

Y Master 1631

Chapter 1631 - The Battle Ends

The starry sky was brilliant, moonlight poured down like thin smoke on Ye Fan, making him seem otherworldly.

At this moment, he gathered everyone's gaze, becoming the sole focus.

Undoubtedly, after this battle, Ye Fan's reputation would reach its peak—he defeated Gu Xiao, who possessed Ancient Emperor's bloodline and showed signs of atavism, taking his most solid step on the Emperor Road!

For this duel, like the sparring in the Immortal Academy, was also an Emperor Road qualifying battle. Ye Fan proclaimed with his overwhelming strength that he had already crushed the young generation on the Emperor Road.

Among the younger generation, there was no one who could match him!

His opponents would become the Emperor's sons and the demon-level geniuses of the Demon Clan,

Of course, the true Emperor Road qualifying battles hadn't arrived yet. When the Demon Clan emerged, the Divine Race should appear too. By then, it would be the true rise of the Ten Thousand Clans, and the Emperor Road qualifying battles would become bloodier and more brutal!

The young generation's contest for dominance, in the future, who knows how many more will fall. On the road to proving the Dao, there is no right or wrong, only ruthlessness and cruelty, moving forward on the blood and bone of many, ultimately, only one can stand at the pinnacle.

"Opportunities are fleeting, the path to immortality might open in this era, who would want to miss it? Perhaps even the Emperor's sons will emerge in this era, who can predict the future!"

Many people lamented that this era was destined to be a golden age, but likewise, when this era ends, it would also be a time of greatest decline!

Various constitutions appeared, demons emerged in succession, each one had hope for proving the Dao in other eras, yet now, they were concentrated in this era.

Moreover, the Emperor's sons are about to emerge, adding many unknown variables to this era. In the end, who can reach the last, truly is unknown, but undoubtedly, this era will leave a striking mark in the long river of history!

This great battle ultimately came to an end, and the heroic lords from various major forces returned with some human-shaped creature remains dug out from the spirit stone mine of the Immortal Academy.

The Ling Family and Gu Family naturally also left, the old bastard did not make things difficult for them, but like other Di Clans and major forces, allowed them to take back some human-shaped creature remains to study, after all, the Immortal Academy had so many human-shaped creature remains now, as many as several thousand, giving out some didn't bother them.

Additionally, they also dug out half a corpse of a human-shaped creature with flesh and blood, far more valuable than remains!

The news spread, and in many ancient temples in the Western Region, the bells were ringing, and many demon monks were chanting Buddhist or demonic chants!

The Western Region is a very special place, either for Buddha or for Demon, cultivators wander between the demon and Buddha, but it doesn't affect their combat power at all.

When being Buddha, they have great divine powers to subdue demons; when being a demon, their combat power soars dramatically, slaughtering thousands of miles of blood, with ruthless means, but whether Buddha or Demon, they are of one power, there is no civil war among them!

In the Southern Domain, Eastern Domain, Central Domain, and Western Region, people from various Holy Lands and Wu Shang Sects, and the temples of the Di Clans are discussing, yet another strongest heir of a Di Clan has been defeated, Ye Fan has gradually risen, and in the future world, he will definitely have a place!

Three days later, peace returned to the Empire Academy's mining area, the Immortal Academy abandoned the No. 7 pit, and then reopened several mining tunnels, continuing mining as usual, with no more strange happenings!

At noon, Ye Fan and others were gathered, Lan Yingfei announced, everyone could return to the academy to continue their studies and cultivation, the Transmission Array Platform had opened!

"Elder Lan, I want to stay!"

Just as Elder Lan Yingfei was urging everyone to step onto the Transmission Array Platform and traverse the void back to the Southern East Domain's Immortal Academy, Ye Fan said.

"Ye Zi, why do you want to stay?"

Hu Fei was very puzzled, here in the Red Wilderness, a typical barren land, what good is it to stay here?

Lan Yingfei was also very puzzled, in terms of cultivation environment, the Immortal Academy was much better than here, why would Ye Fan want to stay?

"It's like this..."

Ye Fan explained, "Though it's barren here, it's rich in Spirit Stones. I want to cultivate the secret technique from the Dragon Seeking Formulas here, to find Spirit Stone Veins. After all, the amount of Spirit Stones I need for cultivation is huge, and the cultivation resources provided by the academy are far from enough. Here, I can rely on the Dragon Seeking Formulas to find more Spirit Stone Veins!"

"I see, alright then, you can stay here. There's a Gambling Stone Workshop three thousand miles from here, owned by our Immortal Academy. You can stay there when you're free!"

Lan Yingfei advised a bit, preparing to lead others to traverse the void together.

At this moment, Hu Fei suddenly jumped off the Transmission Array Platform and said, "I'm not leaving either, staying to accompany Ye Zi. Besides, my imitation Heavenly Weapon treasure sword also needs some repairs, I'll ask my grandfather to help me refine it again!"

"Alright then, I'll stay too!"

Shi Ye also jumped off the Transmission Array Platform, standing beside Ye Fan.

"You don't have to stay with me, I'm fine alone, after all, I won't cause trouble, just looking for Spirit Stone Veins, there shouldn't be any issues!"

Ye Fan was somewhat moved, he could see that Hu Fei and the Wild Man Shi Ye stayed to help him.

He knew that if Shen Tu were here, he would definitely stay to accompany him too; in this world, he's gradually found attachments, friendships.

"Why say more? You've got the Dragon Seeking Formulas, this unparalleled treasure, in the future, you'll surely find many rich mines. Our brothers' cultivation resources will rely on you, in other words, we brothers won't let you go, even if you want to escape, you can't!" Hu Fei laughed and punched Ye Fan lightly.

"Do you think the Dragon Seeking Formulas are that easy to cultivate? If that were the case, they wouldn't be worth much!" Ye Fan said with a smile.

"We don't care; anyway, once you find a spirit stone mine, the two of us will snatch it from you and see what you do!" Hu Fei said with a mischievous grin.

"I concede to you both—one's a fierce bandit, the other's a bully!" Ye Fan bid farewell to everyone, hugging the two by their necks.

"You truly are good brothers. Fine, the three of you just stay here. If there's anything, go to Du City and find the person in charge of the Academy's Gambling Stone Workshop—they'll sort it out for you, or you can come back here. Whenever you want to return, just come here, activate the transmission array platform, and head back!"

Lan Yingfei teased the three of them, then offered some advice before drifting across the void with the others, departing.

Once everyone had disappeared into the void, Ye Fan and his two companions left the Immortal Academy's spirit stone mine, stepping onto the hard, desolate earth and heading towards Du City.

Along the way, the scenery was extremely monotonous—just soil and stone, no trace of green, utterly desolate.

It wasn't until they approached Du City that they finally saw some greenery, standing out dramatically on the land.

"Oh heavens, oh earth, I've finally seen green life!" Hu Fei exclaimed dramatically, hugging a little tree.

"Compared to my hometown, this place is far inferior; there's virtually no life here. No wonder the locals are so fierce!" Shi Ye agreed.

Where he lived was in the Southern East Domain's one hundred thousand barren mountains, with its warm and humid climate, ancient woodlands, and abundant Xuan Beasts and wild animals; he'd never seen such an arid place.

