

World 971

Chapter 971: "Hey hey hey, bro, are you free?"

After returning to the Immortal Gate, Chen Mobai made a call to Ming Yuhua first.

"I am quite busy, but if a Kaiyuan Hall Councilor like you asks for my help, I'll definitely make time for you."

Hearing Ming Yuhua's somewhat teasing words, Chen Mobai also laughed heartily, and then spoke directly about his own matters.

When he underwent Core Formation, the Snow-blowing Palace had given him a Rank-3 Water Mist Ice Crystal, which could perfectly integrate into his "Red Misty Cloud Silk," upgrading it to a Rank-3 Magic Artifact.

Ming Yuhua was already a Rank-3 Artifact Refiner even before he graduated, and this "Red Misty Cloud Silk" was a well-known magic artifact from the Dance Tool Dao Academy, and he was most skilled in refining it.

So, as soon as Chen Mobai mentioned it, Ming Yuhua slapped his chest and guaranteed the upgrade would be completed.

"I'll give you an address, send the stuff over, and it should be mostly done in about half a month."

After hanging up the phone, Chen Mobai checked Ming Yuhua's address and found out it was inside a military compound.

It seemed that right after graduating, his good brother was directly recruited by the Immortal Gate.

After sending the item, Chen Mobai began to fulfill his duties as a Kaiyuan Hall Councilor.

In Yu Wood City, as the top official, he always advocated governance through non-interference.

In other words, with or without him, things would be the same, a practice that received unanimous praise from the local Immortal Gate system.

He first visited Qing Sang Academy, and on a whim, he audited classes for a day, learning about the most essential aspects of sericulture, cultivating Spirit Wood for mulberry trees, and weaving fabric, thus gaining a more concrete understanding of Qing Sang Academy.

The next day, he went to the Yu Wood City Immortal Gate Hall, where City Lord Wen Ping, accompanied by the heads of various departments, reported on various matters from the past year.

After listening, Chen Mobai also gained an understanding of Yu Wood City's civil economy and more.

This was a city that developed relying on the Spirit Wood industry, with over thirty percent of its fiscal revenue coming from taxes on the sale of various kinds of Spirit Wood.

The rest was related to industries like Talisman Paper, furniture, wooden artifacts, printing, potted plants, etc., that altogether formed all aspects of Yu Wood City.

Chen Mobai, who had always been a hands-off shopkeeper in the Immortal Gate, let Wen Ping handle various political matters as before and then began to tour the city's Talisman Paper industry.

Due to the abundance of Spirit Wood resources, there were three famous Talisman Paper factories within Yu Wood City, all with complete systems for producing Rank-1 to Rank-3 Talisman Paper.

Chen Mobai decided to visit these three factories first.

After Core Formation, he only needed to study hard, and his level as a Talisman Maker would naturally rise to Rank-3.

Red Sandstone City's Flying Talisman Factory, despite nearly two decades of spare-no-expense investment, and with the Yan family's technical assistance, had managed to replicate Rank-3 Azure Sky Talisman Paper and Flying Rainbow Ink Talisman, but the quality was barely passable.

After visiting the three factories in Yu Wood City, Chen Mobai realized the huge gap between his factory and theirs.

“Councilor Chen, this is the Rank-4 Spirit Elm Talisman Paper jointly crafted by our three factories. I’ve heard you’re also an excellent Talisman Maker, take a piece as a keepsake.”

A beautifully packaged, palm-sized, light yellow Talisman Paper was handed to Chen Mobai.

This was the most advanced technical achievement of Talisman Paper in Yu Wood City, requiring the consumption of too much Spirit Wood resources and could only be refined after official orders and permissions from the Immortal Gate.

The last time Yu Wood City had massively produced Rank-4 Talisman Paper was when the Talisman Masters Association needed to restore an ancient talisman, requiring a lot of Spirit Elm Talisman Paper, which Daoist Yu Yi issued instructions for, allowing the three factories to be permitted to refine it.

As a Kaiyuan Hall Councilor and the current top official of Yu Wood City, Chen Mobai also had this right.

However, Rank-4 Talisman Paper was still a bit too high-end for him.

So, after briefly understanding the production technique of Spirit Elm Talisman Paper, he began discussing the production of high-ranking Talisman Papers with a Puppet factory with the technicians from the three Talisman Paper factories.

The Puppet factory located on the barren land between Danxia City and Yu Wood City, after nearly twenty years of operation, was mostly aging and on the verge of scrapping.

After all, due to insufficient Good Deed Points, in order to save money, all the puppets were made using the simplest Red Sun Spiritual Wood.

Even though Chen Mobai himself was a top-ranked Puppet Master, who constantly maintained and repaired them, after so many years of continuous use, they had reached their limit.

However, this Puppet factory had allowed Chen Mobai to accumulate his initial capital in both worlds.

The produced Talisman Paper enabled his Little Nan Mountain Shop to spread across half of the Eastern Wilderness, and on the Immortal Gate side, he accumulated over a hundred million Good Deed Points in his account.

With these resources and his current status, he could prepare to build a more complete new Puppet factory.

According to Chen Mobai's plan, apart from producing Rank-1 Talisman Paper, Rank-2 and even Rank-3 should also be possible.

However, on the Immortal Gate side, most Talisman Papers above Rank-2 were still completed by hand by Cultivators, with only a few high-demand types being automated.

As for Rank-3, only two or three types of Talisman Paper could be mass-produced in the Immortal Gate.

Chen Mobai discussed with the head technicians of the three Talisman factories, gradually perfecting the blueprints of his own Puppet factory.

During this period, he also called his teacher Che Yucheng several times to discuss the details of the Puppet upgrades.

Chapter 972: Upgrade Puppet Factory_2

After reaching Core Formation, Chen Mobai's network of connections was incomparable to that of the Foundation Establishment stage.

"A Rank-3 Heavenly Calculation Bead!"

Upon receiving Chen Mobai's call, Fu Borong, the head of the Repairing Heaven Institute, felt somewhat troubled, but thinking that this individual had the Qualification of Deification and could potentially be

one of the top figures of the Immortal Gate in the future, he agreed to help Chen Mobai out by using his influence to facilitate matters.

A Rank-3 Heavenly Calculation Bead could only be custom ordered from the Immortal Gate, and due to its wide-ranging uses, it was backordered for decades.

Additionally, being on the waiting list was one thing, but whether the Repairing Heaven Institute would accept the order was another matter entirely.

Chen Mobai had a decent amount of clout, and after Fu Borong spoke on his behalf, the main director of the mathematics department at the Repairing Heaven Institute reluctantly took the order.

Once the order was accepted, it meant that the manufacturing of the Rank-3 Heavenly Calculation Bead had begun.

Chen Mobai paid a deposit of ten million Good Deed Points, and after securing this most crucial core component, he began reaching out to people.

Chai Lun was still tasked with puppet production. This time, to avoid having him cover the costs upfront, Chen Mobai used his influence to allow Chai Lun free choice in selecting various types of Spirit Wood resources from Yu Wood City.

He had originally planned to use metal, but since the Rank-3 Heavenly Calculation Bead took up nearly half of the total budget, he could only resort to the cheaper option of using wood.

The main reason was that, as the leader of Yu Wood City, Chen Mobai could acquire Spirit Wood almost at cost, and he could even mix in some Rank-2 Green Yang Spiritual Wood synthesized using the Jia Wood Jue from the Divine Tree Secret Realm, these advantages were so substantial that the expensive Spirit Materials of various metals were naturally weeded out.

However, his funds were considerably more robust than during the Foundation Establishment stage, and as a councilor of the Kaiyuan Hall, he could borrow the maximum amount from the bank of the Immortal Gate.

The bank at Yu Wood City stated that they could lend all the funds they had available, which was around eighty million Good Deed Points.

With ample Good Deed Points, Chen Mobai acted confidently. He started reaching out to the other two members of his Formless Puppet creation team.

He planned to use bionics materials for the key joints and mechanisms of the puppet, while continuing to use Spirit Wood for the less critical parts. This would significantly extend the puppet's service life, which, with proper maintenance, could be fifty to sixty years without issues.

"No problem, just send me the blueprints, and I'll arrange everything right away."

Wen Ren Xuewei thought Chen Mobai was contacting her for some important matter; she had even specially interrupted her tea time for this.

"I've managed to keep alive the Enlightenment White Tea plant you gave me. I've started drinking the Rank-2 tea leaves..."

Since he had made the call, Chen Mobai also took the opportunity to strengthen his relationship with Wen Ren Xuewei, who, after all, had mastered the Longevity Technique and was destined to reach "Nascent Soul Formation" without any accidents.

"How is it, good flavor, right..."

When the topic of tea leaves came up, Wen Ren Xuewei's casual tone suddenly became interested as she started to ask Chen Mobai carefully about his various experiences and observations while growing the Spirit Plant tea tree.

