water, requiring a great deal of energy and focus to harness and absorb into his body.

If he, a Golden Core cultivator, found refining the spiritual energy of Giant Tree Ridge this difficult, then it was certainly much harder for those at Foundation Establishment and Qi Cultivation below.

If this had happened during their seclusion, it was quite possible that the surge of spiritual energy could lead to accidents.

Chen Mobai immediately fulfilled his duty as Sect Leader, took out the Heavenly Communication Device, and ordered the Three Halls and Twelve Divisions to quickly notify the sect disciples within Giant Tree Ridge of this matter.

Fortunately, at that time, the Foundation Establishment Practitioners were all electing the Six Nations Town Guards in Shenmu Hall, so the message was swiftly communicated throughout the entire sect.

Nevertheless, there were still over a dozen unfortunate Qi Cultivating Disciples who happened to be meditating and cultivating at that moment, and due to the upheaval of the spiritual energy in the Void, they suffered severe and near-fatal injuries.

Chen Mobai ordered the Alchemy Department to allocate personnel for rescue, mandating at all costs that all elixirs and Spirit Grass be accounted for on the sect's ledger.

Zeng Woyou found it strange that the Sect Leader would pay such close attention to mere Qi Cultivating Disciples, thinking there might be talents within them that Chen Mobai was particularly concerned about.

According to the traditions of the Eastern Wilderness, such disciples, beset by bad luck, ought to be eliminated to prevent future impacts on the sect's fortune.

But Chen Mobai was now the Sect Leader and also a Nascent Soul Ancestor, so his orders had to be obeyed by Zeng Woyou.

After writing down six names on his voting ticket, Zeng Woyou was the first to leave Shenmu Hall, called most of the doctors from the Alchemy Department, and went to treat those Qi Cultivating Disciples who were badly injured due to the upheaval of spiritual energy caused by Zhou Shengqing's Nascent Soul Formation.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Just as he stepped out of Shenmu Hall, a gust of cold wind suddenly blew.

Zeng Woyou couldn't help shivering and looked up at the sky, his expression immediately changing.

In the distant horizon, he saw a dark, dingy yellow cloud with a dense and somber atmosphere, sweeping through the blue skies toward them.

"An Underworld official is passing, all beings retreat!"

A sharp voice rose in mid-air. Then, the cloud parted slightly, revealing four faceless figures in red garments and black trousers, with pointed hats, carrying an ornate dark red palanquin floating toward Giant Tree Ridge.

Wherever they passed, an extremely eerie and ghostly presence diffused, seemingly turning half the sky dark as a black cloud hanging over, covering the three towering Everlife Trees.

Chapter 954: Pure Yang Demon Refinement_2

The Array of Ten Thousand Woods was instantly activated!

Streams of clear, lustrous Spiritual Light lit up, transforming into a gigantic spherical barrier that enveloped Giant Tree Ridge in protection.

Grim Ghost Qi descended, constantly coming into contact and rubbing against the cyan Spiritual Light, as the Void shimmered with streaks of greenish-black arcs of electricity and falling sparks.

The caliber of the attacker was unknown, such that even the Spirit Vein of Giant Tree Ridge began to quiver slightly.

"All disciples, defend the formation steadfastly!"

Just as the Divine Wood Sect disciples' hearts wavered, a clear and resonant voice echoed through the sky.

Then they saw a youth, with a bright and spirited presence, holding a Purple Long Sword, landing above Giant Tree Ridge and standing alone with his sword in front of the dark clouds.

“Like a mantis trying to stop a chariot!”

A dismal voice rose from within the palanquin, and as the words were spoken, the pitch-black ghastly clouds began to condense relentlessly.

In a blink of an eye, they transformed into a towering, dark figure, like a Ghost God returning from Huangquan, blocking out the sky and dimming the earth.

The ghostly shadow raised its right hand, akin to a giant crushing an ant, and swung down towards the youth standing resiliently in the air above Giant Tree Ridge.

In response, Chen Mobai wielded his sword!

Accompanied by the vastness of nature’s Spiritual energy, a dazzling arc of Purple Lightning Sword Light soared into the sky, swiftly becoming a surging column of thunderous light, cleaving through the Grim Ghost Hand and the dark ghastly clouds. Its force unabated, it heavily struck towards the vivid palanquin at the center of the dark clouds.

A pale jade-like hand stretched out from within the curtains of the palanquin and directly grasped the Purple Lightning Sword Light unleashed by Chen Mobai. As the white hand was about to exert force to crush the Sword Light, it discovered that a power of overwhelming yang and solidity made it feel as if it had grabbed hold of magma.

In the hissing of green smoke, the pale hand began to blacken, gradually turning into ashes while revealing crystalline phalanges.

“Quite a Yang Thunder!”

A dismal voice sounded from within the palanquin, and then a section of the crystalline phalanges broke off, bursting forth with a white stream of Qi. It turned into an ethereal white bony skull, which opened its gaping maw and violently swallowed the Purple Lightning Sword Light.

Two extreme forces clashed, and in an instant, the space above Giant Tree Ridge was stained with an eerie blend of cyan-black and purple-red. The yin and yang polarities of nature's Spiritual Energy were both drawn out, causing a series of violent howling and shockwaves.

Given these circumstances, the bizarre palanquin could no longer maintain its initial composure. The four faceless beings carrying the palanquin trembled slightly, and cracks formed on them.

The curtains also unfurled slightly, and Chen Mobai, with his activated Void Spirit Eye, caught a glimpse of something inside. He could see a headless figure sitting with a head in its arms—unfortunately, the face of the head was pressed against its abdomen, and he could only see the hollow back of its skull.

“Sect Master Chen of the Divine Wood Sect has a sword that somewhat restrains me, doesn't he?”

The curtains fell again, hiding the interior, but the dismal voice still carried through.

“Our sect supposedly has no major grudges with you all from Yellow Springs Path.”

Chen Mobai, holding the Purple Lightning Sword, spoke, declaring that it was Ancestor Hunyuan from the Five Elements Sect who had trespassed into Huangquan; the Divine Wood Sect had since branched out, and any grudge should be settled with the Five Elements Sect.

“The entire Eastern Wilderness is but our reincarnation pool, and to avoid losing control, cultivators of the Nascent Soul Level are not permitted to appear.”

As the dismal voice spoke, Chen Mobai saw that the flash of his Purple Lightning Sword that had destroyed its flesh and bone was now slowly healing. Golden radiance blossomed on the wound, expelling and suppressing the remaining threads of purple electric current.

“Golden Armored Zombie!”

Chen Mobai, upon seeing this scene, couldn't help but reveal a look of surprise.

Upon a closer inspection of its crystalline bones, his expression suddenly turned grave.

“Jade Corpse!?”

In the Tianhe Realm, there exists a method of Corpse Cultivation. Although it is a Side Sect practice, once fully mastered, it can rival the powers of Divinity Transformation.

The Corpse Disassembling Devil Sect, one of the eighteen devil sects, is a prominent practitioner of this path.

Corpse cultivation involves stages like Bronze Armored Corpse, Silver Armored Corpse, Golden Armored Zombie, Jade Corpse, and the Flying Night Fiend!