They had walked nearly 3,000 miles without seeing any sign of life. Occasionally, they'd think even encountering a Xuan Beast would be nice, at least to show there's still life here.

Initially, Ye Fan wanted to set off immediately for the Primordial Ancient Mine, seeking traces of the first-generation Earth Master to see if he could inherit anything.

However, the Primordial Ancient Mine is an absolute Forbidden Zone of Life, and with his half-baked Dragon Seeking Formulas, he could easily end up trapped.

Moreover, when he shared his findings and speculations from the spirit stone mine with Hu Fei and Shi Ye, both were in strong support and expressed their desire to accompany him to the Forbidden Zone to broaden their horizons!

Yet—

The Forbidden Zone is incredibly dangerous, a deadly place; any slight error, and all three could end up stuck.

Thus, Ye Fan decided it would be wiser to first go to Du City, find a place to settle, and then delve deeper into the Dragon Seeking Formulas. When he's more confident, he'll make his attempt!

Additionally, Hu Fei needs to go to Du City to find his grandfather Hu Tian, planning to sacrificially refine the imitation Heavenly Weapon treasure sword once again.

At a distance of ten miles from Du City, the vegetation grows increasingly lush, and the climate warms up from the previous frigid cold, making one feel as if returning to the Southern Domain or Southern East Domain.

"What's going on here? Why is the climate here completely different from the outside?" Shi Ye asked Hu Fei puzzledly.

Hu Fei, being a native of the Northern Domain, is extremely familiar with its geographical environment, practically an expert.

He explained to Shi Ye and Ye Fan: "This is all due to the presence of Du City—the Immortal Dynasty in the Central Domain likes to build cities to harness Dragon Energy, turning it into Cultivation Divine Soil. The same is true here."

With Hu Fei's explanation, Ye Fan gradually understood that Du City is the closest ancient city to the spirit stone mines of the Holy Lands and Di Clan, existing since ancient times, with its founding date no longer traceable.

While not all stones extracted from the Saint Lands, Wu Shang Sect, and Di Clan's mines are cut open, a significant part is transported to the Gambling Stone Workshop in Du City, stored in the garden for people to gamble.

Thanks to the massive amount of spirit stones containing terrifying Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, along with Du City's unique nature, a microclimate forms, shielded from external influence, warm like spring year-round.

"Such a wondrous place—it's simply unbelievable!"

Ye Fan marveled; he indeed felt the abundant Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, indicating Hu Fei wasn't just babbling nonsense—there was some truth to it.

In such an environment, even ordinary people without any cultivation would be free from illness, healthy and invigorated, with longevity assured.

However, such places rarely have ordinary people; most are cultivators coming to gamble on stones or representatives or employees of major factions in the Gambling Stone Workshop!

Du City isn't large, but due to its spirit stones, it's very lively, definitely a place where every inch of land is like gold—not only is the land absurdly expensive, but even typical snacks require spirit stones for payment, though these spirit stones are worth it.

Upon entering Du City, bustling cries filled the air—there were all sorts of snacks. Seeing this, Ye Fan secretly rejoiced not bringing Bai Yan wolf along, otherwise its temperament would certainly have him facing a slew of debt collectors.

In Du City, Hu Fei is virtually the local snake, extremely familiar with the place, and quickly led Ye Fan and Shi Ye to a seemingly inconspicuous Spirit Stone House!

Here lies the secret base of the Nine Great Bandits in Du City; once word spreads here, Old Man Hu Tian will quickly come!

Chapter 1632 - Du City

Du City isn't very big, just a small town built entirely from gray-brown stones, yet it's quite famous.

Most of the supplies like rice and grain needed by various mining areas are procured here; it can be said this is a supply hub for the major mining areas.

Three days later, Ye Fan had a considerable understanding of this Du City. Although Du City isn't large, all major powers have offices and gambling stone workshops here. It can be said that there's not a single ordinary person in this small city—all are cultivators!

During these three days, Ye Fan also gained a deeper understanding of the Primordial Ancient Mine area.

The more he learned, the more mysterious Ye Fan found this ancient mine area to be. It's said to be a forbidden zone of life; except for the Great Emperor, no one can safely enter and exit.

Tens of thousands of years ago, the Emperor of an Immortal Dynasty in the Central Domain, regarded as a heroic lord of his time, marched into the Primordial Ancient Mine for some reason, yet vanished without stirring any waves.

For countless years, many cultivators, not believing in evil, have tried to unveil the mysterious veil of the Primordial Ancient Mine, yet all disappeared like mud cows entering the sea, never to be seen alive or dead!

Among the Five Domains, there are five life forbidden zones, including the Xuanshou Mountain Range in the Southern Domain and the Primordial Ancient Mine in the Northern Domain.

When it comes to mystery, without a doubt, this forbidden zone of life in the Northern Domain ranks at the forefront.

Originally a spirit stone mining area, it inexplicably became a dead zone. Even the heroic lords of great powers went in and never returned.

Named "Primordial," it implies its existence long before the beginning of heaven and earth. It's hard to imagine just how ancient it is.

One legend claims that this ancient mine wasn't excavated by humans; it existed before the birth of the human race.

Another saying is that it was excavated by humans but was occupied by some unknown creature, thus forming today's life forbidden zone!

Whatever the case, this place is a forbidden zone. Even a generation of heavenly pride gets lost here, and it's unknown how many exceptional people have been buried there.

Outside the Primordial Ancient Mine, large areas are almost entirely occupied by major powers, serving as the most productive spirit stone mining area.

This region is barren, completely desolate.

And Du City is the only human settlement spanning tens of thousands of miles around.

"What exactly is the existence of the Primordial Ancient Mine?" Ye Fan pondered seriously, stroking his chin.

Why did the Earth Master predecessor venture deep into the forbidden zone? What did he intend to do? Could it be that he wanted to contend with the supreme beings in the forbidden zone?

Thinking of this, Ye Fan couldn't help but laugh. The Earth Master was indeed powerful, especially in places with dragon veins and spirit stone mines, where his combat power never exhausted, enabling him to perform many formidable divine skills. Even so, can the Earth Master really contend with the supreme beings in the forbidden zone?

Ye Fan found it doubtful, as even the heroic lords of major powers entered and vanished without a trace. No matter how powerful the Earth Master was, could he be stronger than a generation of Supreme Holy Master?

"Ye Zi, are you really planning to enter the Primordial Ancient Mine? That's no good place!"

"Yeah, now that you've obtained the Dragon Seeking Formulas, finding spirit stones has become so easy. Why take the risk?"

Hu Fei and Shi Ye, having learned of Ye Fan's true intentions, couldn't help but advise against it.

"Don't worry, I know my limits, and I would never joke with my life,"

Ye Fan said, "I won't go deep, just observe from a distance on the periphery. It would be great to find clues left by that Earth Master, but it's fine if I don't!"

"That's good, we'll go with you, broaden our horizons!" the two said in unison.

"Actually, you really don't need to accompany me in taking risks. The Primordial Ancient Mine is too eerie. My Dragon Seeking Formulas have only been understood one-tenth, and I might not be able to protect you," Ye Fan said seriously.

"Why the chatter? We're brothers, so don't be coy unless you don't consider us brothers!" Shi Ye said straightforwardly.