Luckily, Chen Mobai had been very attentive to the survival of the Enlightenment White Tea plant from the beginning, frequently consulting with Zhuo Ming. Although he wasn't as intimately aware as Zhuo Ming, who had personally cultivated it, he had still directly inquired about the full process from when the tea tree was planted and took root to when it advanced to Rank-2, so he had no problems discussing it with Wen Ren Xuewei.

In fact, because he mentioned some of the real experiences with the tea tree he got from Zhong Ming's All Things Spiritual Rhinoceros, he even managed to impress Wen Ren Xuewei.

These were details she hadn't noticed when she was cultivating and transplanting, not realizing that watering the tea seeds with Spiritual Water at that particular time would make them joyous...

"If you were to dedicate yourself entirely to Spirit Plant cultivation, your achievements would not be inferior to those of your Sword Dao."

Wen Ren Xuewei said with a touch of admiration, under the impression that it was Chen Mobai who had personally nurtured the tea plant's survival and advancement.

Although she had long known that he was extraordinary and that there was nothing he couldn't do if he set his mind to it, it was the first time Wen Ren Xuewei felt a sense of admiration for someone who had surpassed her in her area of greatest confidence, the cultivation of Spirit Plant tea trees.

Previously, she was less accomplished than Chen Mobai because she couldn't defeat him.

But this time, it was in the field where she had the most confidence.

"Not at all, it survived by chance..."

Chen Mobai dared not carry on the conversation further.

Zhuo Ming had only cultivated the tea tree to Rank-2, and continuing the talk would lead to nothing more to say. After exchanging a few pleasantries, he said that he still had matters to discuss regarding the custom ordering of machines and hung up.

For the assembly line production of talisman paper and ink, Chen Mobai naturally turned to the Tiangong Instrument Factory. Like Wen Ren Xuewei, Zhou Tiangong only charged him the cost price, personally helping him with the design and calibration of the machines. He even considered the integration with the puppets, the incorporation of the Heavenly Calculation Bead, and the planning and upgrading of the factory layout.

Once the core chip, raw material supply, machine equipment, and puppet production were all arranged, Chen Mobai finally had time to meet with his good friend.

“Your cultivation level has progressed quite rapidly; you’ve already reached the sixth level of Foundation Establishment.”

Chen Mobai and Yan Bingxuan walked beneath the shade of trees, breathing in the fresh air of the forest, chatting and laughing together.

“Compared to you, I seem a bit clumsy.”

Facing Chen Mobai, Yan Bingxuan revealed a rare gentle smile.

Because Chen Mobai needed to apply to the Kaiyuan Hall every time he wanted to leave Yu Wood City, Yan Bingxuan could only visit him once a year. She studied Ice Soul Divine Light at the Repairing Heaven Institute and, when her progress stalled, she would come here to relax and unwind.

Chen Mobai truly enjoyed the time spent in conversation with her. Since his Core Formation, among his high school classmates, only she maintained regular contact with him.

The rest, perhaps due to their elevated statuses, had all consciously refrained from initiating contact with him.

Yan Bingxuan stayed in Yu Wood City for three days, during which Chen Mobai treated her to rice flower fish brought from Xiao Nanshan, marking the most carefree period since his Core Formation.

“I’m leaving now, see you next year.”

Hearing Yan Bingxuan’s words, Chen Mobai reluctantly saw her off on the airplane.

His time with Yan Bingxuan gave him an unprecedented sense of comfort and ease.

When he was with her, his mind would be completely at ease, without any need to worry or be anxious about anything.

However, such days also had the potential to erode his own fighting spirit. At his core, Chen Mobai was a person who constantly sought to improve himself.

After seeing Yan Bingxuan off, just as he was about to call Qing Nu and invite her to visit Yu Wood City, he received a phone call that made him frown.

[Lan Haitian]!

Seeing the caller ID on the screen, Chen Mobai was tempted to hang up directly.

But recalling the things he had said at Wangwu Cave Heaven and considering that Qing Nu was still a member of his Sky-Mending Group, he hesitated for a while and then picked up the call.

Lan Haitian: "I thought you wouldn't answer."

Chen Mobai: "What is it?"

Lan Haitian: "I have good news and bad news. Which do you want to hear first?"

Chen Mobai: "The good news."

Hearing the good news first would at least provide a moment of good mood.

Lan Haitian: "I will be arriving in Yu Wood City soon. You should be very welcoming to me, right?"

Chen Mobai: "I don't think that's good news."

Lan Haitian: "This time I'm leading a team on a mission, and among the team members is your 'friend'. You will soon be able to see her. Isn't that good news?"

Qing Nu!

"What do you mean by this?" Chen Mobai's eyes suddenly narrowed, and his tone grew cold as he grasped the implication.

Lan Haitian: "It's just that there has been decisive progress recently with the old case from years ago, and one of the key figures is linked to her. So we are bringing her along as well. Don't misunderstand, it's not that we specifically assigned her to a mission because of you."

After hearing Lan Haitian's explanation, Chen Mobai's brow furrowed even more deeply.

That old case from years ago involved two Golden Core Masters from Red Sandstone City.

Chen Mobai: "What progress?"

Lan Haitian: "I can't discuss it over the phone, and I can only tell you if you agree to get involved."

Without saying anything further, Chen Mobai guessed what the bad news was and decided to simply hang up the phone.

At this moment, he was only relieved that he had sent Yan Bingxuan away earlier.

Chen Mobai pondered in his own courtyard.

The old case from years ago was related to Qing Nu, something Lan Haitian had mentioned to him at Wangwu Cave Heaven.

The worst-case scenario was that the Immortal Gate had identified Yu Tianguang, the True Person in crimson robes, as a suspect. The Sky-Mending Group's collective deployment this time might well be planning to make an arrest.

So, how should he avoid getting involved in this matter?

While Chen Mobai was contemplating, his phone suddenly received an email.

"Dear Councilor Chen Mobai, the Sky-Mending Group of the Immortal Gate has a mission to execute in your jurisdiction in the coming days. We kindly ask for your assistance when it is convenient."

The sender of the email was the Kaiyuan Hall Committee.

Chapter 973: Seeing Qing Nu Again The Kaiyuan Hall Committee is the highest governing body of the Immortal Gate.

Every Nascent Soul Cultivator of the Immortal Gate is a member of the committee, but since these big shots don't really manage affairs, the Vice Hall Master Ye Yune of the Kaiyuan Hall is currently presiding over the committee.

When Chen Mobai saw this email, he knew that he couldn't escape from this matter.

Wang Shuye from the Dance Tool Dao Academy is also one of the rotating members of the committee.

The sending of this email means that the Dance Tool Dao Academy must already be aware of the matter.

In such a situation, Red Robe True Person Yu Tianguang must have been abandoned by the Daoist Academy.

As the Golden Core Master closest to Red Sandstone City, Chen Mobai has an obligation to assist the Sky-Mending Group in completing their task.

What a hassle.

Chen Mobai frowned and called Che Yucheng, but the latter only told him to follow the laws of the Immortal Gate, to do as he should, and not to act rashly, then hung up in a hurry.

In the evening, a knock at the door echoed at Chen Mobai's entrance. When the door opened, a person he didn't want to see walked in.

Lan Haitian, "It's been a long time, you should have received the message from above, right?"

Chen Mobai, "Hmm, is it just you?"

While speaking, Chen Mobai glanced around the void; out of respect for privacy, he hesitated to freely use the Void Spirit Eye on the Immortal Gate's side.

Lan Haitian, "Lin Yin is arranging what comes next, and with us two Golden Core Masters meeting, her presence wouldn't make much difference."

Chen Mobai, "There's another piece of bad news you haven't mentioned."

Lan Haitian, "An important witness has confessed, identifying Red Robe True Person Yu Tianguang as one of the high-ranking members of the Ascension Sect."

Just as expected!

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai's brow furrowed even tighter.

To be fair, Yu Tianguang had treated him very well. If it weren't for Yu Tianguang's statement back then, he might not have been able to enter the Dance Tool Dao Academy.

Moreover, Yu Tianguang had later used the Flame Lighting Technique to help him transform his Five Elements Cultivation into the Pure Yang Scroll. These were all acts of kindness.

And now, because of the command of the Immortal Gate, if he was to confront Yu Tianguang with weapons drawn, he truly felt uncomfortable in his heart.

Chen Mobai, "What should I do?"

Lan Haitian, "Join me in delivering the arrest warrant into Yu Tianguang's hands."

Chen Mobai, "Is that all?"

Lan Haitian, "If Yu Tianguang dares to resist, when necessary, you and I will need to join forces to suppress him."

Chen Mobai, "I'm just a Gold Core first layer Cultivator; I'm afraid I'll hold you back."

Lan Haitian, "You're being too modest. With the Purple Electric Sword in hand, there are probably very few Golden Core Masters in the entire Immortal Gate who would dare to confront you."

Chen Mobai, "The grade of the Purple Electric Sword is too high; I can't fully control it yet..."