Comparable to Qi Cultivation, Foundation Establishment, Core Formation, Nascent Soul, and Divinity Transformation!

During the peak of the Eastern Emperor Court, the Hall of Ten Directions, which numbered only a few in the Imperial Court, once joined forces specifically to besiege the highest achiever of the Corpse Disassembling Devil Sect, the Flying Night Fiend.

If it were a Golden Armored Zombie, Chen Mobai, relying on his Purple Lightning Sword, could still contend, but if it was a Jade Corpse...

“Release the formation and let me in to kill Zhou Shengqing, then I'll spare your Divine Wood Sect.”

The dismal voice from within the palanquin sounded once again, and the hand that was injured by the Purple Lightning Sword was restored anew, its pallor, and an eerie and sinister black Qi together with the pervasive dark clouds spilled forth, again forming a towering, dark shadow.

“Junior Brother, enter the formation!”

Fu Zongjue’s voice rang out, and Chen Mobai didn’t act rashly, retreating a step into the range of the Array of Ten Thousand Woods.

Shrouded in grim ghost qi, the spiritual vein of Giant Tree Ridge fluctuated once again.

Seeing this, Chen Mobai couldn’t help but slightly relax.

Although the enemy’s attack was fierce, already at the peak of Rank-3 strength, it was basically impossible to break through this Rank-4 Array of Ten Thousand Woods.

“The opponent should just be a ghost cultivator possessing the essence of a jade corpse, and it’s even possible that this jade corpse is incomplete, possibly just a golden armored zombie that failed to transform into a jade corpse.”

Fu Zongjue, observing the battle, had discerned some clues.

“If that’s the case, then he should know that attacking in this way is absolutely incapable of breaking through the large formation. If we wait until Brother Zhou completes his Nascent Soul Formation... No good... The villain is deliberately striking the formation, thereby shaking the spirit vein of Giant Tree Ridge.”

Chen Mobai suddenly realized the true intent of their foe, and his expression changed instantly.

While Zhou Shengqing was in Nascent Soul Formation, even though he would be fully immersed in it, the tremors of Giant Tree Ridge’s spirit vein were enough to awaken him.

This was almost similar to the situation when Meng Hong’s Golden Core formation failed—the ghost cultivator was deliberately causing a disturbance.

“I have already notified Brother Mo to come and act as protector. Before that, we must block this person first,”

Having heard Chen Mobai’s words, Fu Zongjue also realized the gravity of the situation.

They could keep the enemy outside of Giant Tree Ridge by controlling the Array of Ten Thousand Woods, but doing so would affect the important matter of Zhou Shengqing’s Nascent Soul Formation.

In such circumstances, they had no choice but to make a move.

A streak of Purple Lightning and a beam of golden light burst forth to intercept the ghost cultivator’s next move, when suddenly the four faceless men carrying the sedan chair transformed into four streams of red light, floating towards them.

“Mere ghost minions!”

Chen Mobai’s brow furrowed as he waved his sleeve, and the Six Yang God Fire Mirror flew out, igniting pure yang fire, encircling the four streams of red light.

Then, the pure yang spiritual power surged violently, instantly reducing the four faceless men to ash.

“Eh!”

The underworld official in the sedan chair couldn’t help but exclaim in surprise upon seeing this.

His four ghost minions had been cultivated over many years; even a Golden Core Cultivator would be hard-pressed to deal with them when they worked together. His intention was to first halt Chen Mobai, and then with the force of thunder, quickly kill the weakest, Fu Zongjue.

Little did he expect that Chen Mobai’s speed in annihilating the four great ghost minions would surpass the rate at which he could crush Fu Zongjue.

He immobilized the golden needles shot by Fu Zongjue in front of the sedan chair. For the first time, the underworld official sitting within used a magic artifact.

It was a Mourning Rod!

Although its grade was inferior to the Purple Electric Sword, when it was bolstered by the underworld official's vast ghost qi, it unleashed an immense force, smashing the unprepared Fu Zongjue into thousands of puppet pieces with a single strike.

"Junior Brother, be careful; this person can unleash the power of jade corpse," Fu Zongjue felt his Golden Sun Puppet being shattered and paled, shouting at Chen Mobai.

Amidst the howling.

The huge Mourning Rod, with its grim ghost qi, came crashing down onto Chen Mobai's head.

The power of this strike had already surpassed the Rank-3 level.

Chen Mobai could only raise the Purple Electric Sword, delivering the second sword strike of the day!

Amidst the clash of two Rank-4 powers, a pale hand like white jade tore through the void, reaching from behind to grab Chen Mobai's neck.

Fortunately, Chen Mobai's Void Spirit Eye had always been open, keenly capturing this scene.

He didn't have enough time to turn the Purple Electric Sword around, so he could only block the underworld official's ghostly hand with the Six Yang God Fire Mirror that he was controlling with Ruyi.

"A mere Rank-3!"

In the midst of a cold laugh, the pale jade-like hand, with dark ghost qi, grasped the mirror without hesitation.

Pure Yang Fire reacted upon contact.

Subsequently, a scream erupted from the sedan chair!

Chapter 955: Golden Flame (Extra 1)

Chen Mobai's cultivation of the Pure Yang Scroll was the foremost demon refining technique of the Immortal Gate, particularly restraining against all that was dark and heretical. However, because all the heretical sects and evil demons of Di Yuan Star had already been swept away, hardly anyone was aware of this title anymore.

In the eyes of the public, the Pure Yang Scroll was considered the most suitable cultivation technique within the Immortal Gate for those with mediocre talent. As long as they had enough time and resources, they could climb to the pinnacle of cultivation.

It was for this reason that Chen Mobai firmly believe in the Pure Yang Scroll.

Today, as he faced a ghost cultivator from the Yellow Springs Path, the Pure Yang Scroll displayed its most powerful effect.

Nearly a jade corpse in its formidable physique, the moment it came into contact with the Pure Yang Fire erupting from the Six Yang Divine Fire Mirror, its flesh and skin turned to flying ash. Then, those clear and jade-like phalanges, after holding out for several breaths, melted like candle wax entering a great fire, inch by inch.

Bones that not even the Purple Electric Sword could sever appeared fragile and powerless before the Pure Yang Fire.

At this moment, Chen Mobai also remembered the opening line of the Pure Yang Scroll.

[This scroll, a method of demon refining from the Tian Shu, is a technique to ward off evil. Once achieved, all demonic forces will be easily repelled, and a thousand demons shall not invade!]

All this time, Chen Mobai had only read this line, because at the Immortal Gate, he never encountered anything connected to demonic forces.

Although the Ascension Sect was known as the leader of the Ancient Evil Path Union, in reality, the path they cultivated was similar to that of the Immortal Gate. It's just that they liked to take shortcuts and, due to their different stances, were labeled a heretical cult in propaganda.

If not for being in the Tianhe Realm, Chen Mobai might have never noticed the Pure Yang Scroll's critical hit effect against demons for his entire life.

In the Immortal Gate, Pure Yang Fire was merely considered the most balanced and mild Gold Core True Fire!

Used for alchemy and artifact refining, it was not particularly remarkable and had no adverse effects. However, when it fell upon a demonic being, it ignited like oil, fueled by the filthy qi, burning more vigorously, more intensely, shining with a blinding brilliance!