"Exactly!" Hu Fei nodded in agreement.

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan could only agree. However, for their safety, he decided to first visit a gambling stone workshop to test how effective his Dragon Seeking Skill was, and to make proper preparations before venturing out.

"If you want to go stone gambling, I strongly recommend Ling Family's gambling stone workshop. It would be great if we make them turn green with envy!"

Upon hearing Ye Fan wanted to gamble on stones, Hu Fei immediately applauded and recommended the Ling Family's gambling stone workshop.

"I'm not here to be a fool, but to verify my Dragon Seeking Skill," Ye Fan decisively rejected Hu Fei's suggestion.

As a Di Clan, the Ling Family surely has experts skilled in Stone Appraisal Technique, otherwise, they wouldn't dare open a gambling stone workshop. Given my current skills, who knows if I'd get scammed.

In Du City, there are not many other establishments, but gambling stone workshops are everywhere. Every street has a few gambling stone workshops for cultivators to gamble on stones.

Led by Hu Fei, the three wandered for half a day, eventually choosing a gambling stone workshop named "Rongsheng."

"Stop."

Ye Fan and his companions were stopped outside Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop. Several men at the gate looked at the three's attire, frowned, and said, "Are you miners? If you're here to sell stone materials, go to the east gate. This is a place for stone gambling."

"We're here to gamble on stones."

Ye Fan and his two companions just came out from the Immortal Academy's spirit stone mining area, still wearing clothes similar to the miners', which led to the misunderstanding.

"Are you here to gamble on stones? Do you have any spirit stones?"

A few people walked out from the gatehouse, all with frowns on their faces. One of them said, "This is not a place where just anyone can enter casually."

Hu Fei was about to explode, but Shi Ye suddenly stopped him and pulled out half a piece of Low Grade Spirit Stones, weighing about half a pound, saying, "Here, isn't this a spirit stone?"

From behind, there was a mocking laugh, "Half a tael of spirit stone and you dare to come here to gamble? What a country bumpkin; you probably can't even afford a good piece of old pit stone material."

"Who's farting? Why is it so smelly?" Hu Fei, never one to suffer losses, immediately turned back glaring.

"This bumpkin is really sharp-tongued; forget it, today I'm in a good mood, and won't bother with you!" A Young Master Qingben, shaking his folding fan, chuckled as he glanced at the three of them and then strode toward the gambling stone workshop.

One of his entourage, with a look of disdain, said, "Bumpkin, go back and mine properly. This place isn't for you."

"You..."

Hu Fei was furious; as the descendant of one of the Nine Great Bandits, when had he ever been humiliated like this? Even the saints of the major Holy Lands wouldn't dare to underestimate him; this young master was practically asking for death.

"Oh, it's Young Master Wei from the Chi Xia Sect, please come in." The Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop staff smiled apologetically and went forward to greet.

"Hmm!"

Young Master Wei from Chi Xia Sect smiled and nodded, glanced at Ye Fan and his companions, and walked inside.

The attendant beside him turned back, laughing, "Aren't you dissatisfied? If you have spirit stones, feel free to come in, I'll play a few rounds with you. If not, go back where you came from, seriously, and mine. Don't have unrealistic fantasies; this isn't a place you can come."

"Damn you..."

After seeing them go inside, the barbarian was so angry he clutched his hair, snorting white smoke from his nose; it was too disdainful.

Anyway, they're disciple of the Immortal Academy with deep backgrounds; not only can they gamble, they could buy the entire gambling stone workshop.

In any field, there are always those eager to see others suffer; Ye Fan naturally wouldn't bother with the staff of Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop, it was no big deal to go elsewhere; they weren't necessarily tied to one tree.

However—

Hu Fei and Shi Ye disagreed, urging Ye Fan to go in and win even Young Master Wei's pants for them to vent their anger.

"Alright!"

Ye Fan nodded, and said to the door guards of Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop, "Your threshold is really high, don't you know your guests? We are guests, is this how you treat them?"

"Sorry, we have our rules here, not anyone can come and go."

The people in front crossed their arms, casually responded. After Young Master Wei from Chi Xia Sect went inside, their smiles faded.

"How many spirit stones do we need to qualify to enter?" The barbarian asked gruffly.

"We only use top-grade materials from old pits here; without ten pounds of spirit stones, you can't pass this gate."

With disdainful looks, "Do you have ten pounds of spirit stones? If not, I advise you go back to the mines and be honest."

Ye Fan didn't say much, he directly took out a Space Spiritual Artifact, pouring out more than a hundred pounds of Mid-Upper Grade Spirit Stones, and a piece of top-grade spirit stone, dazzlingly blinding them.

"Dog eyes looking down on people; now do I qualify to go in?"

Hu Fei patted their shoulders, making them grimace in pain, but they couldn't utter a word.

"Just wait, soon you'll cry without finding a place!"

Passing the gatehouse, the barbarian muttered, scaring them almost to the ground, regretting they couldn't slap themselves a few times; they had blocked the God of Wealth outside, if their boss knew, they'd surely be fired from the gambling house.

"Oh, you really came in."

Seeing Ye Fan and his companions come in, Young Master Wei's attendant was surprised, his tone strange, "Ten pounds of spirit stones, your ancestors must have dug for a long time, accumulated over many years, truly difficult. How about we gamble within a gamble?"

"Sure, what kind of gamble are you proposing?" Hu Fei asked, with a sinister smile, sizing up Young Master Wei's attendant.

"Simple, we each choose stone material to cut; whoever cuts out more spirit stones, the other pays the same amount and covers the cost of purchasing the stone material, how's that?" Young Master Wei's attendant said with a smile.

"Fine, I'll gamble with you, but before we gamble, we need to take a look."

Hu Fei acted with feigned reluctance, coldly sneering.

Chapter 1633 - Testing the Waters

The Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop has many courtyards, with stones everywhere, ranging from tens of thousands of pounds to just a few pounds, densely packed and artfully arranged across the grounds.

The First Level courtyard contains the most ordinary stones, which can even be said to include a lot of waste stone simply brought to make up the numbers. Hardly anyone lingers here.

However—

Ye Fan did not rush to leave; he had already gained some insights into the Dragon Seeking Formulas, at least to be able to use Earth Vein Dragon Qi in battle, but he wasn't yet skilled at Stone Appraisal. He came here wanting to practice, not necessarily to gamble for top-grade spirit stones, but to accumulate experience.

He wandered around the First Level courtyard, patting one stone and knocking on another, with a very earnest appearance, causing the few guards watching him from the Gambling Stone Workshop to look at each other incredulously.

Is this guy really a master?

To know that the stones in the First Level courtyard are basically ignored; they are just waste stones. Why is he so interested?

"Ye Zi, the stones here have no good items; they are all scams. Let's go inside," Hu Fei suggested beside him.

"No worries, today is mainly to test the waters, let's take a look first, don't rush." Ye Fan glanced at the guards watching them with crossed arms and continued to select stones.

Seeing those guards, Hu Fei frowned, a mischievous idea came to him, and shouted to them: "Hey, you gate dogs, go get us some tea!"

"You..."

Being called gate dogs to their faces made those men's expressions instantly change, but they didn't dare to provoke them. Although these three looked like miners, they were clearly cultivators, otherwise, they couldn't be using a Space Spiritual Artifact.