Although unable to defy the orders of the Upper Echelons of the Immortal Sect, it was indeed true that Chen Mobai had just achieved Core Formation and, facing an old Golden Core Master like Yu Tianguang, it would not be unusual for him not to be a match.

Lan Haitian, "Then you can just assist me from the side."

As Lan Haitian said this, confidence was written all over his face. Since the Immortal Gate had dispatched him, they clearly had absolute confidence in him.

Chen Mobai nodded, without saying anything further.

Lan Haitian, "I'll notify you when it's time to act."

After saying this, Lan Haitian turned to leave.

Chen Mobai, "What about Qing Nu?"

In the end, Chen Mobai couldn't help but ask.

Lan Haitian, "She's meeting with the witness. If you want to see her, I can give her a day off tomorrow."

Chen Mobai's mind flashed with a glimmer of spiritual light upon hearing this, feeling as if he was vaguely grasping something.

Although Qing Nu was involved in many hidden secrets, with direct ties to the Ascension Sect, the number of people she was willing to meet is very few.

Kong Feichen and Yang Jing would not appear on Di Yuan Star, so after carefully recalling what he knew about Qing Nu's life, Chen Mobai quickly thought of a certain Foundation Establishment Practitioner.

Chen Mobai, "That witness is Gu Changfeng!"

Lan Haitian, upon hearing this, just slightly smiled and did not directly answer. He turned and left.

At that time, Gu Changfeng's case was personally handled by Lan Haitian himself in Red Sandstone City.

It was also coincidentally the time of Chen Mobai's entrance examination, and by a twist of fate, he also became involved in the case.

Since Gu Changfeng was the first Foundation Establishment Practitioner he had seen being arrested by the Immortal Sect, and the case was related to Qing Nu, Chen Mobai had a deep impression of it.

After Lan Haitian left, Chen Mobai picked up his phone. After some hesitation, he still worried about Qing Nu and called her.

It didn't connect at first, but two minutes later Qing Nu called back.

Qing Nu, "Sorry, the place just now was a bit special, and I couldn't answer the phone, but I'm out now."

Chen Mobai, "Hmm, Lan Haitian said you came with him. I'm in Yu Wood City. If you encounter anything that endangers your life, you must tell me in time."

Chen Mobai didn't have many friends, and he was willing to go out of his way to help Qing Nu.

Qing Nu, "Thanks!"

As she said this, Qing Nu's tone became somewhat choked up. After talking for a bit more, they agreed to meet the next day.

After hanging up the phone, Chen Mobai had no interest in meditating, so he simply took out a top-grade spirit stone to pass the time for the night by cultivating his Pure Yang Body.

Before dawn broke, Chen Mobai left his courtyard and headed for the place he had agreed to meet with her.

This was a base of the Department of Law Enforcement, of which the Sky-Mending Group requisitioned two floors.

Chapter 974: Seeing Qing Nu Again_2

Qing Nu was originally not allowed to leave on her own, but due to Chen Mobai's influence, Lan Haitian granted her a day off.

“Long time no see.”

When Qing Nu stepped out, she saw Chen Mobai at the door and greeted him with the brightest of smiles.

“It hasn’t been that long.”

While Chen Mobai spoke, he looked up to the top floor where Lan Haitian was smiling and waving at him from the window.

“Let’s go.”

Qing Nu took the initiative to take Chen Mobai’s hand. He was somewhat surprised but didn’t refuse, allowing her to lead him away from there.

In Lan Haitian’s office, a woman with short hair dressed in a white shirt and a green blazer sat on the side. She could also see Chen Mobai below, but Chen Mobai couldn’t see her.

“Is that him?”

The short-haired woman’s pupils were a light hazel. She appeared quite intrigued as she observed Chen Mobai’s figure from behind.

“Yes, it seems Deputy Minister Gongsun is very interested in him.”

Upon hearing Lan Haitian’s words, the woman retracted her gaze, fiddling with a toothpick in her hand, her eyes deep with thought.

...

Chen Mobai, accompanied by Qing Nu, walked onto a shaded path. He had been there with Yan Bingxuan before; it was very picturesque and led to Yu Wood City's most famous Rank-4 elm at the Guda Courtyard.

"To ensure the success of this mission, besides the Sky-Mending Group, even the Department of Law Enforcement has sent a top-tier Golden Core Master."

As they walked, Qing Nu was divulging confidential information.

"This should be kept a secret, you don't need to tell me this,"

Chen Mobai was worried about Qing Nu and proactively suggested she say less.

"Deputy Director Lan said it's okay, you're one of the people in charge of this operation, so you can be privy to this information," Qing Nu responded.

Her words made Chen Mobai nod, and since it had been mentioned, he asked about the doubt in his mind.

"Which True Person from the Department of Law Enforcement has come?"

As the strongest arm of the Orthodox Hall charged with maintaining inner discipline, the Department of Law Enforcement, despite its cumbersome system and mixed quality, had far more experts than the Sky-Mending Group, and its minister was also a Nascent Soul Superior of the Immortal Gate.

"I don't have the rank to have met that Department of Law Enforcement expert, but yesterday when I was escorted to see my teacher, I felt a strong Sword Qi similar to yours. It must be a Sword Cultivator," Qing Nu observed.

Sword Cultivator!?

There happened to be one of the dao sect's top Sword Dao masters within the Hall of Orthodox Law.

Chen Mobai recalled and vaguely guessed who it might be.

It was likely Gongsun Jielu, one of the four great Sword Cultivators of the dao sect, who also held a position as Deputy Minister of the Department of Law Enforcement,

She hailed from the Kunpeng Daoist Academy and was said to have mastered a portion of the Liu Yu Scripture and fused it with her own Sword Dao. Her reputation was not inferior to Nangong Xuanyu's.

So it was her presence that assured Lan Haitian's confidence.

Chen Mobai thought this and suddenly felt a sense of relief.

With Gongsun Jielu there, it hardly mattered whether he acted or not; Yu Tianguang was certainly doomed.

That said, his involvement might be an attempt by the Dance Tool Dao Academy to clear itself of suspicion.

After all, for a dao academy, having a Golden Core Master revealed as a cultist is a massive blow to their reputation.

But if Chen Mobai, as a representative of the Dance Tool Dao Academy, assisted, at least they could claim moral righteousness in fighting their own. Later public relations efforts might help restore some face.

Chen Mobai: "Is Gu Changfeng detained in Yu Wood City?"

Qing Nu: "Yes, he's serving his sentence by chopping logs in the Dark Forest. The reason for such a significant mobilization by the dao sect was his sudden accusation against the man in the red robe."

An occurrence like a Kaiyuan Hall Councilor being taken down had not happened in nearly a hundred years.

If Yu Tianguang were to be arrested this time, the shock it would cause to the Immortal Gate would undoubtedly be profound. At the very least, the Dance Tool Dao Academy would be criticized, and people like Wang Shuye within the system would have a difficult time ahead.

Chen Mobai, "Why confess neither early nor late, but choose to do so at this moment?"

If it had been a few years earlier, then Chen Mobai would not have achieved Core Formation. Even if he had been forcibly conscripted while in Red Sandstone City, it would not have been as embarrassing as it was now.

Taking action would be betraying kin for the sake of righteousness, for the sake of the Academy, but it was something that went against his conscience.

But inaction was even less of an option, for he could end up being branded a cultist.

Qing Nu, "It's because the side effects of practicing the Devour God Technique have manifested. With his level of Foundation Establishment, he cannot control the increasingly violent surge of his Divine Sense and probably doesn't have much longer to live."

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai couldn't help revealing a look of sudden realization.

Gu Changfeng had been arrested by Lan Haitian because of a Forbidden Technique.

As his former protégé, Qing Nu, who possessed a Heavenly Spiritual Root and had no traces of practicing Forbidden Techniques, was spared by the Jumang Academy.

"Just cultivate normally. Why resort to Forbidden Techniques? It's not that hard to enhance Divine Sense..."

As Chen Mobai spoke those words, he began to feel somewhat guilty. Without the aid of Meng Huang's Mystic Sound Method, his realm of Divine Sense probably wouldn't have reached the Seventh Layer of Foundation Establishment by now.

But he still had to say such things to maintain his persona as a genius.

“My teacher was just an ordinary Foundation Establishment practitioner. Having surpassed the physical peak lifespan without any means or seniority to acquire Golden Elixir Spiritual Medicine, the only way he could break through was by using a Forbidden Technique.”

Yet, Qing Nu somewhat understood Gu Changfeng. After all, he had looked after her for many years, taught her alchemy, and it was through this knowledge that she was able to make Chen Mobai’s acquaintance, a fated child, in her times of financial struggle.

Because items like Qi-replenishing Spirit Water existed, compared to geniuses like them who rarely felt any bottlenecks, over ninety-nine percent of the Foundation Establishment Practitioners in Immortal Gate died full of resentment before reaching their limits.

“How did he identify Yu Tianguang?”