The Underworld official's ghost hand pierced through the void and grasped the Pure Yang Fire. As the bones melted, the Pure Yang Fire burst forth a blinding platinum radiance, spreading to the interior of the palanquin.

The Underworld official, who had never seen Pure Yang Fire, initially thought it was ordinary Yang Attribute True Fire and attempted to suppress it with his own profound Netherworld ghost qi.

But this suppression backfired.

Stirred by the extremely cold ghost qi, the Pure Yang Fire's utmost strength against demonic forces was wholly unleashed, erupting fiercely into a canopy of golden flames, spreading along the hand bones across the Underworld official's entire body.

At this time, the Underworld official had yet to realize the severity of the problem, and instinctively mobilized his Netherworld ghost qi to form a black shield, attempting to block it.

Yet, the splendid golden flames effortlessly pierced through the black shield, drilling into the Underworld official's body and creating several holes.

Then, an especially agonized scream sounded!

The headless corpse seated within the palanquin melted slowly like a wax figure under the burning of the Pure Yang Fire, turning into wisps of charred, foul-smelling blue smoke, dripping in various places around the palanquin.

Amidst the screams, the Underworld official's divine sense inhabiting the zombie decisively gave up, and the hollow skull flew out from the palanquin, rushing out.

The Pure Yang Fire, sensing the Netherworld ghost qi, surged out of the palanquin, trying to capture the escaping skull, but a Mourning Rod blocked the entrance to the palanquin, stopping all the flames.

Even though the magic artifact also melted by half, it at least allowed the Underworld official to escape.

Midair, Chen Mobai finally saw the true appearance of the head. It had handsome features, but the top of the head was hollowed out. Inside lay a pure white Bone Pearl, the surface faintly bore seven orifices, resembling the external appearance of the skull.

"What is this... flame!?"

The mouth of the skull moved, sounding an alarmed voice, seemingly with a lingering fear as it glanced at the palanquin and the jade corpse, now fiercely ablaze with Pure Yang Fire.

This palanquin, too, was a powerful Yin Tool, refined from Yincheng Wood by the Underworld official after expending great effort. But before the full-featured Pure Yang Fire, it burned just like kindling wood.

As for the jade corpse, by now, it was barely distinguishable as a human figure, with flesh turned to heaps of ash and a skeletal frame that was half gold and half jade, looking as though inlaid with gold.

Though it was an incomplete jade corpse, the tremendous ghost qi it contained was enough to fuel the Pure Yang Fire for a long time.

The gold and jade intertwined skeleton, enveloped by golden flames, melted like wax, droplets sliding off.

These were highly toxic crystals of evil power, a single drop capable of contaminating a large lake, transforming an ordinary person into a zombie upon ingestion.

But wrapped in Pure Yang Fire, they turned into green smoke midair, purified and dissipated into the atmosphere.

“It was fortunate that Brother Zhou passed you that Golden Flame Sword Talisman. This ‘Golden Flame,’ both utmost yang and extremely hot, is the perfect restraint for these ghost cultivators.”

Fu Zongjue sent another puppet to Chen Mobai’s side at this moment. As he observed the scene before him, he misunderstood that Chen Mobai had used that Third Rank Superior Grade talisman.

After reaching Core Formation with the Red Flame Sword Jue, one needs to use Dan Fire and the Spiritual Power essence to refine the Green Flames Sword Slaughter. What is refined from this process is “Golden Flame.”

Golden Flame burns immensely hot, ordinary magic artifacts upon touch would melt into molten iron.

In all of the Eastern Wilderness, there was no mineral that Golden Flame couldn’t melt; used against enemies, it was even more formidable.

Chapter 956: Golden Flame_2

With the cultivation of the Red Flame Sword Jue reaching this point, it was possible to sublimate the Green Flames Sword Slaughter into a move called “Flame Sun Slash,” touted to be able to fuse together all tangible matter, invincible against all.

Above the Flame Sun Slash was the “Extreme Sun Slash,” the power of Rank-4, proclaimed to cut through anything and everything.

If one could master the Extreme Sun Slash, then it meant the Red Flame Sword Jue had been cultivated to its limit, and one could also draw that Rank-4 “Great Sun Sword Talisman”.

The sight of Chen Mobai using Pure Yang Fire to melt the Ghost Cultivator indeed bore a striking resemblance to the Golden Flame, therefore, it was no wonder that Fu Zongjue had been mistaken.

“Is this a branch technique of the Burning Heaven Purifying World Fire?”

At this moment, the Underworld official also retrieved from his ancient memories an image similar to the Pure Yang Fire.

In the past, Ancestor Hunyuan achieved the unity of the Five Elements. With but a thought, he could transform the power of any one of the Five Elements. He also used the perfected Red Flame Sword Jue when he ventured into the Yellow Springs Path.

The origin of this cultivation technique stemmed from Fen Tianjing Di, which was recognized in the history of the East Land as the orthodox great method most effective at restraining malevolent spirits. Caught unprepared on the Yellow Springs Path, the Ghost Cultivators were annihilated by Ancestor Hunyuan, who killed two Rank-4 Ghost Cultivators.

“A mere little guy who has just reached Core Formation could not possibly condense the Golden Flame; it must be a talisman left by Hun Yuan. Such a thing cannot be plentiful...”

Although he thought this way, the Underworld official did not dare to take risks. He saw his meticulously refined Golden Jade Corpse completely melted by the white-gold flames and immediately fled without looking back.

As for Chen Mobai and Fu Zongjue, they had no intention of pursuing the enemy.

Their original purpose was simply to drive the enemy away. Moreover, they were still unaware of how many Ghost Cultivators from the Yellow Springs Path were lurking in the dark; it was very possible that the enemy was luring them into a trap.

Out of caution, Chen Mobai and Fu Zongjue even retreated back into the Array of Ten Thousand Woods.

About half an hour later, Mo Douguang, who received the news, also arrived via the teleportation array.

“Ghost Cultivator!”

Hearing about the identity of the intruder, he also couldn't help but be slightly surprised.

In days past, after Ancestor Hunyuan returned grievously injured from his incursion into the Yellow Springs Path, he still managed to lead the Five Elements Sect to eradicate all the Ghost Cultivators that had reached the living world and re-seal the Underworld.

That battle was arguably the most ferocious in the Eastern Wilderness in recent decades and marked the turning point of the Five Elements Sect from prosperity to decline.

“Brother Zhou might have anticipated this, leaving the Golden Flame Sword Talisman to Junior Brother Chen. That powerful Ghost Cultivator from the Yellow Springs Path was severely injured and has fled.”

Fu Zongjue recounted the details of the battle, and Mo Douguang nodded repeatedly, his gaze involuntarily turning to Chen Mobai.

The Golden Flame Sword Talisman was a Third Rank Superior Grade talisman, and while triggering it wasn't difficult, to control it with ease one needed to have cultivated the Red Flame Sword Jue to an extremely profound realm.

After receiving the Primordial True Qi in the past, Mo Douguang also attempted the path of uniting the Five Elements.

He even condensed fifteen Green Flames Sword Slaughters to prepare for cultivating the Primordial Dao Fruit in the future.