"What about you? Hurry and get us some tea!" Hu Fei glare fiercely at them, and a menacing aura exuded, terrifying them into jumping and obediently going to pour tea.

Ye Fan walked around the courtyard, realizing that there were thousands of stones, and indeed, they were just fillers. He felt only a few contained spirit stones, but they were also of very poor quality, lacking much value.

"How should these stones be priced?" Ye Fan inquired.

"The stones here are the cheapest; one tael spirit stone can buy a thousand pounds of stones," Hu Fei came over, explaining.

As a local snake of the Northern Domain, Hu Fei was very familiar with the prices of stones, immediately discerning the true value of these stones.

"You guys, bring me that Source Stone," Ye Fan pointed to a giant stone weighing nearly a thousand pounds amidst a heap of chaotic stones.

The faces of the Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop workers turned green; although they were also cultivators, they were only in the True Qi Realm, moving a multi-thousand-pound giant stone was still a physical labor.

"I say, are you throwing money down the drain? Such a large stone requires half a pound of precious spirit stone, and you're certainly not going to find anything gambling out!" one of them cursed.

"Cut the crap, move it already, don't want to do business? Or call your boss out to move it himself?" Ye Fan frowned.

Hearing this, their faces turned green again, afraid of dirtying their reputation, they just grimaced and dragged themselves to move it.

After managing to move out that multi-thousand-pound stone, their tongues hung out, and large beads of sweat streamed down.

"I want to select a stone too!"

Hu Fei covertly gave Ye Fan a thumbs-up; he initially thought of messing with these blind gate dogs, but Ye Fan was on the same page.

Although he might not have Ye Fan's proficiency in stone gambling, he knew simple stone appraising. Quickly, he took fancy to a stone, yet it was pressed under a mammoth stone weighing over ten thousand pounds, serving as a footstone.

"You guys, move that stone for me!" Hu Fei pointed to the ten-thousand-pound giant stone.

"Ah?!"

They were dumbfounded at once, having just moved a multi-thousand-pound stone, not even catching their breath, now moving again?

But seeing Hu Fei's fierce and sinister bandit face, they dared not utter another word, used all their strength as they moved the massive stone.

However, after just a few steps, Hu Fei shook his head and said: "What are you doing? I meant the stone under that giant rock."

"!&*%¥#..."

They were about to explode with anger, isn't this intentionally messing with them?

Hu Fei lifted the footstone in his hand, weighing just two or three pounds, smiling as he looked at them.

"I want this one."

The Barbarian pointed at a stone also pressed under a large rock.

He had figured out the situation; Ye Fan and Hu Fei were deliberately messing with people, as these few guys looking down on others with their dog eyes truly angered him, so he was unreservedly causing trouble now.

Of course, compared to selecting and appraising stones, he fell far behind Ye Fan and Hu Fei, just interested in messing with these fellows.

The anger that flared up among the Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop's people was instantly ignited, one of them said: "What egregious bullying!"

"It's not us bullying, but your dog eyes too low."

Shi Ye shook his head, said: "If you don't move it, I'll call your boss."

"You..." they pointed at Shi Ye.

"What you, sir has spirit stones, now fancy that stone, hurry up and move it," The Barbarian confidently crossed his legs, sipping tea, demonstrating the demeanor of a local tyrant.

When the Rongsheng Square workers managed to lift the giant stone, tired like dead dogs, Shi Ye and Hu Fei quickly chose more targets.

"That one, yes, the one pressed underneath."

"And this one, quickly get it for us."

While sipping their tea, the two directed them.

"Three masters, we were wrong. We shouldn't have looked down on you. Please forgive us."

"You are magnanimous, don't hold it against us. Please spare us." These people were played to exhaustion by Hu Fei and Shi Ye, along with Ye Fan, and were completely defeated.

Finally, Ye Fan took matters into his own hands, sliced open the massive thousand-pound stone he chose, and unearthed a piece of Mid-Grade Spirit Stone weighing over a pound. It was the best Spirit Stone in this courtyard; the others weren't even worth considering.

Hu Fei's stone also yielded a Spirit Stone, but it was a pitiful half-tael of Low Grade Spirit Stone with poor quality, heavy impurities, and a dull, mottled color.

"Uh..."

Even so, it made the few people collapsed on the ground nearby stare in disbelief, watching them enter the Second Level courtyard.

This time, Ye Fan and his companions didn't linger. They took a round and headed inward.

The courtyard inside was luxurious, with young female cultivators responsible for reception, introducing various Source Stones, and stone-cutting consultants overseeing the stone cutting.

Soon, they arrived at the Fifth Level courtyard, encountering people from the Chi Xia Sect again.

"What? Had a change of heart? Ready to bet against me now?"

The attendant of Young Master Wei from Chi Xia Sect looked at the three with a mocking expression.

"Let's bet, afraid you won't?"

Hu Fei bristled immediately, not even the Saint Heirs of the Holy Land would dare treat him like this.

Earlier in the First Level courtyard, he had seen Ye Fan's stone appraisal technique, able to find top-grade Spirit Stones even in such a place. He believed Ye Fan wouldn't miss here.

Besides, he himself had some insights into stone appraisal; while not mastering the skill, he spent years in the craft and his discernment was certainly higher than Young Master Wei's attendant.

"Then let's bet!"

Young Master Wei glanced at the three without expression and began selecting material with his attendant.

Soon, they chose a stone weighing twenty to thirty pounds, Young Master Wei patted the stone and told his attendant, "Let's pick this one!"

The attendant respectfully took it, then looked at Ye Fan and said, "You three bumpkins, hurry and pick one too."

Ye Fan circled once and finally chose a watermelon-sized stone, tossing it forward, saying, "This one."

Both stones chosen weren't large, but they were quite expensive, as Source Stones in the Fifth Level courtyard had high chances of yielding Spirit Stones.

"Master, please cut the stone!"

The attendant of Young Master Wei from Chi Xia Sect directed the request to the Spirit Stone master responsible for cutting stones.

"Alright! I must first consecrate the blade!"

An elderly man with a youthful demeanor approached, drew the Stone Cutting Blade with a clang, lifted it above his head, and bowed to the four directions, then bowed three times to the stone, chanting something indecipherable.

Next, the old man stood up and began cutting the stone.

"Crack!"

With the blade flashing, the stone skin peeled away, and the stone chosen by Chi Xia Sect grew smaller, but no Spirit Stone appeared.

"Consider yourself lucky, next I'll make you cry out for your parents." The attendant of Young Master Wei was a bit dissatisfied, and even Young Master Wei frowned.

"Master, cut mine now." Ye Fan sent his stone forward.

"This broken stone is obviously a waste stone, need it be cut?" the attendant scoffed.

Others also shook their heads, saying, "This stone is gray-brown with black spots, clearly a common material called 'Night Sky Star', definitely a waste stone, no need to cut to know."

"It's too obvious, indeed a waste stone." Almost everyone frowned.

Even the Spirit Stone master shook his head, saying, "No need to cut this stone."

Hearing everyone say this, the Barbarian felt uncertain, quietly suggested to Ye Fan, "Why not change it? It hasn't been cut yet!"