Chen Mobai asked again. Matters concerning the Dance Tool Dao Academy couldn’t be settled with the testimony of a criminal alone.

“That I do not know. The interrogation was conducted by another department of the Hall of Orthodox Law, but given how seriously the Sky-Mending Group and Department of Law Enforcement have taken this, there must be decisive evidence found through his testimony.”

At this point, Chen Mobai could only sigh.

The order to arrest Yu Tianguang had been given, and if he wanted to consider the best interests of the Daoist Academy, it would be best to perform well in the actions to follow.

With a heavy heart, Chen Mobai walked with Qing Nu to the end of the shady lane.

“This is Guda Courtyard.”

In front of a tall, Rank-4 elm tree, Qing Nu clasped a wooden plaque with both hands, her eyes closed as if making a wish.

Chen Mobai watched her, considering whether he should also buy a plaque to wish for his family's health and safety, when a strange wave of Spiritual Machine caught his attention.

He looked up towards the direction from which the wave was coming and saw a refined, middle-aged man with gentle eyes standing on the opposite side of the elm tree, looking at Qing Nu, who was making her wish, with fondness.

Chen Mobai frowned slightly and in an instant, was by the man's side.

"Eh!"

As he got close, Chen Mobai realized that the middle-aged man who should have been there had disappeared without a trace.

Although his gaze had never left the man, just as Chen Mobai was about to use the Art of Spiritual Eyes, Qing Nu had already opened her eyes, looking delighted as she hung the wooden plaque from a branch of the elm tree with a red ribbon.

Chen Mobai saw that there were four names written on the plaque, apart from Qing Nu's: Kong Feichen, Yang Jing, and his own.

"Why did you go over there?"

Qing Nu, surprised to see Chen Mobai who was supposed to be behind her now in front of her, asked curiously.

"You looked beautiful while praying; I had the clearest view from here," Chen Mobai said with a smile, causing Qing Nu's cheeks to turn red with embarrassment. She shyly turned her face away, unable to meet his gaze.

“Let’s go; it’s about time.”

At this moment, the sky was quickly darkening, and before they knew it, they had spent the whole day there.

As Chen Mobai walked away with Qing Nu, he couldn’t resist looking back at the Guda Courtyard, his doubts growing ever deeper.

Chapter 975: The Narcissus Elder “`

At night, after sending Qing Nu back, Chen Mobai once again arrived at Guda Courtyard.

Operating his Void Spirit Eye, he quickly sensed something peculiar.

Traces of the Power of Void lingered here.

Was it the Golden Core Domain? Or some other method concerning the Void?

At that moment, Chen Mobai lifted his right hand, and strands of silvery light shone in his palm—the manifestation of his Golden Core Domain.

For cultivators who had just achieved Core Formation, this was merely used as a storage bag.

But after reaching the third layer of Core Formation, one could harness the Power of Void within it to form attacks resembling blades, and with more Golden Core Masters in the Immortal Gate, there was even a detailed book on the cultivation of Blade of the Void published.

At the seventh layer of Core Formation, the Power of Void matured, capable of both offense and defense, even expanding to form a domain akin to a Law Sphere.

This domain was the Void constructed in their usual practice, the place most suitable for their full display of power. Within it, a cultivator could exert several times their usual strength, and it was also the ace move that every Golden Core Master in the Immortal Gate kept up their sleeve.

However, what Chen Mobai most desired to achieve was the Teleportation ability that came with the ultimate mastery of the Void.

The Immortal Gate officially termed it “Void Walking.”

Once mastered, even if he encountered the most perilous situations, he could escape in the simplest of ways.

In past times, Master Chengxuan had transported Chen Mobai from Building One directly to the deepest part of the Treasure Trove using Teleportation, which left a deep impression on him.

This Void Walking was generally a marker of Nascent Soul Superiors, but in the history of the Immortal Gate, there were also a very few exceptional Golden Core Masters who had achieved it.

Chen Mobai felt with his outstanding aptitude, he was entirely capable of attempting the challenge.

After dealing with his current affairs, aside from his cultivation of Pure Yang Scroll, he could attempt to comprehend the Underworld Array and the Void Law Body. With an entire Void Mysterious Stone Mine to support him, he believed he could achieve Void Walking at the Golden Core Realm.

As the layers of the Golden Core Domain delineated by the Immortal Gate flashed through his mind, Chen Mobai used his Divine Sense to push his Domain toward the remnants of the Void Power within Guda Courtyard.

Since he had successfully founded his Domain during Foundation Establishment, his Power of Void was now far superior to an average Golden Core; however, due to his relatively weak Divine Sense, he was still unable to fully control and form the Blade of the Void.

But it was still sufficient for exploration.

Before long, two streaks of silver light flickered in the night.

With the constant support of Chen Mobai's Pure Yang Spiritual Power, he quickly breached a small hidden space.

A palm-sized puppet with closed eyes emerged in front of him.

The puppet was exquisitely lifelike, its face identical to the middle-aged man Chen Mobai had seen here during the day.

A luminous green light shone across the puppet's body as it opened its eyes, and in that instant it caught sight of Chen Mobai, its hollow gaze betrayed a flash of surprised light.

"Within the Immortal Gate, very few possess such superb puppetry skills. Who are you?"

As Chen Mobai spoke, he reached out to grasp the puppet.

A faint laugh rang out as the puppet suddenly enlarged to become as big as a human. Its right hand transformed into a drill, spinning and spiraling towards Chen Mobai's palm.

The Mirror of Six Yang Divine Fire appeared, colliding with the spiral.

The golden light shield twisted slightly, but under the support of Pure Yang Spiritual Power, it held firm.

"My patience is limited. I'm giving you one last chance to come clean."

Frowning, Chen Mobai withdrew the Mirror of Six Yang Divine Fire and raised his right hand, making a grasping motion in the air.

Just as a mocking smile appeared on the puppet's face, the Void suddenly tore open, and Chen Mobai grasped and drew out a long-hilted sword artifact shimmering with purple light. The surging lightning current caused the puppet to tremble violently, as if it were malfunctioning.

“The Purple Electric Sword!”

The puppet uttered in a synthesized electronic voice, staring in surprise at the handsome, remarkable young man standing with sword in hand before it.

“If I were to use this sword, it would quickly attract other nearby Golden Core Masters. Once others rush here, you’ll have even less of a chance.”

If possible, Chen Mobai did not want to involve Lan Haitian and Gongsun Jieli, especially since he had already begun to deduce the origin of this puppet.

If this matter were to be investigated, it could incite a major storm within the upper echelons of the Immortal Gate.

“Indeed, the Purple Electric Sword is powerful, but you’ve only just achieved Core Formation. It’s impossible for you to be in unity with the sword’s spirit, in Unity of Man and Sword. You still cannot be my match...”

The puppet had not finished speaking when the Purple Electric Sword burst into a clear purple glow. The light, following Chen Mobai’s sword-holding right hand, covered his entire body.

This was precisely the state of controlling the Sword Heart and being in Clear Heart of Sword.

“Young friend, may I inquire your esteemed name?”

The puppet suddenly changed its tune, speaking to Chen Mobai in a kind manner.

“You do not know me?”

This was rather bizarre. Although Chen Mobai had tried to keep a low profile since recently achieving Core Formation, his reputation was still the most resonant in the past decade.

“This puppet has been left here for dozens of years and was only activated yesterday. I’m not very familiar with the recent events of the Immortal Gate.”

The words of the puppet affirmed Chen Mobai’s judgment even more.

“Is it because of Qing Nu? You are Xin Ji.”

Upon hearing Chen Mobai’s words, the puppet paused momentarily and then asked with surprise, “How did you know?”

Chapter 976: Narcissus the Sage_2

“Within the Immortal Gate, I consider myself an expert in Puppetry Technique as well. At your level, aside from my teacher Che Yucheng, the only other person I can think of is Xin Ji. Moreover, I’ve heard from the people at Jumang Academy that Qing Nu looks exactly like your daughter.”

Upon hearing this, the puppet hesitated unexpectedly for several seconds.

“You, what is your relationship with Qing Nu?”

“A friend, I suppose.”

“Friend can mean many things. Can you elaborate? I won’t mind.”

Chen Mobai grew annoyed after hearing what the puppet said.

“What business is it of yours what my relationship with Qing Nu is, even if you do mind!”

As he spoke, purple electricity flowed from the Purple Electric Sword in Chen Mobai’s palm. The spiritual energy in the Guda Courtyard began to respond to his command, turning into specks of electrical light that gradually spread to form a magnetic field of electricity.

“You...”

The puppet tried to say something else when it suddenly found it couldn't synthesize its electronic voice anymore.

“This current can specifically counter puppets?!”

Chen Mobai was himself a Rank-3 Puppet Master from the Immortal Gate. Utilizing Enlightenment Tea, he had comprehended all the technical aspects of the Formless Puppet, and his understanding was no less than that of Che Yucheng.

He had previously conceived how to quickly unravel a puppet should he encounter one.