Yet even with his Sword Dao Realm and cultivation level, he merely managed to condense the Golden Flame with great difficulty, and controlling it was quite strenuous.

“Junior Brother Chen truly is a natural-born genius.”

Upon hearing Mo Douguang’s praise, Chen Mobai repeatedly waved his hands. Although he had comprehended the entire Red Flame Sword Jue thanks to his Fire Spirit Body and Heavenly Fire Spiritual Root, he had never actually spent any effort on cultivating it. If it evolved into a teaching session, he would definitely be exposed.

“After this battle, the Ghost Cultivator should not come again, but just to be on the safe side, I’ll stay here,”

Mo Douguang took the initiative to offer to stay behind, something that Chen Mobai and Fu Zongjue were naturally extremely happy about.

“Thank you both for guarding the place; I’ll go deal with some sect affairs.”

After talking for a while, Chen Mobai thought the time was about right, so he excused himself and returned to Shenmu Hall.

“Greetings, Sect Leader!”

Seeing him come in, everyone showed a look of respect, standing in two rows to offer their salutations. The intense battle between Chen Mobai and the Ghost Cultivator was witnessed by everyone below.

In the eyes of all the disciples of the Divine Wood Sect, their Sect Leader was now indisputably the number one Sword Cultivator of the Eastern Wilderness, with unmatched combat power.

“Have you all filled it out? Then let’s count the votes!”

After taking his place as the Sect Leader, Chen Mobai asked Luo Xue’er at his side. Upon receiving a positive response, he gestured for her to open the box that contained all the votes from the Foundation Establishment Practitioners.

This task would have been best suited for Chu Zuoshu to perform, but now he was wholly focused on reaching Core Formation, and since stepping down, he no longer left his residence.

Even the voting slips were delivered by Yue Zutao on his behalf.

[It seems we need to establish a cabinet to help handle these trivial matters!]

The process of voting and vote counting was a first for the Divine Wood Sect, and Luo Xue'er was not quite accustomed to it, making some mistakes along the way, Chen Mobai noticed this and contemplated it internally.

The new cabinet required trustworthy people who could execute his intentions, preferably younger individuals, and naturally, Chen Mobai trusted his own disciples the most.

However, it was necessary to avoid any appearance of favoritism, and Liu Wenbo also had to manage the Little Nan Mountain Shop, handling business on his behalf. If he were to take on sect affairs as well, his power might become too great, which could, in turn, affect his cultivation.

Zhuo Ming was even less suitable, better he stick to farming.

That left E Yun, Yuan Chiye, Yue Zutao, Yu Lian, Yan Jinye, Qi Rui, Xi Jinghuo, and others.

Among them, E Yun was the most suited to take charge of the cabinet, but he was to succeed him as Sect Leader and needed to be appointed as Town Guard first.

Compared to E Yun, Yuan Chiye seemed somewhat immature.

Yue Zutao's capabilities were not inferior to E Yun's, but it was uncertain whether he would be willing to take the position.

If all else failed, they could rehire Meng Hongfan and have him cover the position for a while.

As Chen Mobai sat in the Sect Leader's seat contemplating, Luo Xue'er had already finished vote counting for all Foundation Establishment practitioners.

The highest-voted town guards for the six countries were Zhou Wangshen, Hong He, E Yun, Yan Yuanhao, Wei Liuting, and Dong Xuanze.

"If you take up the town guard position, you will no longer be able to hold your duties within the sect. Have you all considered this thoroughly?"

Chen Mobai said to Yan Yuanhao, Wei Liuting, and Dong Xuanze, who were the deputy heads of the Body Forging Division, Formation Division, and Talisman Making Department, respectively. They had come forth to compete for the town guard position, evidently also eyeing the core formation opportunity.

The reason Chu Zuoshu had hastened his resignation was the spread of news that he had obtained a Core Formation Spiritual Medicine.

The upper echelons of the sect's Foundation Establishment practitioners had guessed that the sect had obtained an alchemy recipe that could assist in core formation, and even Chen Mobai's youthful core formation success was owed to this.

For several reasons combined, Yan Yuanhao and the other two were willing to give up the positions they had fought for years to obtain, to compete for the Sect Leader's post.

"We have all thought it through clearly!"

After receiving affirmative responses, Chen Mobai nodded, then gestured to Luo Xue'er to float a simple map of the Eastern Wilderness in the air above the hall.

Chen Mobai then stood up from his seat and began to delineate territories with a pointed finger.

"Sky Country's town guard will be Zhou Wangshen."

“Rock Country’s town guard, E Yun.”

“Rainbow Country’s town guard, Yan Yuanhao.”

“Lei Nation’s town guard, Wei Liuting.”

“Yun Country’s town guard, Dong Xuanze.”

“Rain Country’s town guard, Hong He.”

After the assignments, the six individuals stepped forward to pay their respects to Chen Mobai and received the seals carved from Golden Yang Wood.

These were magic artifacts crafted by Wang Tingbo, the head of the Artifact Refining Department, made from excellent materials that were of Rank-2 quality and symbols of authority for the town guards of the respective countries.

With the positions confirmed, many were left disheartened, but under Sect Master Chen’s irrevocable decree, the situation was set and could not be changed.

Nighttime.

In the courtyard of Divine Wood City, Chen Mobai was having tea with Yue Zutao.

“Nephew Yue, you’ve guarded Rock Country for over a decade, and now I’ve asked you to return. I truly feel guilty.”

“My path ahead has come to an end; it’s only right that I pave the way for my juniors.”

Yue Zutao appeared quite open-minded about it. During his years as the guard of Rock Country, his steady approach repelled the pressure from the formidable Nanxuan sect, and the development of Northern Abyss City was steadily progressing, following Chen Mobai's prior planning.

"Nephew Yue, are you aware that I am the Saint Son of the Longevity Sect?"

Chen Mobai suddenly asked a rather strange question, which had already spread throughout the Eastern Wilderness following the core formation ceremony and the earth-shattering battle with Xuan Shu.

Yue Zutao: "With the Sect Leader's exceptional talent, it's only natural that you hold the inheritance of a supreme holy land."

After hearing the response, Chen Mobai smiled faintly and spoke a sentence that caused Yue Zutao's eyes to widen and his body to tremble with shock.

Chapter 957: The First Step to Change the Eastern Wilderness After explaining the principle of Dual-phase Rotation Technique, Yue Zutao stood up excitedly, muttering to himself.

"So that's how it is, that's how it is..."

It would take a set of three Longevity Tree Fruits to fully function, something Yue Zutao would never have considered in his lifetime if Chen Mobai hadn't explained it.

And the solution to break the shackles of the Longevity Tree Fruit on his cultivation realm was surprisingly the Dual-phase Technique, a method that amazed Yue Zutao with the wisdom of the ancient cultivators.

However, Yue Zutao soon thought of a critical issue amidst his excitement and calmed down.

"Lifespan extension elixirs are far too precious. The collection I worked hard to accumulate over the years could only barely make up for about twenty years of my lifespan. If I were to consume a complete set of Longevity Tree Fruits, I'd likely age drastically."

In the Tianhe Realm, elixirs are incredibly precious, especially those related to lifespan.