"Ye Zi, are you sure? This stone doesn't look promising, don't let it be waste material or we'll be embarrassed." Hu Fei also doubted, fearing embarrassment.

"Don't worry, no need to change, otherwise some may deny the deal, this stone will do." Ye Fan wasn't fussed about the rules, picked up the nearby blade and chopped directly.

"Crack!"

With a crisp sound, the stone split open, and a dazzling light burst from the crack, revealing a fist-sized Seven-Colored Spirit Stone, crystal clear, embedded in the stone layers.

Ye Fan's cut nearly split the Spirit Stone inside, narrowly missing it.

"Ah, there's really a Spirit Stone? How can there be a Spirit Stone inside Night Sky Star?"

"This is almost two pounds, what a gain!"

Everyone nearby exclaimed in surprise, overturning their understanding!

Originally, they thought nothing would be inside, but unexpectedly there really was a Spirit Stone, and a Seven-Colored Mid-Grade Spirit Stone at that!

Chapter 1634 Improving Skills

A fist-sized, multicolored Mid-Grade Spirit Stone was in Ye Fan's palm, emitting dazzling multicolored light, making him appear dreamlike.

Everyone around was dumbfounded. In their understanding, Night Sky Star type stone material was absolutely worthless, and it shouldn't have Spirit Stones contained within it.

Yet, everything in front of them clearly told them that in this world, nothing is impossible. Even Night Sky Star can yield Spirit Stones, and in fact, it was a decent quality Mid-Grade Spirit Stone.

This two-pound Mid-Grade Spirit Stone is equivalent to twenty pounds of Low Grade Spirit Stones, which for an average cultivator is definitely considered a massive fortune.

Hu Fei walked toward Young Master Wei's attendant with a smile, saying, "Hand it over, we've uncovered Spirit Stones, not much, just over two pounds, what you have should barely be enough."

At this moment, the attendant happened to be holding a bag filled with Spirit Stones, and judging by its shape, it held a little over two pounds.

Young Master Wei's attendant's face immediately grew long, and sweat formed on his forehead. Two pounds of Mid-Grade Spirit Stones was a large amount for him, even if provided by his master, it would surely need to be returned.

"This... how can it be, a Waste Stone actually yielding Spirit Stones, it's unreasonable!"

His face was bleak, filled with extreme unwillingness.

"A bet is a bet, hand it over."

Shi Ye unceremoniously snatched the Source Bag away.

Young Master Wei's attendant seemed drained of energy, sitting on the ground with a vacant, lost look.

"Interesting!"

Young Master Wei of the Chi Xia Sect, in his blue robe fluttering elegantly, appeared calm and composed. He said to Ye Fan and the others, "Would you dare play two rounds with me?"

Ye Fan smiled and said, "Why not? Don't say two rounds; twenty rounds are no problem at all."

He was quite excited inside; the Dragon Seeking Formulas were indeed extraordinary. He felt he already had a preliminary understanding of the Stone Appraisal Technique and could freely enter and exit gambling stone workshops. If he truly comprehended the Dragon Seeking Skill, where in the world could he not go in the future?

However—

Ye Fan's luck seemed to have run out. In the following rounds, he cut open seven or eight stone materials, but didn't find a trace.

Conversely, Young Master Wei of the Chi Xia Sect cut out a fist-sized Mid-Grade Spirit Stone, reclaiming his previous losses.

"Even though working in mines doesn't mean truly understanding stone materials, mining is rough work, while stone appraisal is a science." Young Master Wei from Chi Xia Sect mocked, "Not just anyone can come here."

"Muddy monkeys from the mines running here to gamble stones, truly not doing their proper work, ignorant of how vast the world is."

"Dreaming of gambling up top-grade Spirit Stones, only to end up broke, betting away every pitiful Spirit Stone accumulated over the years." Many nearby shook their heads, sneeringly commented.

"Which one of you looks like a miner?"

Hu Fei's comment made those around roll their eyes, but no one said anything further.

Because although Ye Fan and his companions were dressed in mining clothes, from their aura, none truly seemed like a miner.

Ye Fan, without question, had undergone cultivation in Nine Heavens Profound Skill, naturally possessing a kind of authoritative presence, although not obvious, still noticeable.

Shi Ye bore a barbarian-like image, with messy hair and swinging a Stone Staff, seeming more like a hunter than a miner.

Hu Fei even more so with his bandit-like face, hardly appeared like any honest miner.

Ye Fan frowned, what he learned from the Dragon Seeking Formulas was definitely not wrong. Why was he failing consecutively?

Thinking of this, Ye Fan found the seven or eight pieces of stone materials he had ruined, then squatted to carefully observe and perceive the differences through touch.

"Gambled stupid? Can't withstand the blow now?"

"Muddy monkeys from the mines, haven't seen the world, losing so much is naturally soul-crushing, maybe they'd think about jumping into the river."

"Seen many that act crazy after losing a gamble, capable of doing anything."

The attendants beside Young Master Wei of the Chi Xia Sect gloatingly ridiculed.

Young Master Wei gently waved his folding fan, looking down condescendingly at Ye Fan squatting and examining crushed stones, he said, "Quickly return to the mine, that's where you should be. People like you don't belong here."

Ye Fan continued squatting there, ignoring them, staring at the crushed stones for a long time. Then he suddenly realized, secretly cursed Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop for deceit and shamelessness.

What he learned from the Dragon Seeking Formulas was correct; it was this gambling stone workshop cheating. They had opened up these stone materials, removed the Spirit Stones inside, and then filled them with stone material, sealing them with secret techniques.

"Deceptive merchants!"

Ye Fan secretly cursed in his heart, Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop really overdid it with this fraud.

He wanted to cause a scene, but restrained himself.

Because, even if revealed, people likely wouldn't believe him, and those who dared to operate gambling stone workshops in the Northern Domain all had some backing, supported by powerful forces.

In the upcoming gambling, Ye Fan was much more cautious. Without absolute certainty, he wouldn't easily act, but doing so slowed his pace in choosing materials significantly.

In the next rounds, Ye Fan continued to lose, either cutting Spirit Stones too small or with none at all, yielding nothing.

In just an hour, the Spirit Stones Ye Fan carried were lost entirely, leaving only one top-grade Spirit Stone, which he vowed not to gamble away under any circumstance.

"Looks like my Stone Appraisal Technique is still not up to par!"

Ye Fan sighed, using Dragon Energy in battle and stone appraisal are two different things, especially here, where most of the stones have been tampered with; with his current power, he can't see through them.

"Ye Zi, I still have some spirit stones here, why don't we continue gambling, I just don't believe in evil!" Hu Fei took out his spirit stones, weighing at least a dozen pounds, and stuffed them into Ye Fan's hands.

"No need, I can't see through them now, continuing to gamble is pointless. Let's go, I'll go back and study the Stone Appraisal Technique properly and return, let's call it a day!" Ye Fan shook his head, returned the spirit stones to Hu Fei, and turned to walk away.

"Haha!"

Young Master Wei laughed, "Good luck won't always be with you, you mud monkeys, the mine is most suitable for you."

"Damn it, are you looking to die?" Hu Fei was furious, a killing intent burst out from him, directly ready to make a move.

"What are you doing? You want to make a move here? Try touching me?" Wei Xuantong from Chi Xia Sect also looked displeased, not expecting three mud monkeys to dare have killing intent towards him.