The key components of the Immortal Gate's puppets were primarily made of bionic materials, using neural currents to transmit information and commands.

After achieving Unity of Man and Sword with the Purple Electric Sword, he could manipulate even the most minute electrical currents to accomplish this.

When the puppet realized its movements were becoming rigid, its body's green luminescence flickered. Before Chen Mobai's astonished eyes, it suddenly disintegrated into pieces.

“Did it self-destruct?”

Frowning, Chen Mobai took out a Yellow Skin Gourd and began examining the fragments of the puppet, manipulated by the Primordial Yang Sword Evil.

Soon, he discovered a core similar to the Heavenly Calculation Bead.

However, this core was blue-black, emitting a cold aura.

[Be sure to protect Qing Nu and be careful not to go near Red Sandstone City. There lies a sinister individual, a reincarnated soldier from the Ascension Sect.]

As Chen Mobai picked up the core, a deliberately preserved message was conveyed to him.

After learning this information, Chen Mobai's gaze abruptly tightened.

Those from the Ascension Sect capable of reincarnation by disintegration were considered equivalent to Nascent Soul Superiors in the Immortal Gate.

If there indeed was such an existence hidden near Red Sandstone City, was their current lineup insufficient?

Did he need to report this to the higher-ups of the Immortal Gate?

Chen Mobai could only contact Master Chengxuan from the Dance Tool Dao Academy among the Nascent Soul Superiors.

However, reporting it would inevitably involve Qing Nu and Xin Ji.

Moreover, it could also be a feint from Xin Ji.

Chen Mobai was not certain that Xin Ji's words were true.

Tell Kaiyuan Hall or Lan Haitian and the others?

After considering many things, Chen Mobai felt it was prudent to report the matter, but he couldn't be the one to appear there.

After much thought, he finally came up with a plan.

As the top figure of Yu Wood City, it would be easy for him to find out where Gu Changfeng was detained.

Dividing his mind into thoughts, he controlled a Formless Puppet and arrived outside of the prison.

After waiting a long time, he finally saw a familiar figure.

Lin Yin, holding documents, walked out from the prison with a calm gaze, and beside her was Qing Nu.

The two had apparently just finished speaking with Gu Changfeng. It was unclear what news had been divulged, as Lin Yin's eyes shone with excitement.

“Who would have imagined that the Devour God Technique could actually...”

Lin Yin's sigh was cut short when she sensed something amiss. She abruptly turned her head toward a large tree by the road.

A strange aura no less powerful than her own had attracted her attention, but the source seemed to realize it had been exposed and immediately began to move away.

“You go back to the prison. If I'm not back in ten minutes, notify the deputy chief of the group.”

Lin Yin's expression was grave as she spoke to Qing Nu, then she employed her movement technique and vanished from her original spot, rushing towards the area where she sensed the strange fluctuations of spiritual energy.

Indeed, the Sky-Mending Group's people are all fearless in the face of death.

Chen Mobai's Formless Puppet sensed the biomagnetic field of Lin Yin following it, nodded slightly, and then stopped. After cutting down a Spirit Wood with a wave of his hand and leaving behind a piece of paper with words pieced together from newspaper fonts, he disappeared from the spot.

Once a Top-grade Spirit Stone is placed inside the Formless Puppet, it can burst forth with the power of the Golden Core Stage.

Lin Yin immediately felt the peculiar spiritual energy surge in speed and then, suddenly, it vanished from the range of her divine sense.

She frowned and pursued for another few steps, quickly arriving at the place where the spiritual energy had just skyrocketed and then vanished.

At first glance, she saw the cut-down Spirit Wood and the crookedly pieced-together newspaper scrap on top of it.

Upon seeing this, Lin Yin's complexion changed dramatically in an instant.

...

Lan Haitian and Gongsun Jielu shared a surprised look after reading the scrap of paper Lin Yin had brought over.

Lan Haitian, "Besides you, who else has seen this paper scrap?"

Lin Yin, "No one else. I did not have Qing Nu follow me."

Lan Haitian, "Hmm, I will report this matter to the chief of the group. Remember, you must not reveal it to anyone but yourself."

After listening, Lin Yin nodded solemnly, then stepped back and closed the door.

"Guess, who is reminding us?"

Gongsun Jielu looked at the paper scrap again and asked with some astonishment.

Lan Haitian, "To toy with Lin Yin, at the very least, it must be a cultivator at our rank."

Gongsun Jielu, "Then it's quite obvious, in Yu Wood City besides us, there is only one Golden Core Master."

After hearing this, Lan Haitian picked up his phone and made calls to some informants within the Sky-Mending Group.

Soon, he put down the phone and shook his head.

Lan Haitian, "Chen Mobai was teaching at Qing Sang Academy today. The vice-principal of the academy, many teachers, and students were present in his class, and he has not left yet, possessing a perfect alibi."

Gongsun Jielu, "If I remember correctly, he is the disciple of Che Yucheng, his graduation masterpiece being the Formless Puppet."

Lan Haitian, "But you must know, to reach the Golden Core Stage strength, the Formless Puppet must use top-grade Spirit Stones, and the whereabouts of every single top-grade Spirit Stone within the Immortal Gate is clear – he does not have one."

Hearing this, Gongsun Jielu didn't say anything more. She pointed to the paper scrap, raised her eyebrows slightly, and asked Lan Haitian how to handle it.

"Report to the Superior."

Soon, the office where the two were situated opened a void, and a girl with white long hair, white eyebrows, and skin white and smooth like jade stepped out.

"Paying respects to Master Narcissus!"

“Hmm, stand up.”

This operation, although nominally led by Lan Haitian and Gongsun Jieli, was in fact personally supervised by the minister of the Department of Law Enforcement.

Originally, Master Chengxuan himself wanted to come and clean house, but to avoid bias, the Immortal Gate still dispatched the appropriately positioned Master Narcissus.

“That’s the situation.”

After listening to Lan Haitian’s report, Master Narcissus also read the paper scrap and suddenly burst into laughter.

“I had thought this was merely a relaxing journey, but unexpectedly, it’s turning out to be quite interesting.”

...

The Sky-Mending Group and the Department of Law Enforcement had prepared a lot for this operation.

So, on the third day of their arrival in Yu Wood City, they had already notified Chen Mobai to set off towards Red Sandstone City.

Since it was to capture a Golden Core Master, they all traveled light and after leaving Yu Wood City by car, they directly activated a specially made Flying Talisman, rendering everyone’s forms concealed as if they were invisible currents in the sky heading towards Red Sandstone City.

And after entering the territory of Red Sandstone City, they all descended.

Upon landing, Chen Mobai stood on the outermost edge.

Qing Nu immediately walked over and handed him a bottle of water.

“Thank you.”

Chen Mobai smiled at her, then looked up at the Biyu Wutong Tree that was now within sight.

Chapter 977: The Path to Heaven While Chen Mobai was looking at the Biyu Wutong, a woman with short hair wearing a green suit approached.

“Let’s get acquainted, I’m Gongsun Jielu.”

She took the initiative to extend her hand, and Chen Mobai was slightly surprised, but he also extended his hand politely.

“When I was at the Daoist Academy, I heard True Person Zuo Gong speak of the sword cultivators of Xianmen, saying that Vice Minister Gongsun is one of the elites.”

Chen Mobai’s words made Gongsun Jielu smile slightly, and with a wave of her hand, the domain split open and chairs and tables landed on the ground.

“They say you’re the most dazzling swordsmanship talent since Ancestor Baiguang. I’ve always wanted to meet you, but official duties kept me busy, and only now have I had the chance.”

Gongsun Jielu spoke and took her seat first, then invited Chen Mobai and Qing Nu, who was beside him, to sit as well.

“That’s an overstatement. I’m only considered decent because there is no one outstanding among my peers. Compared to you, Vice Minister Gongsun, I can only say that I am passable.”

Although what Chen Mobai was most famous for was his swordsmanship talent, in actuality, his talent in this area could only be described as ordinary compared to farming, talismans, puppets, etc.

He now dared not approach the Great Dao Tree, as his Sword Dao Realm had been stagnant at “Sword Light Shapeshifting” for some time.

Fearing that Gongsun Jielu would ask him about Sword Dao, Chen Mobai promptly became humble.

Gongsun Jielu: “I heard from Zuo Gong that he passed the Sword Destruction Collection to you.”

Chen Mobai: “Back when I was at the Daoist Academy, True Person Zuo Gong took a liking to me and gave it to me along with the Sword Control Department’s textbooks.”

In reality, it was because Zuo Gong couldn’t teach Chen Mobai anymore, so he gave him his treasured Sword Destruction Collection, considering it as having given guidance.

Gongsun Jielu: “So have you accomplished anything with it?”

Chen Mobai: “Lacking resources, I’ve achieved nothing.”

The Sword Destruction Collection required Earthly Fiendish Qi, and although with Chen Mobai’s current status, procuring a bit of Five Elements Evil Qi wouldn’t be too conspicuous, he decided to shake his head anyway, out of caution.