Over the years, Yue Zutao had consumed a type of lifespan extension elixir from within his sect, and even with additional elixirs collected from outside, he had not yet made up for the forty-year deficit in his lifespan.

Without resolving this issue, even if a complete set of Longevity Tree Fruits were placed in front of him, he wouldn't dare to consume them.

Chen Mobai: "I have given your situation a lot of thought in conjunction with the Longevity Sect's heritage and have come up with three strategies. Shall I share them?"

Upon hearing this, Yue Zutao felt even more that Elder Chen in front of him was profound and inscrutable. His respect deepened as he asked about the best strategy.

Chen Mobai: "The Longevity Technique, one of the Longevity Sect's twenty-four grand spells, I surmise, was created by the predecessors specifically to consume the Longevity Tree Fruits. If you succeed in cultivating it, lifespan will be a minor issue."

Yue Zutao: "Longevity Technique!? Then I still need to cultivate the Longevity Dao Body, but there's not enough Longevity Tree Sap either."

At this point, Yue Zutao remembered what Chu Zuoshu had mentioned, that Sister Gu Yan had presented a method to refine Longevity Tree Sap to Elder Chen, and he couldn't help but look up, filled with anticipation.

Chen Mobai: "While theoretically, the combination of the Longevity Scripture and the Longevity Dao Body can let one cultivate the Longevity Technique, one must achieve the Dao Body to perfection, which even I have not accomplished."

That is to say, both the Longevity Scripture and the Longevity Dao Body are at the Nascent Soul Realm, and whether they can be integrated to cultivate the Longevity Technique remains conjecture.

This was a portion separated by True Lord Yuan, which Ancestor Hunyuan found in the secret realm of Giant Tree Ridge.

As for why True Lord Yuan did such a thing, it is said to be due to the overly stringent conditions for cultivating the Longevity Technique, which later generations could not fulfill.

As for how stringent, without the Longevity Technique, Chen Mobai had no way of knowing.

“What about the middle strategy? Please teach me, Sect Leader!”

Yue Zutao humbly picked up the teapot and poured more tea into Chen Mobai’s cup.

“The middle strategy is to abandon the Longevity Scripture, and naturally, the binding power will disappear. When relinquishing the technique, I will have Zeng Woyou refine some elixirs to preserve your life, which shouldn’t be a problem. With your talent and the resources of the sect, rebuilding up to Foundation Establishment will be easy, though reaching Core Formation would be essentially impossible.”

After hearing this, Yue Zutao’s face showed struggle, but after hesitating for a moment, a hint of desire for Core Formation stirred within him, so he decided to face his true feelings and shook his head, asking Chen Mobai for the last strategy.

“Then there’s no choice but to commit to this path to the end.”

After taking a sip of the Snow Needle Immortal Bud, Chen Mobai began to describe this final, desperate strategy.

“You keep collecting lifespan extending elixirs, while watching who in the sect obtains Longevity Tree Fruits from the Divine Tree Secret Realm. Once everything is ready, consume the medium and large fruits and then try to form your core by using Dual-phase Technique to rotate and assimilate the Longevity Spiritual Power, breaking free from the restriction of the Longevity Tree Fruits.”

“It appears to be the only way!”

Yue Zutao let out a sigh upon hearing this, yet the previously dim look in his eyes now contained an unprecedented glint of hope.

Compared with his previous resignation, now he at least saw a true glimmer of hope.

Although faint, it illuminated the path to a higher realm.

Chen Mobai: "But there's a problem within this that I'm not sure you've noticed."

Yue Zutao: "Please enlighten me, Sect Leader."

Chen Mobai: "The rotation order of the Dual-phase Technique follows the sequence of the Five Elements, meaning that to dissolve the Longevity Spiritual Power, you must practice fire elemental techniques, yet your Fire Spiritual Root is quite inferior."

Chen Mobai had once measured Yue Zutao's Spiritual Root with Spirit-Testing Instruments, revealing dual-attribute True Spirit Roots.

The Wood Spirit Root had a value of 57, quite excellent; the Water Spirit Root was at 27, passable; but the Fire Spirit Root, though third, was only at 12.

If Yue Zutao were to rotate through the Dual-phase Technique, even if he barely managed to cultivate a Fire Attribute Technique to Foundation Establishment Completion, succeeding in Core Formation would be nearly impossible with such inferior Spiritual Root.

"Then... what should I do?"

Yue Zutao was completely at a loss after hearing this.

“The restriction lies solely on the Longevity Spiritual Power. You need not hope for successful Core Formation when operating the Dual-phase Technique. You just have to break the efficacy of the Longevity Tree Fruits, and that would be considered a success.”

“Hence, you can consume elixirs without regard to cost to boost the Fire Element Technique, and after the rotation, use the technique of dispersing Qi to transform the Fire Spirit Power into Earth Spirit Power.”

“Then follow the generation cycle of the Five Elements in order, and after the complete rotation and transformation, all impurities and toxins will have been purged, leaving only the most pure Wood Spirit Power. With it, you can start cultivating the Longevity Scripture anew and try for Core Formation.”

Chapter 958: The First Step to Change the Eastern Wilderness_2

After Chen Mobai finished speaking, a sliver of spiritual light faintly emerged in Yue Zutao’s mind, and he thought of the supreme method of the Five Elements Sect, his complexion changing dramatically.

“Isn’t this the Primordial Dao Fruit!?”

The Five Elements revolve, and Hun Yuan returns to unity; that is the theory.

However, the specific cultivation method is not at all inherited by the Divine Wood Sect!

“To achieve the Primordial Dao Fruit, one needs to cultivate all Five Elements Cultivation Techniques to the utmost extent, grasping their true essence. Only when the Five Elements unite at the end, can one possibly generate Primordial True Qi. You do not need to do this, you just need to go through the process of converting the Five Elements Essence, which is much simpler.”

As the highest method of the Five Elements Sect, although Zhou Shengqing was not taught it, he often listened to Ancestor Hunyuan expound some of its principles during his cultivation.

When the family split later, Zhou Shengqing organized these into a booklet, originally intending to let the descendants of the sect have some understanding of the Primordial Dao Fruit. Should there ever be a prodigy within the Five Elements Sect who managed to cultivate it, they would have a foundation for understanding and dealing with it.

After Chen Mobai's Core Formation, all the inheritances of the Divine Wood Sect were opened to him, naturally including this booklet.

The method he had devised for Yue Zutao to dismantle and rebuild his cultivation base was much easier compared to the Primordial Dao Fruit, akin to solving a math problem where the former involves directly applying a formula to find the answer, while the latter requires one to derive the formula from scratch.

A difference between heaven and earth!

"In that case, will my lifespan be enough?"

After listening, Yue Zutao felt that the comprehensive strategy Chen Mobai had devised for him was the best, but he still had some concerns.

"After taking a complete set of Tree Fruits of Immortality, the bottleneck of your Dantian Qi Sea will be broken, which means as long as you have enough elixirs and spiritual energy, you can easily cultivate any Five Elements technique to Foundation Establishment Completion. Although you will need the Five Elements to generate each other, which will waste a lot of time, based on my estimation, the remainder of your lifespan should just about be sufficient."