"Forget it, willing to bet and accept loss, let's go!"

Ye Fan stopped Hu Fei; in someone else's gambling stone workshop, making a move is clearly unwise. Furthermore, it was his loss, his fault to begin with, no reason to make a move.

"When have I ever taken such crap? Chi Xia Sect, remember this," Hu Fei grumbled, following Ye Fan out, secretly determined.

"Dig more spirit stones when you return, I look forward to you sending more spirit stones my way again!"

As Ye Fan and his friends walked out of the gambling stone workshop, Wei Xuantong from Chi Xia Sect mocked them from behind.

"Alright!"

Ye Fan frowned slightly. Indeed, Young Master Wei has some skill in gambling stones, choosing materials with precision, hardly missing. There must be some secret technique, but he didn't back down, instead directly confronting him.

Later, Ye Fan and his friends returned to the gambling stone workshop at the Immortal Academy.

In the gambling stone workshop at the Immortal Academy, Ye Fan naturally couldn't take it easy, but he could practice stone appraisal.

Like other major forces, the Immortal Academy also manipulates stone materials; spirit stones are too precious, especially some strange stones that might contain rare treasures. If someone gambles and wins them, it would be a great loss.

After returning to his residence, Ye Fan secluded himself, thoroughly studying Stone Appraisal Technique in the Dragon Seeking Formulas, deeply researching the characteristics of various stone materials, which ones contain rare treasures, which ones are waste materials, all firmly remembered.

Five days later, Ye Fan emerged from seclusion, but instead of directly finding Hu Fei and them, he started wandering around the gambling stone workshop at the Immortal Academy.

Of course, Ye Fan wouldn't cut open these stones to verify his judgments; instead, he marked each stone he believed contained rare treasures.

"Xiao Fan, have you truly learned the Dragon Seeking Formulas?"

The person in charge of the gambling stone workshop at the Immortal Academy found Ye Fan, solemnly asking.

"Not completely learned, but I have some confidence!"

Ye Fan honestly replied, then told the person in charge about the stones he believed contained rare treasures.

"That's great, I'll seal the garden, then we'll cut open all the stones you believe contain rare treasures!"

The person in charge of the Immortal Academy was overjoyed, issuing a slew of orders, the gambling stone workshop at the Immortal Academy was immediately sealed off, no entry or exit allowed.

Later, the person in charge summoned the oldest spirit stone master in the Immortal Academy to personally cut open the stones, extracting the rare treasures inside, then filling the stones with other materials and sealing them with secret techniques.

This method is almost identical to Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop, but higher-grade. Unless someone knows, generally no one can tell these stones have been tampered with.

The spirit stone master at the academy was over 500 years old, extremely experienced; he could determine with a glance what stone materials could be cut to yield things, having unique techniques for sealing stone materials, not having personally wielded a knife for years, usually only advising.

After sealing the garden, the master personally cut open the stones Ye Fan chose, almost all yielding spirit stones, even top-grade spirit stones and Heaven Grade spirit stones. The person in charge of the gambling stone workshop was delighted, this was definitely a great harvest.

Through this stone cutting, Ye Fan became more confident in his Stone Appraisal Technique; any tampered stones can't escape his eyes because he personally witnessed how to seal stones, aware of the flaws therein.

In a flash, ten days passed. Ye Fan's stone appraisal skills greatly improved, and his understanding of the Dragon Seeking Formulas advanced another step.

"Let's go, let's get revenge. This time, we'll gamble until that Wei Xuantong turns green!"

Ye Fan found Hu Fei and Shi Ye, and the three boldly headed to Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop again.

These days, through Hu Fei's investigation, they've learned the name and background of Eldest Young Master Wei from Chi Xia Sect.

Wei Xuanton, the cherished grandson of Sect Leader Wei Zongyi from Chi Xia Sect, a typical playboy, not much in cultivation but intensely passionate about gambling stones, reputed in this field.

Of course, his skills were nurtured by Chi Xia Sect with spirit stones, and Ye Fan unexpectedly discovered Chi Xia Sect does the same plundering as Hu Fei, an extremely shady sect.

In the Northern Domain, such sects abound, though they dare not touch the spirit stone mines of major forces like Di Clan and Holy Land, but rather extort regular miners, doing endless evil.

"This time we must make that bastard Wei lose completely!"

On the way to Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop, Hu Fei appeared excited, as if already seeing Wei Xuanton's tragic end.

Chapter 1635 Going All In

Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop was as bustling as ever, with people coming and going.

Since last time Ye Fan cut out a Mid-Grade Spirit Stone from a Night Sky Star Stone, many people have come to try their luck, indirectly improving the business at Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop significantly.

"The three... three masters have arrived!"

Seeing Ye Fan and his two companions approach, a few gatekeepers' faces turned green. Recalling how they were messed up like dead dogs by them last time, their legs started to tremble. These three masters were absolutely not to be offended, even if they don't have many Spirit Stones or gamble, they are certainly good at messing with people.

"Hmm, you've made progress this time. Keep it up, masters have high hopes for you!"

Hu Fei greeted them with a smile, patting each person on the shoulder, discreetly resolving their deadly fate!

Hu Fei was no saint, last time when he patted them on the shoulder, it seemed harmless, but within a month their meridians would be severed and their Dantian smashed.

This time, seeing they have become much more obedient, Hu Fei lifted their fatal curse, leaving them with a life hanging by a thread, otherwise, in seven or eight days, they would lose their power and eventually die.

"Is that Wei kid inside?" Hu Fei asked.

"Yes, he just went in not long ago. He should be in the sixth layer or seventh level courtyard selecting stones now!" Several people dared not offend Wei Xuanton or Ye Fan and his companions, so they replied meekly.

"Wei Xuantong, get out here and greet your master!"

Just after stepping into the gambling stone workshop, Hu Fei yelled loudly, his voice piercing through the seven or eight layers of courtyards, catching the attention of many people.

"Can't you be discreet? Last time we were embarrassed here!"

Ye Fan couldn't help but laugh and cry. Hu Fei's personality was too flamboyant; he never understood what it meant to be discreet.

"Discreet about what? We're here to make a scene, we must let everyone know. Ye Zi, it's all on you this time, make him gamble till he turns green!" Hu Fei said broadly.

"Aren't those the three mud monkeys? They really have skills, they got Spirit Stones again?"

"Didn't suffer enough last time? It's only been ten days, and they've come again!"

"Truly naïve, gambling stones isn't such a fun game, you could lose everything if you're not careful!"

Seeing the trio enter, many people pointed fingers at them. The loss they suffered ten days ago was deeply etched in these people's memories.

Passing through several courtyards, in the seventh level courtyard, Ye Fan and his companions met their old enemy, Wei Xuanton, who was dressed in snowy white clothes, holding a folding fan, looking cultured and refined.

"Bumpkins, are you here to give me Spirit Stones? Let me make it clear, without thirteen to twenty pounds of Mid-Grade Spirit Stones, you don't have the qualifications to gamble with me."

Wei Xuanton approached them, speaking sarcastically.

"Clatter!"

Ye Fan said nothing, directly taking out his Space Spiritual Treasure, and poured out several hundred pounds of Spirit Stones, stunning everyone.