After all, he now had the Purple Electric Sword, and the power of the Five Elements Sword Slaughter Formation wasn’t particularly important.

Within the Immortal Sect, with his and the Purple Electric Sword’s minds in harmony, others would only think his Sword Heart was extraordinary, his talent exceptional, and his match with the Sword Artifact incredibly close.

But Earthly Fiendish Qi, within the systems of Xianmen, still had the possibility of exposure.

Gongsun Jielu: "That's quite a pity. I heard from Zuo Gong that you mastered Sword Light Shapeshifting, capable of evolving the Five Elements Sword Light. I thought that after Core Formation, you would collect the Five Elements Evil Qi first thing and cultivate the Five Elements Sword Sha."

Hearing this, Chen Mobai chuckled dryly twice but did not continue the conversation.

In his mind, however, he wondered how Zuo Gong could not keep things to himself and had revealed his secrets.

"The Head of Immortal Affairs is getting old and is preparing to retire. If Gongye Zhixu can't achieve 'Nascent Soul Formation,' then the Righteous Law Hall Master would naturally replace him."

Gongsun Jielu suddenly said something that caught Chen Mobai off guard, as he was interested in becoming the Sect Master but knew that there was no chance of getting involved in such high-level matters within the next hundred years.

Chen Mobai continued to stay silent, and Gongsun Jielu kept talking.

"In that case, the current Deputy Hall Master of the Dharma Hall, who is also the Enforcement Department Director, Narcissus, would naturally be promoted to become one of the Three Great Halls' Righteous Law Hall Masters."

"After Narcissus' promotion, the competition for the Deputy Hall Master of the Dharma Hall would be between me and Wen Lianshan of the Sky-Mending Group. However, the chances are high that I would get it, as the Sky-Mending Group has always worked behind the scenes and doesn't have as good a reputation as me."

"Another reason is that I'm more suited to cultivate the Immortal Sect Sword Art."

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai had a vague idea of why Gongsun Jielu was telling him all this, but he remained silent, pretending to be unaware.

“If I do become the Deputy Hall Master of the Righteous Law Hall, Wen Lianshan will likely transition from the shadows to a more public role and take up the position of Enforcement Department Director. I would be glad to make this trade with him.”

“That would mean Lan Haitian would become the leader of the Sky-Mending Group, but the Enforcement Department would lack a vice director. If you’re willing, I could arrange for you to join after this affair.”

“Later, with a little more experience and some achievements, with your cultivation level and support from both the Dance Instruments and Sky-Mending factions, as well as my backing, securing the position of vice director will be almost certain.”

After listening to all of Gongsun Jielu’s words, Chen Mobai was greatly tempted.

This could be said to be the most suitable official career path for him.

A high starting point in the Department of Law Enforcement with a clear promotional roadmap that was also highly achievable.

Becoming one of the Three Great Halls’ Masters was a childhood dream of his.

“After becoming vice director, with your stunning talent, you are bound to surpass Wen Lianshan and the others. When you become deputy hall master, you can practice the top sword artifact of the Immortal Sect, which for a sword cultivator, is considered an unparalleled scripture.”

Gongsun Jielu, seeing Chen Mobai seemed moved, added more incentives, mentioning the Immortal Sect Sword Art that all sword cultivators aspired to.

In the past, Ancestor Baiguang was, while holding the position of Righteous Law Hall Master, enlightened by the Immortal Sect Sword Art, developing the Method of Entrusting the Primordial Spirit, embarking on the path to Divinity Transformation.

However, Gongsun Jielu’s words had the opposite effect.

Chen Mobai was very clear about his own swordsmanship talent. Nowadays, within Xianmen, he was ranked alongside Ancestor Baiguang as having the Qualification of Deification, but this couldn't be further from the truth.

Chapter 978: The Road to Heaven_2 “`

“If I fail to grasp anything from the Immortal Sect Sword Art now, wouldn't I be blatantly telling the world that I'm a fraud?”

Thinking about such a socially disastrous possibility, Chen Mobai felt it was safer to focus on obtaining resources and cultivating in the Tianhe Realm.

“Vice Minister Gongsun, I still prefer the way things are now, with no music to disturb my ears and no documents to tire my body, and it's closer to home too,”

Chen Mobai tactfully declined Gongsun Jielu's offer, and upon hearing this, she looked surprised.

Then she turned to look at Qing Women, seeming to remember something, and with a frown, she added another sentence.

“Her case is merely an exception; you needn't worry that the upper echelons of the Immortal Sect are all like that.”

Upon hearing these words, Qing Women, who had been expressionless until then, suddenly became visibly moved. Her eyes became moist as she looked at Chen Mobai, touched.

She had thought that Chen Mobai was irritated by the upper echelons because of her and therefore had rejected this path leading straight to the heavens.

“You...”

“I am simply following my own heart, not wanting to entangle my Sword Heart with mundane affairs—it has nothing to do with others.”

Before Qing Women could say anything, Chen Mobai interrupted firmly, not wanting her to misunderstand.

But his words seemed to have the opposite effect.

The tears Qing Women had been holding back couldn't be restrained any longer and started streaming down her smooth, pale cheeks as she began to sob quietly.

Seeing this scene, Gongsun Jielu sighed.

No wonder he could resonate with Master Qingshi's Purple Electric Sword Heart; he too was a man of deep emotion.

Thinking this, Gongsun Jielu did not say anything more and turned to leave.

Chen Mobai was left standing there somewhat stiffly.

He thought he had made himself clear, so why had Qing Women suddenly started to cry?

After hesitating for a long time, Chen Mobai took a pack of tissues out of his Golden Core Domain.

Just as he handed it to Qing Women, she threw herself into his arms and began to cry even harder.

Seeing that others nearby were turning their gazes towards them, Chen Mobai felt extremely awkward. He could only cast a Wooden House Talisman that enclosed both him and Qing Women, blocking them from the view of onlookers.

"Brother Chen, the formation is all set up, we're ready to head up the mountain,"

It was about half an hour later when Lan Haitian's voice came from outside the wooden house. Chen Mobai could only pat Qing Women on the back, who after sobbing for a while, had calmed down quite a bit, though she still felt somewhat ashamed and continued to shrink in Chen Mobai's embrace.

Now that they were being prompted, Qing Women had no choice but to let go of Chen Mobai's waist, her face flushed. She lowered her head, unconsciously twirling a strand of hair on the right side of her face.

"Stay here and wait in peace; we'll take care of this matter quickly."

Chen Mobai handed the tissues in his hand to Qing Women and then patted her head before getting up and leaving the wooden house.

"Fair winds on your journey."

Qing Women's soft words followed him as Chen Mobai, with his back to her, waved his right hand, then joined Lan Haitian and Gongsun Jielu outside, all of them transforming into beams of Escaping Light and flying towards the Cinnabarite Institute.

At the base of the mountain, Lan Haitian had already used a Magic Artifact to confirm the whereabouts of Yu Tianguang.

The three of them did not waste any time; they avoided the students and rushed straight to the mountaintop, to a stone house where the Spirit Vein was strongest.

"Who dares to be so impolite!"

As Chen Mobai and his two companions landed on the mountaintop, Yu Tianguang inside the stone house immediately sensed it. His displeased voice rang out.

With the stone door opening, he saw Chen Mobai at the entrance and frowned slightly.

“What are you doing here? You don’t even bring a basket of fruit when visiting me!”

Chen Mobai felt a bit awkward and pointed to the sides of the stone house with his hand.

Yu Tianguang stepped out of the stone door, glancing left and right, his face suddenly changing.

“Vice Minister Gongsun, Vice Chief Lan! What brings you two to my place today?”

Upon hearing this, Lan Haitian didn’t say much but directly took out an arrest warrant and sent it flying to Yu Tianguang with a puff of air.

“

“Pure nonsense. I’ve been a bona fide member of the Immortal Sect since birth and a graduate of the Dance Tool Dao Academy. Aren’t you afraid of being blamed by the principal and Ancestor Baiguang for slandering me as a cultist!”

Upon seeing the arrest warrant, Yu Tianguang’s face turned red with anger.

It seemed he really was being wronged.

Chen Mobai thought this, yet remained silent, simply watching how Lan Haitian and Gongsun Jieliu interacted with Yu Tianguang.

“Originally, Master Chengxuan wanted to come in person to clean up the mess to avoid tarnishing the Dance Tool Dao Academy’s reputation because of you. However, the Immortal Sect decided to deal with this matter quietly, so they only called on nearby Councilor Chen to follow along.”

As Lan Haitian spoke, he pointed to the embarrassed-looking Chen Mobai.

“Chen kid, what exactly is going on here?”

Yu Tianguang immediately glared at Chen Mobai, shaking the arrest warrant in his hand excitedly. A flame of fury ignited in his eyes.

“True Person Yu, I am acting on the orders of the Kaiyuan Hall Council, cooperating with these two.”