Chen Mobai's understanding of the Five Elements Cultivation Techniques far exceeded that of anyone in the Divine Wood Sect, as his foundation was the Five Elements Cultivation, and he had listened to Elder Qingping's entire Five Elements Cultivation video course from Qi Cultivation to Nascent Soul more than a dozen times.

"Thank you, Sect Leader, for your guidance. For the rebirth you've granted, I'll heed any command, and dare not disobey!"

Upon hearing this, Yue Zutao stood up and paid his respects to Chen Mobai with the utmost reverence.

"You have toiled thanklessly in Rock Country, defending Northern Abyss City for over a decade, and in the two major battles with Shake Mountain Peak, you fought alongside me on the front lines. Apart

from myself, your contributions to the sect are the greatest. Now that I am the Sect Leader, naturally, I will not mistreat anyone who has made significant contributions.”

These words from Chen Mobai filled Yue Zutao with an impulse of ‘a man dies for those who appreciate him,’ and they also revived the ambition that had been bound in his heart for decades.

When he had completely given up, he thought his state of mind was lofty enough to watch the clouds roll by without any intention to stay or leave.

But now, seeing the hope of breaking through his restraints and ascending to higher realms, Yue Zutao realized that deep down, he was still unwilling to accept his fate!

After all, he was once the number one direct disciple, hailed as a genius with the demeanor of “Nascent Soul Formation”!

If it weren’t for the Tree Fruits of Immortality and without Chen Mobai, he would definitely be the third-generation Sect Leader of the Divine Wood Sect after Chu Zuoshu.

No Hong He, no King Zhou, no E Yun – none of them would have been his match!

The confidence and pride in Yue Zutao’s heart began to emerge at that moment.

With a goal in mind, his entire demeanor changed completely.

Chen Mobai discussed the matter of establishing the inner cabinet with him, something he learned during his time at the Repairing Heaven Institute – those in high positions need a supporting institution that wholeheartedly implements their will.

With his intelligence and mature way of handling things, Yue Zutao quickly understood the role of the inner cabinet.

“Sect Leader, I suggest we also invite Elder Meng, the former Sect Leader, into the inner cabinet. He has a lot of influence within the sect’s Three Halls and Twelve Divisions, and the inner cabinet cannot be composed entirely of young people,” Yue Zutao advised.

After hearing this, Chen Mobai felt it made sense, but he didn’t know whether Meng Hong would be willing.

After all, he had retired and had no hope for Core Formation. He seemed very content fishing and playing chess every day, and the inner cabinet would undoubtedly conflict with the traditions of the Divine Wood Sect in the future. Chen Mobai was not too keen on dragging him into it.

“We can first invite him to take a nominal position, and let Disciple Mu Yuan handle the specific affairs. I believe Elder Meng would be amenable to that.”

Yue Zutao’s words made Chen Mobai nod in agreement. Mu Yuan also had exceptional talent; with some mentoring, he would at least not fall behind Meng Hong and Chu Zuoshu.

The two discussed once more, and Chen Mobai briefly revealed the reforms he planned to implement within the Divine Wood Sect and even across the entire Eastern Wilderness.

Even Yue Zutao, with his wisdom, couldn’t help feeling a tingling sensation in his scalp after hearing the plans.

But what followed was an urge to witness and follow Chen Mobai as he changed the Eastern Wilderness and led the historic current.

In this case, the mediocre were no longer considered.

“Xi Jinghuo has good talent, and you have always had utmost faith in him, so he could serve as a candidate for the cabinet,” suggested Yue Zutao.

Chen Mobai nodded and entrusted the cabinet’s affairs to him.

He had intended to include Yu Lian as well, but upon reflection, Yu Lian's temperament tended toward the morose. Furthermore, Chen Mobai needed a sharp sword in the shadows, so he decided to observe and test him further.

After confirming the Town Guards for the six nations, Chen Mobai, as the Sect Leader, issued supplementary provisions for the new policies.

The Town Guards could establish small versions of the Three Halls and Twelve Divisions within their own territories, which would be under the command of the Town Guard. They could choose their own leaders but had to report to and register with the sect for approval.

Moreover, these small Three Halls and Twelve Divisions had to report their duties to the sect's equivalent each year and be subject to oversight.

If there was a conflict between the orders of the Town Guard and the higher departments, the matter would be submitted to Shenmu Hall, where the Sect Leader or the cabinet would make the final decision.

Chen Mobai slightly modified the Immortal Gate's system and applied it to the Divine Wood Sect.

While ensuring that all powers had oversight and restrictions, he also sought to empower the Town Guards with strong subordinates.

Zhou Wangshen, as a member of the Zhou family, displayed his extensive connections at this time, attracting three Foundation Establishment Practitioners from within the sect to serve as Hall Masters in the small Three Halls in Sky Country, and many disciples were willing to join him in the Twelve Divisions.

Although E Yun had many friends, only Yuan Chiye was willing to follow him to Rock Country.

After all, the news that Xuan Shu had re-established the Nanxuan sect at Treasure Color Mountain had spread. Rock Country was where one could most easily earn merits, but it was also the most dangerous of the six Town Guards.

If the Divine Wood Sect went to war with the Nanxuan sect, the disciples in Rock Country would be in the most danger.

As E Yun's supporter, Chen Mobai naturally couldn't let him fall behind Zhou Wangshen, so he used his own connections to inquire with Qi Rui and Yu Lian.

Both of them were Chen Mobai's direct subordinates, and without hesitation, they agreed to follow E Yun to Rock Country.

In this way, the leaders of the three small Halls were assembled.

It was the same with Hong He; three Foundation Establishment Practitioners were arranged from the Penalty Evil Hall to accompany him to Rain Country.

Actually, Hong He had wanted to refuse since his choice of distant Rain Country was not due to a fear of war but because he did not want to be involved in the competition for the Sect Leader.

However, being part of the sect, competition was inevitable; whatever Zhou Wangshen and E Yun had, his side must also have.

Compared to them, the remaining three Town Guards, who had stepped down as deputy heads of the Twelve Divisions, found it somewhat awkward; only one or two Foundation Establishment Practitioners were willing to follow them.

However, when it came to recruiting Qi Practitioners, they were much more efficient, as many disciples had originally been under their command.

"Once affairs here at the sect come to a close, I will also tour your territories and visit the other sects in the Eastern Wilderness. I hope the results will satisfy me," Chen Mobai said as he bid farewell to the six.

The matters here naturally referred to Zhou Shengqing's Nascent Soul Formation.

After that, he planned to visit the Five Elements Sect to investigate the disappearance of his little disciple in Ming Nation.

Chapter 959: Nanxuan Jing's Storage Bag
Chen Mobai sat erect in the wooden hut of his Taoist practice, clutching a talisman brush, fully absorbed in drawing a Taoist talisman paper.

Next to him was a storage bag placed.

This was Nanxuan Jing's!

Having been in the Tianhe Realm for so many years, he had grown accustomed to opening storage bags, but the storage bag of a Golden Core Cultivator still filled him with anticipation.

The reason he didn't open it immediately was that his Spiritual Consciousness Realm was not as advanced as Nanxuan Jing's, preventing him from opening it.

The space talismans that could have solved this problem were ineffective because his standard as a Talisman Maker remained at Rank-2.