Originally, they believed Ye Fan couldn't possibly produce so many Spirit Stones, especially Mid-Grade Spirit Stones, which were extremely precious even in the Northern Domain where Spirit Stones were abundant.

Unexpectedly, Ye Fan didn't even blink as he took out several hundred pounds, comparable to a small sect's entire Spirit Stone reserve, shocking them!

"Very well, then let's start. Where do you want to choose materials? I'll accompany you all the way!"

Wei Xuantong was also shocked, but quickly steadied himself.

Initially, he thought Ye Fan and the others were likely from some major force, otherwise, it wouldn't be possible to gather so many Spirit Stones in just ten days, especially Mid-Grade Spirit Stones.

But on second thought, it's been only ten days; Ye Fan couldn't possibly beat him, this kind of white gift of Spirit Stones wouldn't be wasted.

"Right here!"

Ye Fan replied casually, having glanced around earlier—there were indeed some good things in this courtyard, as long as they hadn't been tampered with, most likely something extraordinary would be cut out.

"Good!"

Wei Xuantong was quite straightforward, saying, "Still the old rule: gamble within the gamble."

Having said that, he began to seriously select stones, although he verbally dismissed Ye Fan and his companions, he wouldn't be careless at all when it came to gambling.

Soon Wei Xuanton picked a piece of stone material, not very big, less than a hundred pounds, it was a green skin, appearing to have moss growing on its surface, but in reality, it wasn't moss—it was the stone material's true color.

Ye Fan's eyes shot out two beams of strange light, scanning the stone material, discovering it really contained Spirit Stones, and they were quite good Mid-Grade Spirit Stones, weighing around four or five pounds.

"I've chosen, hurry up and make your choice!" Wei Xuanton patted the stone material he chose, smiling at Ye Fan.

"This one!"

Ye Fan randomly picked up a person-head-sized stone material from the ground without choosing; it weighed over ten pounds, clearly a corner piece cut from some large stone material, absolutely unlikely to contain any Spirit Stones.

The crowd was completely speechless, feeling his stone selection was too out of place.

"I say, my young brother, you really have a knack for choosing unconventional paths. You dare pick this stone; it's clearly corner pieces cut from some stone material, if it produces Spirit Stones, it would be a miracle."

"Quickly choose another one, this stone material absolutely won't contain anything."

"This is clearly scrap material, the way you choose stones, you'll lose whatever you invest, better choose another one!"

Several kind-hearted people advised Ye Fan to change his choice, because in their view, this corner piece was definitely scrap, containing nothing.

Ye Fan also knew what these people said was true; based on his Stone Appraisal Technique, it was indeed scrap, but he chose it anyway. To trick someone, you have to do it big, trick them so they can never recover.

Among the onlookers, there were some elders kindly reminding him, but more people were ridiculing.

"Even if I choose while blindfolded, it'd be better than this corner piece. Young man, you must think carefully; with this recklessness, it's strange not to lose everything."

"How can you not know such a basic thing, yet have the nerve to gamble stones? A blind cat can't always run into a dead mouse."

Wei Xuanton shook his folding fan, showing a mocking smile, circling the Watermelon Stone and laughing loudly, "Great material!"

The people around him sneered, patting the scrap material, constantly teasing.

"Great materials, ordinary people can't pick something like this."

"Indeed, we normal people wouldn't dare choose."

"This is truly unique perspective, perhaps they might really cut out something incredibly rare!"

"If it cuts out a treasure later, I will swallow the stone skin to broaden my knowledge."

A crowd kept stirring, all firmly believing Ye Fan was destined to lose this time, and many regretted not getting involved earlier, seeing Ye Fan and his companions were clearly poor at choosing stones.

"Let's cut the stones!"

At this moment, the Spirit Stone Master completed his prayers to the four corners, then prayed to the stone material, before picking up the knife and approaching, the knife moved like a dragon and snake, cutting open the stone chosen by Wei Xuantong, old skin constantly falling to the ground, and before long, there were flashes of light.

"Seven-colored light flashing, definitely Mid-Grade Spirit Stones inside!"

Just peeled off a few pounds of stone skin, a brilliant light radiates, revealing Spirit Stones emitting dazzling seven-colored glow, pristine and clean throughout.

Soon, people exclaimed again, as this piece of Spirit Stones gradually emerged, weighing over four pounds, quite precious for gamblers at this level.

"Absolutely incredible, this stone material isn't large, yet it produced so many Mid-Grade Spirit Stones!"

"When luck comes, you can't stop it even if you want to!"

"This Wei Xuantong indeed has some skill, managing to choose such stone material."

People exclaimed admiringly, for these little cultivators, four pounds of Mid-Grade Spirit Stones already represented significant wealth.

However, to Ye Fan, who simply took away the entire Spirit Stone Storage from the Qing Family, this amount of Spirit Stones was hardly worth noticing; each time he cultivates, the Spirit Stones required are astronomical, causing even such large forces like the Immortal Academy to feel strained.

"Cut the stone this brother chose, I'd like to see if some rare treasure comes out!" People around Wei Xuantong sneered, appearing to delight in others' misfortune.

"Click!"

The Spirit Stone Master didn't use single-cut method, instead wielding the knife directly, stone skins continuously fell, swiftly peeling away most of the stone layer.

However—

The result was fruitless, not even a strand of hair, entirely composed of gray-white stone mass.

Even after cutting it all, the ground was covered with stone skins, and none contained anything, a complete loss!

"Uh..."

Seeing this scene, Hu Fei and Shi Ye were outright dumbfounded.

"Stay calm, without letting them taste something sweet first, how would they fall for it?"

Ye Fan secretly transmitted to Hu Fei and Shi Ye, advising them to display a defeated demeanor to mislead the crowd.

Ah, so that's how it is!

The two were moved in their hearts, realizing Ye Fan planned to play big today!

Chapter 1636 The Fish Takes the Bait

In the next few rounds of stone gambling, Ye Fan faced repeated defeats. Either the chosen stones yielded nothing, or they produced low-grade spirit stones full of impurities.

Soon, the hundreds of pounds of spirit stones he brought had been squandered away, while Wei Xuantong was so pleased that he couldn't close his mouth. In just half a day's time, he had won hundreds of pounds of spirit stones—a considerable fortune indeed!

"Young man, take it easy. This trade is quite mysterious, relying heavily on fate and luck. Your luck is clearly not good right now. If you continue, I'm afraid you won't be able to leave this gambling stone workshop!"

"Yes, it's better to stop now, especially since you don't have any spirit stones left to gamble with."

Several elderly individuals advised Ye Fan and his companions to quit early. Even though they lost so many spirit stones, it was better to consider it as spending money to learn a lesson rather than risking their lives and belongings.

However, most people were taking pleasure in their misfortune. Some were eager to challenge Ye Fan to a bet.

To them, Ye Fan and his friends were like fat sheep ready for slaughter. There was no reason not to take advantage.

"Let's go to the Ninth Layer Courtyard to gamble, dare you?"

Ye Fan, like a gambler who had lost his composure, angrily said to Wei Xuantong.

"Why wouldn't I dare? Today I'm going to make you concede willingly!"

Wei Xuantong didn't mind at all. He now had nearly a thousand pounds of spirit stones, feeling rich and not concerned at all.