Chen Mobai gently stated, expressing his stance.

But this very statement caused Yu Tianguang’s face to alternate between red and white.

Being the Dance Tool Dao Academy’s most outstanding graduate in recent centuries, Chen Mobai stood beside Lan Haitian, blocking Yu Tianguang’s way, and Yu Tianguang knew the academy had abandoned him.

“I am innocent. I want to see the principal. I want to see the masters of The Three Great Halls. I want to see Ancestor Baiguang...”

As a Cultivator who had grown up within the Immortal Sect, Yu Tianguang knew very well the Sect’s background and power. He intended to rely on his formidable strength to argue his case, but he didn’t dare to truly make a move.

In the end, all he could do was shout loudly to proclaim his innocence!

As the clicking sound rang out, Lan Haitian produced a pair of specially made handcuffs and approached Yu Tianguang.

“True Person Yu, your status as a Kaiyuan Hall councilor has not yet been revoked, and I do not wish to make this ugly...”

While speaking, Lan Haitian hinted for Yu Tianguang to give up resisting.

After hearing this, Yu Tianguang’s face turned crimson with rage, and the powerful Spiritual Power in his Dantian Qi Sea burst forth, as if he intended to resist.

However, Gongsun Jielu next to him drew a toothpick from his sleeve and flicked it lightly. A sharp, dark-green Sword Light burst out, instantly piercing into Yu Tianguang's Gold Core.

In Chen Mobai's shocked gaze, Yu Tianguang's Spiritual Power dissipated entirely, seemingly retracting back into his Gold Core, nailed down and suppressed by that toothpick.

With a pfft, Yu Tianguang spat out a mouthful of fresh blood. The vast disparity in strength left him feeling utterly disheartened. Although he still had his Lifespan Artifact to activate, it would have been a futile effort against Gongsun Jielu, a Sword Dao grandmaster.

The arrest of Yu Tianguang went unexpectedly smoothly.

From beginning to end, Chen Mobai never lifted a finger, merely serving as a witness to Lan Haitian and Gongsun Jielu subduing Yu Tianguang.

"Chen kid, I've been wronged. You must tell the principal..."

As Yu Tianguang was being taken away by Lan Haitian, he lifted his head and said one last thing to Chen Mobai.

"Don't worry, this incident won't affect your record in the Immortal Sect, and might even be recorded as a merit."

Gongsun Jielu walked up to Chen Mobai and struck up conversation again.

"Do you truly not want to join the Hall of Orthodox Law? Is it that you dislike the Department of Law Enforcement? What about the Sky-Mending Group and the Military Department, are you interested in those?"

The Hall of Orthodox Law controlled the two major martial forces inside and outside the Immortal Sect, with the Military Department being directly led by the Righteous Law Hall Master, while the Department of Law Enforcement was under the Vice Hall Master.

“No, I just want to live a simple life training with the sword and farming, and in my spare time, drawing talismans and making puppets.”

Chen Mobai’s demeanor, wanting a reclusive life, puzzled Gongsun Jielu.

“Don’t you want to undergo ‘Nascent Soul Formation’?”

“Can’t one undergo ‘Nascent Soul Formation’ without relying on the Immortal Sect?”

Chen Mobai retorted.

“Without the support of the Immortal Sect, you would need the resources of the Four Great Daoist Sects. But the Dance Tool Dao Academy’s Infant Forming Spirit Medicine has already been given to Duanmu Longrong; are you sure you want to wait three hundred years?”

Chapter 979: The Real Goal Chen Mobai

“Does Nascent Soul Formation necessarily rely on external objects?”

Gongsun Jielu: “In the history of the Immortal Gate, Yuanyang Ancestor is the only one who formed a Nascent Soul without using Spiritual Objects. Even for him, he needed the Portal to send him to the Taiyin Star so that his Gold Core could break open and birth the Nascent Soul.”

Chen Mobai: “But aren’t there also cultivators of the Lasting Spring Cultivation technique?”

Gongsun Jielu: “Even those who have perfected the Lasting Spring Cultivation technique would not reject Infant Forming Spirit Medicine, because there are some barriers that one could not get past without consuming Elixirs, no matter how many times one tries.”

After hearing this, Chen Mobai had a look of realization. It was the first time he knew about these things.

Then he smiled slightly and said something that left Gongsun Jielu stunned in place.

“Then, I will try to be the first one.”

What first one?

To form a Nascent Soul purely by oneself, without relying on external objects!?

Has he gone mad?

Does he think he is Yuanyang Ancestor? That’s an Innate Pure Yang Body, cultivated into an Immortal Spirit Root with an Immortal Technique of Patching Heaven—the most defiant talent, whose foundation was so profound and talent so extraordinary, he was indisputably the first person of the Immortal Gate, unparalleled in ancient and modern times!

Although you are regarded as having the Qualification of Deification, compared with Yuanyang Ancestor, you are far from being on the same level... Eh... this guy in front of me... seems... looks like...

At this point, Gongsun Jielu suddenly remembered that Chen Mobai was cultivating the Pure Yang Scroll, which had been revised by Yuanyang Ancestor.

If he really cultivated the Pure Yang Daoist Body to Perfection, it was possible for him to refine his talents into a half Yuanyang Ancestor.

That would be the cultivation of an Acquired Pure Yang Body, not as good as the Innate.

But even so, it was still an incredible talent.

In that case...

His statement doesn’t seem so preposterous after all!

After realizing this, Gongsun Jielu started looking at Chen Mobai differently.

This guy, could he actually manage to form a Nascent Soul on his own?

Thinking this, Gongsun Jielu felt like the Immortal Gate was of no use to him anymore.

Qualification of Deification, terrifying indeed!

For the first time in his life, Gongsun Jielu, who had always prided himself on his extraordinary talent, felt jealous and envious of the talent of a younger person.

With this, the good mood he had for making an arrest and gaining merit had mostly dissipated.

Chen Mobai watched as Gongsun Jielu walked forward in silence and couldn't help scratching his head, feeling that the statement he had just made was perhaps a bit too bold.

But that's always been his role in the Immortal Gate!

As he was about to leave, Chen Mobai suddenly remembered something, and his expression changed slightly.

Wait, didn't Master Xin Ji say that there is a wicked person reincarnated from the Ascension Sect in the Red Sandstone City?

Yu Tianguang was easily subdued by Gongsun Jielu, so obviously, it wasn't him.

If Yu Tianguang wasn't the one, then why, when he, the remnant of the Ascension Sect, was taken away, had the wicked person not yet made a move?

Does that indicate...

As Chen Mobai thought about it, he felt more and more likely that Yu Tianguang had been wronged.

But even thinking this way, there was no way he could help clear Yu Tianguang's name, as the Immortal Gate does respect evidence.

When Chen Mobai followed Gongsun Jielu back to the base of the mountain, Lin Yin was already directing members of the Sky-Mending Group who had come to dismantle the Formation they had previously set up.

Lan Haitian, holding a handcuff chain, with the other end connected to Yu Tianguang's handcuffs, was responsible for the close custody before he was escorted to Wangwu Cave Heaven.

After all, Yu Tianguang's identity was not ordinary, and he would need to go through a complete trial process before his guilt could be established.

When Chen Mobai returned, he felt as if a gaze from a hidden place glanced at him.

However, upon looking around, he found nothing.

Chen Mobai hesitated but still decided to sit down next to Yu Tianguang and Lan Haitian.

"His Gold Core has been pinned down by Deputy Minister Gongsun, rendering him unable to use his Spiritual Power. I alone can guard him,"

Lan Haitian thought Chen Mobai was deeply afraid that Yu Tianguang might escape and bring shame to the Dance Tool Dao Academy, and said with a laugh.

"No matter the outcome of the trial, True Person Yu has been kind to me, and I will escort him along the way so that he will not suffer."

Chen Mobai chose to follow his own heart, making this choice.

At these words, Yu Tianguang, who had been closing his eyes, suddenly opened them wide, gave Chen Mobai a deep look, seemed like he wanted to say something but then sighed and lowered his head.

“If that’s the case, then I’ll trouble Brother Chen to keep me company on this journey,”

Lan Haitian didn’t refuse and invited Chen Mobai to sit down with a smile.

Because they hadn’t anticipated that the arrest would go so smoothly, they still needed to wait a while for the Immortal Gate’s flying vessel to come.

“I have always been curious. What kind of evidence was it that allowed the Hall of Orthodox Law to act so decisively, even to the point of involving me in the arrest of True Person Yu?”

After harboring doubts, Chen Mobai found the process of having Yu Tianguang identified as a remnant of the Ascension Sect a bit problematic.

Within the Immortal Gate, to convict a councilor of the Kaiyuan Hall, an official notice had to be issued by the Kaiyuan Hall first, stripping him of his councilorship, and then the Hall of Orthodox Law could move in to arrest.