The simplest method would be to go to the Immortal Gate to have a Rank-3 Talisman Maker custom-make a Rank-3 space talisman, but Chen Mobai, being inherently cautious, chose not to do so.

Because at the Immortal Gate, every space talisman had to be registered at the Department of Law Enforcement before it could be traded.

So Chen Mobai could only practice by himself.

Fortunately, he was now a Golden Core Cultivator. The Rank-3 talisman papers, which used to be difficult for him, were gradually conquered and completed with his full dedication.

With the final details filled in, this Rank-3 space talisman radiated spiritual light and was completely formed.

Chen Mobai let out a sigh of relief and placed the talisman brush back on its rack.

At that moment, a particularly crisp “snap” sounded.

Chen Mobai couldn't help but look up, only to see a fine crack had appeared on the tip of the talisman brush he had just used.

“I need to find a way to upgrade my main talisman brush.”

Looking at this scene, Chen Mobai murmured to himself.

The two main talisman brushes he owned had been custom-made with the help of Ming Yuhua over twenty years ago, and they had served their purpose well by now.

However, now that he had achieved Core Formation and started delving into the realm of Rank-3 talisman papers with his cultivation arts, the Rank-2 main talisman brushes were proving insufficient.

It seemed he would need to visit the Immortal Gate some time to inquire at the Talisman Masters Association, to see whether it was better to customize or to purchase directly.

Chen Mobai had no intention of gathering materials for a Rank-3 talisman brush in the Eastern Wilderness.

Because the Rank-3 spirit beasts were well accounted for at the Immortal Gate, he couldn't rashly present such high-level materials. He planned to save the excuse of the Void Blind Box for something crucial.

Or he might look around in the Eastern Wilderness for a suitable Rank-3 talisman brush.

Thinking this way, Chen Mobai picked up the Rank-3 space talisman from the table, a technique he had mastered after a month of diligent practice, infused it with spiritual power, and slapped it onto Nanxuan Jing's storage bag.

Amidst the rustling noise,

Chen Mobai's wooden hut was instantly filled to the brim. If not for promptly lifting the roof, it probably would have burst from the items spilling out of the storage bag.

He never imagined that Nanxuan Jing's storage bag would contain so many items.

Aside from the lustrous spirit stones, there were mountains of golden crystals, counting up to two thousand pieces.

Seeing this, Chen Mobai's face lit up with pleasure.

With these, plus what he had gained from the Land of Ruins, he now had nearly enough resources to cultivate the Precious Golden Light technique to its highest realm.

As for why Nanxuan Jing had so many golden crystals, Chen Mobai had his speculations.

Within the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace, these golden crystals were even more precious than spirit stones as many spells required refining the golden energy within them to succeed, like the famous Sun Shooting Halberd Technique and the less orthodox Precious Golden Light!

As the old ancestor of the Nanxuan sect, these golden crystals were likely allotted to Nanxuan Jing by the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace, not only for his own cultivation but also as the annual stipend for all disciples of the Nanxuan sect in the Eastern Wilderness.

However, these golden crystals should have been distributed over years, possibly every ten or even twenty years. After Nanxuan Jing was slain by Chen Mobai, these had all fallen into his hands along with the storage bag.

After allocating a specific storage bag for the golden crystals, Chen Mobai then conducted a count of the spirit stones using his Divine Sense.

This count brought him even more joy.

Nanxuan Jing had amassed a considerable fortune, with a total of 256 top-grade spirit stones, far more than Chen Mobai's entire net worth.

However, by Chen Mobai's estimation, a Golden Core Cultivator in the Eastern Wilderness should have at least a thousand top-grade spirit stones in their storage bag as a baseline.

Perhaps the impression Fu Zongjue had left, nonchalantly handing him a hundred top-grade stones, had been too deep.

After separately bagging the spirit stones as well, Chen Mobai started looking through the remaining miscellaneous items—beds, tables, stools, etc. It was clear that Nanxuan Jing also had a taste for luxury.

Sweeping them with his Divine Sense and confirming they were mere ordinary spirit wood, Chen Mobai simply burned them with a flick of flame.

What remained were several magic artifacts.

There were fragments of the Brocade Bead shattered by his Purple Electric Sword and numerous Golden Halberds refined using secret techniques from the Xuan Xiao Dao Palace, ranging from Rank-1 to Rank-3, presumably meant as rewards for the disciples under the Nanxuan sect.

Chen Mobai selected one of each to keep as a collection and used a storage bag for miscellaneous items to store away the rest, planning to later offer them to the Artifact Refining Department to see whether it was better to melt them down or to enrich the sect's treasury.

The last items to examine were over a dozen bottles of elixirs.

Chen Mobai had always maintained a respectful distance from the elixirs of the Tianhe Realm, but the private collection of a Golden Core Cultivator was bound to be comprised of fine things.

Out of caution, as well as curiosity, he called over Zeng Woyou.

Chapter 960: "Reporting to the Sect Leader, this is the Mo Xuedan... this is the Qiao Yuandan... this is..."

Zeng Woyou, worthy of being the head of the Alchemy Department, opened and sniffed each pill one by one, stating the name and effects of each elixir. However, when it came to a black pill, he seemed unsure.

"This might be the Blood Straining Gold Elixir. After taking it, one could fully recover from injuries and even achieve a higher level. It's a demonic elixir that hasn't circulated in the market, and I've never seen it before, so I can't be certain."

After hearing this, Chen Mobai remembered the encounter with Nanxuan Jing and approved of Zeng Woyou's judgment, nodding his head.

"Is this perhaps... the Xu Tian Wu Jin Dan?"

At the very end, Zeng Woyou looked at a dark golden pill the size of a thumb, his voice trembling.

"Oh, is this elixir famous?"

Chen Mobai asked somewhat curiously.

"This is the most famous elixir of the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace. No matter who takes it, they can extend their lifespan by twenty years."

"Extend lifespan!"

Chen Mobai was shocked upon hearing this.

This meant extending the innate lifespan, which was the most precious type of elixir even among the Immortal Gates. He hadn't expected the Xuan Xiao Taoist Palace to possess such an exquisite elixir.

"Though the effectiveness of the Xu Tian Wu Jin Dan decreases with successive use, it's still hailed as the number one Spirit Pill in the East Barbarians. The Golden Wind Ancestor has relied on this elixir to barely cling to life until now."

After hearing Zeng Woyou's explanation, Chen Mobai nodded in agreement.

This was indeed the most precious item in Nanxuan Jing's storage bag. However, whether it could be consumed still needed to be checked by professionals.

Thinking about whether he should fly to Wangwu Cave Heaven to meet Qing Nu at the end of the year, or have Qing Nu come to Yu Wood City to find him, Chen Mobai's Heavenly Communication Device suddenly rang.

It was Yue Zutao looking for him.

After sending Zeng Woyou away, Chen Mobai answered the Heavenly Communication Device and, upon learning of the situation, notified the inner cabinet to convene a meeting.

After categorizing and dealing with the items in Nanxuan Jing's storage bag, Chen Mobai looked up again at the Everlife Wood where Zhou Shengqing was located.

As the signs of Nascent Soul Formation became more and more resplendent, the spiritual energy of Giant Tree Ridge became increasingly uncontrollable.

This left the Sect Disciples who remained at Giant Tree Ridge complaining endlessly.

"Sect Leader, the Qi Cultivating Disciples now do not dare to meditate and cultivate."

Listening to Yue Zutao's report, Chen Mobai also felt a bit of a headache.

The spiritual energy of Giant Tree Ridge was being drawn by Zhou Shengqing's Transforming Infant, such that even he, a Golden Core Cultivator, could only barely compete for it.

Foundation Establishment Practitioners were better off, wealthy enough to use spiritual energy from Spirit Stones for their cultivation in the short term.

But the Qi Practitioners couldn't do that. Many disciples were struggling, keeping Spirit Stones only for critical moments when breaking through their realms.

So now that they couldn't absorb nature's spiritual energy, the Qi Cultivating Disciples of the Divine Wood Sect had started to grumble.

Chen Mobai: "How many Qi Cultivating Disciples do we have in the sect currently?"

Yue Zutao: "There are 2,687 registered disciples, with about 1,500 of them in Giant Tree Ridge. Recently, quite a few disciples have been taking on tasks at the Spirit Treasure Pavilion, preparing to leave."

The Divine Wood Sect claimed to have three thousand Qi Cultivators, but after three consecutive wars, they had lost four to five hundred Disciples. However, two years ago, they recruited a couple of hundred more from the six countries, replenishing some new blood.

When the Six Nation Town Guards left the Sect, they also took about a hundred or so Qi Cultivating Disciples each with them.

Among these were not only the basic Qi Cultivators but also many former true inheritors.

For instance, Qi Hou, known by Chen Mobai, went to Rock Country with E Yun.

After failing their Foundation Establishment twice, these individuals had their Essence Blood and Elemental Energy somewhat depleted, and within the Sect, they couldn't compete with the new true

inheritors; they basically had no chance of receiving a Foundation Building Pill again, so they wished to gamble on one last chance.

It is precisely because of this that those who are still in the Divine Wood Sect are the core members and the future.

“Let’s all share our thoughts and see if there’s a way to solve this,”

Chen Mobai sat at the main seat in one of the side halls of Shenmu Hall, while Meng Hong, Mu Yuan, Yue Zutao, Xi Jinghuo, Luo Xue’er, and Yan Jinye took their seats on both sides.

This was essentially the embryonic form of the inner cabinet. Today was their first meeting, called to discuss the issue of Qi Cultivating Disciples being unable to sit in meditation and absorb spiritual energy.

“Let’s distribute Spirit Stones to everyone,” Xi Jinghuo was the first to speak up. “Zhou Laozu’s ‘Nascent Soul Formation’ will last at most two years, so we can give the Qi Cultivating Disciples in Giant Tree Ridge five Low-grade Spirit Stones every month, which is just over ten thousand stones in total.”

Xi Jinghuo had just made a suggestion, but Luo Xue’er, who was in control of Reward Virtue Hall, immediately shook her head in refusal. She knew the current situation of the sect’s reserves best.

Luo Xue’er, “Three major battles have almost exhausted our sect’s reserve of Spirit Stones. The remaining ones need to be conserved for emergencies, and we’re already replacing the Spirit Stones normally issued as salaries with Spirit Rice. We really can’t afford to spare any extra Spirit Stones. I have no objections if they are willing to sign IOUs.”

Yue Zutao, “These Spirit Stones are essential for the Qi Cultivating Disciples’ cultivation in Giant Tree Ridge. If we ask them to sign IOUs, I’m afraid we’ll truly lose the people’s hearts.”

Yan Jinye, “Then how about distributing Elixirs?”

Ever since Chen Mobai spread his teachings, the Qi Cultivating Disciples of the Divine Wood Sect who were eager for Foundation Establishment no longer consumed Elixirs as unrestrainedly as before. However, the price of such substances remained high on the outside market and was still very popular among Loose Cultivators and the lower-ranked disciples.

Chen Mobai, “Nephew Meng, do you have any insights?”

After everyone had taken their turn to speak, Chen Mobai saw that Meng Hong remained calm and composed, so he turned to him and asked.

Meng Hong, “Reporting to the Sect Leader, it is absolutely impossible to distribute Spirit Stones, Elixirs, and other subsidies.”

Upon hearing this, everyone’s gaze turned toward him. Chen Mobai smiled slightly, signaling for him to continue.

“If we were to distribute, we would have to consider not only the disciples within the sect but also those outside, because it is not scarcity we fear but uneven distribution. If we do that, the disciples in Giant Tree Ridge would feel they’ve been treated unfairly. How can they accept that outsiders enjoy the same benefits they’ve suffered for within the sect? Such balance is impossible to maintain.”

Realization dawned on the others as they listened to Meng Hong’s analysis.

Indeed, experience speaks for itself; the way he looked at the issue was deeper and more thorough than them.

Chen Mobai, “Then in your opinion, how should we deal with this matter?”

Meng Hong, “The best way is to pretend ignorance. If any disciple below dares to complain about this, it’ll be a sign of disloyalty to the sect. We can just dispatch the Penalty Evil Hall to apprehend and suppress them!”

Upon hearing this statement, everyone fell into contemplation.

Chen Mobai observed Meng Hong, who spoke such harsh words with a calm expression, and couldn’t help feeling that things indeed were different here in the Eastern Wilderness compared to the Immortal

Gates; there was no need to consider public resentment here. What they were best at was high-pressure governance.

In comparison to Zhou Shengqing's 'Nascent Soul Formation,' even if all the Qi Cultivating Disciples of the Divine Wood Sect were sacrificed, Meng Hong would probably find it acceptable.

Chen Mobai, "Does anyone else have something different to say?"

Yue Zutao looked hesitant, but after giving it some more thought, he still felt that Meng Hong's approach was the most suitable for the current situation.

"Within the sect, how many tasks can we distribute?"

Seeing that they had fallen silent again, Chen Mobai asked another question.

"Reporting to Sect Leader, regular tasks like inspections of other institutes, harvesting from the Spirit Field Medicine Fields, and nurturing Spirit Beasts can accommodate assigning tasks for another 300 disciples."

Luo Xue'er immediately responded, as all the Spirit Stone budgets for the Three Halls and Twelve Divisions were distributed by her annually, so she had a rough estimate of these projects.

Chen Mobai, "What about Yun Meng Ze?"

This question prompted the others to look at each other in bewilderment.

Being the foremost treasure land of the Eastern Wilderness, it could accommodate not just the Divine Wood Sect but half of the Qi Practitioners in the entire Eastern Wilderness.

"Leave a sufficient number of people able to activate the Array of Ten Thousand Woods, open hunting missions for Demonic Beasts to the sect disciples, and send them to the Fang Market in Yun Meng Ze."

“We can also allocate some personnel to the six nations: the mining operations in Rock Country, the fisheries of Yun Country, the Spirit Fruits of Rain Country, and so on. Let the town guards of each country coordinate this. It provides mutual benefits and manpower.”

“As for the remaining disciples within the sect, let the Formation Division and Spirit Vein Division work together to designate an area, set up a formation to stabilize the spiritual energy, and allow them to cultivate normally.”