There had been instances where Kaiyuan Hall councilors had been arrested directly, but those were during urgent war times or when the Huashen Ancestor gave the direct order. In times of peace like now, Chen Mobai had never heard of bypassing protocol and acting directly like this.

“Brother Chen, before we came here, we suddenly received a mysterious slip of paper.”

Lan Haitian, instead of answering directly, mentioned something that made Chen Mobai’s heart skip a beat. However, he kept his expression unchanged and pretended to be surprised as he inquired, “What slip of paper?”

Chapter 980: The Real Target_2

“I still have it saved; take a look, Brother Chen.”

Lan Haitian handed over the sentence cobbled together using the characters from the newspaper, and when Chen Mobai picked it up, a look of “shock” appeared on his face.

“Yu True Person doesn’t look like it.”

After pondering, Chen Mobai spoke those words, then handed the sentence back.

However, when Lan Haitian took it back, he performed an action that astonished Chen Mobai greatly.

“Yu True Person, please take a look as well.”

Yu Tianguang had always been curious, but thinking he was wronged and wanting to behave properly, he deliberately closed his eyes when Lan Haitian presented the paper, as a gesture to show he wouldn’t peek.

But now that Lan Haitian personally asked him to look, Yu Tianguang opened his eyes.

Upon reading, his expression underwent a drastic change!

“It wasn’t me! If it were me, I would have definitely suppressed the three of you on the spot, not put up with this nonsense. Plus, after entering Wangwu Cave Heaven, under the watch of two at Divinity Transformation, I would have had no chance to escape, so why would I have surrendered without a fight?”

Yu Tianguang’s words garnered Chen Mobai’s full agreement; if he were reincarnated as an evildoer from the Ascension Sect, he surely would have tried to break free from the Immortal Gate’s shackles and flee Di Yuan Star the moment he was exposed.

“Twenty-three years ago, I carried out a mission in Red Sandstone City. During that incident, I worked with Brother Chen to slay all the Ascension Sect’s heretics, but the target we needed to protect was taken away by a mysterious Golden Core Master...”

Lan Haitian recounted an old case.

“It couldn’t have been me.”

After listening, Yu Tianguang uttered five words, but he lacked sufficient evidence to prove his innocence.

“After our investigation, not a single Golden Core Master from the Immortal Gate was in Red Sandstone City at that time, so the suspect had to be a local resident.”

“What about Shi Qing! Why are you so sure it’s me?” Yu Tianguang blurted out immediately upon hearing Lan Haitian’s words.

“Yes, there’s also True Person Shi Qing!”

Lan Haitian simply smiled and clapped his hands, causing Chen Mobai to furrow his brows at this gesture.

“Last month, Gu Changfeng who was incarcerated for practicing a Forbidden Technique suddenly confessed, claiming he copied the Devour God Technique for you and that you also cultivated this Forbidden Technique.”

“Impossible, I swear I haven’t cultivated the Devour God Technique!”

Yu Tianguang spoke, about to raise his hand and swear an oath of his Dao Heart.

“Yu True Person, wait a moment. Gu Changfeng has also sworn a Dao Heart oath stating definitively that you have cultivated the Devour God Technique. The Mind-reading Talisman of the Hall of Orthodox Law ensures he has not lied.”

Lan Haitian stopped Yu Tianguang from making an oath and spoke words that left Yu Tianguang with a stunned gaze.

“What in the world is going on? I really haven’t cultivated the Devour God Technique...”

By the time he said this, Yu Tianguang no longer had the same confidence.

Because if Gu Changfeng has survived the Dao Heart oath and the Mind-reading Talisman, it means he has told the truth.

Yet Yu Tianguang was certain that his own memory contained no trace of any cultivation of the Devour God Technique!

“Brother Chen, what do you think?”

At this moment, Lan Haitian suddenly addressed Chen Mobai, who after some thought, offered a response, “Is there a possibility that Yu True Person, without his knowledge, cultivated some Art of Divine Consciousness, believing it to be a normal technique of the Immortal Gate, but it turned out to be a Forbidden Technique?”

Clap clap!

After Chen Mobai finished speaking, Lan Haitian suddenly burst into applause, nodding at Chen Mobai with a greatly surprised expression.

“Correct, that is also a possibility we deduced. So the question arises, which Art of Divine Consciousness that Yu True Person cultivated could be the Devour God Technique?”

As soon as Lan Haitian’s words ended, Yu Tianguang immediately started to recall, listing the names of all the books he had read related to Divine Consciousness from his Qi Cultivation Seventh Layer days onward.

“Volcano Meditation Technique,” “Morning Sun Technique,” “Divine Control Technique,” “Azure Jadeite Charm,” “Rising Sun Mind Movement Method”...

When Chen Mobai heard of the Divine Manipulation Technique, his heart skipped a beat.

“The ‘Morning Sun Technique’ and the ‘Divine Manipulation Technique’ are two modified directions of the Devour God Technique, it couldn’t possibly be these two, could it?”

After recounting all the contents related to divine consciousness from his memory, Yu Tianguang somewhat uncertainly said.

“Can True Person Yu recite the contents of these cultivation techniques from your memory?”

Lan Haitian asked again, and Yu Tianguang immediately nodded.

Lin Yin promptly took out paper and pen while also moving a table over.

Humming!

Just at that moment, the flying ship prepared by the Hall of Orthodox Law arrived in the airspace above them. Since the primary target had been arrested, there was no need to disguise the tremendous disturbance.

Soon, people from the Cinnabarite Institute noticed the enormous object that had appeared in the sky.

Two Foundation Establishment teachers came over immediately, Lin Yin went up and gave a brief explanation. They also saw Yu Tianguang being pressed in between Lan Haitian and Chen Mobai, their expressions changing drastically before they returned the way they had come.

“The show is nearly over, it’s time to take True Person Yu away.”

Seeing this scene, Lan Haitian, carrying Yu Tianguang, ascended toward the flying ship in mid-air, while Chen Mobai, observing this, employed his spiritual power to support the table with the paper and pen and followed them up.

Yu Tianguang, now unable to mobilize his spiritual power, showed gratitude towards Chen Mobai upon seeing this.

Before long, Lin Yin and the rest of the Sky-Mending Group who set up the large formation also entered the flying ship.

However, Chen Mobai did not see Gongsun Jieli, a hint of inspiration fleetingly crossing his mind. Combining what Lan Haitian had said earlier, he felt he might have grasped the true purpose of this operation.

It was at that moment that the flying ship started to glow with spiritual light, then turned around and headed towards the Wangwu Cave Heaven.

The speed wasn't very fast, as if it was deliberately waiting for someone.

But to Lan Haitian's disappointment, even after flying out of Red Sandstone City's airspace, he had not waited for that person.

"The one you want to capture isn't True Person Yu, is it? You just want to use True Person Yu to lure out the real target!"

Chen Mobai asked. Lan Haitian listened, slightly surprised, then nodded lightly.

By that time, Yu Tianguang had already silently transcribed all the contents. Lan Haitian picked them up for a look and singled out the "Azure Jadeite Charm".

"This Cultivation Technique is only available up to the third layer of Gold Core in the Immortal Gate's library, yet True Person Yu's version can be practiced up to the ninth level of Golden Core. Where did it come from?"

“True Person Shi Qing taught it to me, saying she had perceived the continuation of this technique that directly points to Nascent Soul while cultivating with Biyu Wutong through Spirit Transformation.”

“She herself used it to clear all obstacles to the ninth level of Golden Core but has not yet achieved ‘Nascent Soul Formation’, so she only passed on to me the part concerning divine consciousness up to Golden Core Perfection.”

“Practiced within the range of Red Sandstone City’s Spiritual Vein, this technique allows you to contemplate the Biyu Wutong at the Spiritual Vein Core. The improvement of divine consciousness with this contemplation becomes twice as effective. The closer you are to the Biyu Wutong, the faster the progress of divine consciousness, and even your thoughts become clearer and swifter.”

“I truly did not know that this was the Devour God Technique!”

By the end of his confession, Yu Tianguang had grasped the truth, glaring at the transcription of the “Azure Jadeite Charm” he had written down, wishing he could tear it apart right there.

“Did Vice Minister Gongsun go to capture Shi Qing?”

Chen Mobai also realized, at that moment, that the Immortal Gate had long known that Shi Qing was the one practicing the Devour God Technique.

The sudden and open arrest of Yu Tianguang this time and deliberately letting the people of the Cinnabarite Institute know when leaving was probably to draw out Shi Qing.

“The people of the Cinnabarite Institute must have reported our capture of True Person Yu to True Person Shi Qing. Logically, with such an incident occurring within her territory, she must come out to inquire after knowing about it.”

“According to our original plan, as long as True Person Shi Qing leaves the Biyu Wutong to intercept us, the Forbidden Array on this flying ship would be activated, severing her connection with the Biyu Wutong, and then the higher-ups would take action to suppress her.”

“But since she didn’t come as planned, we’ll have to initiate the alternative plan B!”

By this time, Lan Haitian was no longer keeping secrets.