"But do you have any spirit stones left? To prevent you from reneging on your debt after losing, show me your spirit stones first!" Wei Xuantong was very cautious, afraid that Ye Fan would back out after losing.

"You think I'd renege on my debt after losing?"

Ye Fan sneered and instructed Hu Fei and Shi Ye to bring out all their spirit stones, totaling nearly two or three hundred pounds—enough for one gamble.

"Hu Fei, go to our Immortal Academy's gambling stone workshop and deliver my message: bring three thousand pounds of spirit stones, preferably top-grade spirit stones. This time I want to turn everyone's face green!" Ye Fan secretly transmitted his message to Hu Fei.

"Alright, I'm on it!"

Hu Fei nodded, turned around, and squeezed out of the crowd, claiming to gather spirit stones, which made everyone excited.

"Little brother, can we also bet with you?"

Some cultivators who thought they saw an opportunity approached Ye Fan, proposing to gamble against him.

"Sure, I refuse no one. Who else wants to bet with me? Feel free to step up!" Ye Fan appeared to have thrown caution to the wind, instantly attracting many people.

"Ye Fan, are you confident? Be careful not to fall for it; this is no small amount. Winning or losing could easily involve tens of thousands of pounds of spirit stones—equivalent to the spirit stone reserve of a medium-sized sect!" Shi Ye worriedly transmitted to Ye Fan.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. Losing so much was just to set up the game for a big win. If only small stakes were at play, it wouldn't even be enough to fill the gaps between my teeth!" Ye Fan reassured him through transmission.

"I'll bet with you!"

"Me too!"

"Count me in!"

"..."

In no time, many people targeted Ye Fan, ready to bet with the mindset to win big, feeling that he was easy prey. After all, each time he chose stones, he seemed to pick randomly, not at all like a savvy stone gambler.

No one wanted to miss such a golden opportunity, and almost everyone placed all their spirit stones on the line.

"Alright, let's go to choose stones at the Ninth Layer Courtyard!"

Ye Fan took the lead toward the Ninth Layer Courtyard, followed by a large crowd, including some grey-haired elders who couldn't help but join in, eager to witness this grand gamble.

"What? Ye Fan is gambling stones at Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop? How many spirit stones are needed? I'll personally deliver them!"

Upon receiving the news, the manager of the Immortal Academy's gambling stone workshop in Du City immediately brought tens of thousands of pounds of spirit stones, used divine skills to change his appearance, and, along with Hu Fei, headed for Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop.

He's not worried about losing; rather, he's concerned about winning too much, causing trouble for everyone. If that happens, would these people let it go easily?

The Old Bastard had already given orders: Ye Fan, as the seed disciple of the Immortal Academy, must not suffer any harm, and his safety must be ensured.

The Ninth Layer Courtyard was usually quite empty, seldom visited, but now it was bustling!

The stones in this courtyard were few but high-valued, typically only attracting old antiques or the Holy Land's Saint Heir to gamble.

An expert was sitting here, so average people couldn't enter, only able to watch from outside. Only those choosing stones could enter, given that these stones were too precious.

Inside the garden was an aged old man seated cross-legged on a cushion, timeless and motionless, with only four or five elderly people selecting stones.

When Ye Fan, Shi Ye, Wei Xuanton, and others entered, she was just as still, like a statue.

Others ceased their chatter, surrounding the Ninth Layer Courtyard, quietly waiting for Ye Fan and Wei Xuanton to choose stones.

Luckily, there weren't many trees in this courtyard, so everything was clear at a glance, making it easy for everyone to see.

To be honest, no one had much hope for Ye Fan and his group, as his previous defeats were too pronounced. People treated him like a fat sheep, and even here, he couldn't possibly turn the tide.

The Tianzihao Stone Garden had quite a bit of bamboo, lush and green, adding a touch of tranquility!

The stones here aren't many, but each has its own place. Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop's staff checks them daily because they are so precious.

However, these stones are placed naturally, either among the bamboo grove, beside the bubbling spring, or amidst the green vines.

The stones blend with the scenery, creating a very harmonious atmosphere, with a sense of unity with heaven and earth, returning to nature.

A diligent Spirit Stone advisor follows them around, constantly introducing the stones.

Even though Ye Fan was mentally prepared, he was still startled. Many stones aren't very large but are worth hundreds of jin of Spirit Stones.

More astonishingly, some stones are worth a thousand jin of Spirit Stones per jin, leaving him quite shocked. It was his first time encountering stone gambling, and he didn't expect it to be so deep.

"I say, old master, isn't this too outrageous? Can anyone afford this?" Ye Fan inquired.

"On ordinary days, you rarely see young people here; it's all prepared for old antiquities. You all certainly feel overwhelmed. But for those people, if they can gamble for a hope, a future from this place, they're willing to give it all." The Spirit Stone advisor replied.

"What treasures have been cut out here?" Shi Ye asked naively.

"Too many. The most recent one was a cut of an Immortal Elixir leaf, which shook the Five Domains at the time, even startling many old antiquities." The Spirit Stone advisor said with a smile.

"An Immortal Elixir leaf..."

Ye Fan was quite speechless. This old guy sure can brag. What is the Immortal Elixir? It's something even the Ancient Emperors would be tempted by!

It's something that can let an emperor live a second life. Other than the Immortal Elixir, there's nothing else. Can the gambling stone workshop here really cut out a piece of an Immortal Elixir leaf?

"Have you all chosen your stones?"

Wei Xuanton asked from not far away. He had already selected a piece of stone, weighing more than ten jin, looking very ordinary, but something that caught his eye must definitely contain hidden treasures.

Though the stone wasn't big, it was worth more than a hundred jin of Spirit Stones, a typical stone that is more expensive than Spirit Stones, something ordinary people simply cannot afford.

Ye Fan observed it using the Stone Appraisal Technique and found that the stone he chose indeed contained hidden treasures, at the very least possibly nine-colored High Grade Spirit Stones.

Ye Fan wandered around for a long time, checking out many stones, and finally picked a very large stone, a full two meters tall, weighing over a thousand jin!

"Really think choosing a big stone will yield something rare, truly don't know anything!" Wei Xuanton mocked when he saw the stone Ye Fan had chosen.

Ye Fan completely ignored the sarcasm. In his view, while the stone looked ordinary on the outside, it actually contained great potential, likely housing something extraordinary inside.

Moreover, Ye Fan also repeatedly checked; this stone had no issues, wasn't tampered with, which made him feel comfortable buying it.

"Still the old rule? Bet within a bet, whoever cuts out Spirit Stones with the highest value wins?" After selecting the stone, Ye Fan asked.

"Of course!"

Wei Xuantonq sneered with disdain, saying, "However many Spirit Stones I cut out, you must pay me the same amount, and vice versa. Additionally, the Spirit Stones spent on purchasing the stone will also be covered by the loser!"

"That's how it should be!"

Ye Fan smiled slightly, calming down at this point.

"Then let's cut the stone!"

Wei Xuantonq nodded, prepared to cut the stone.

Just then, there was a commotion outside, and Hu Fei loudly shouted, "Clear the way, we brought Spirit Stones, who dares to gamble with us?"

As the voice came, Hu Fei and a middle-aged cultivator entered together.

The middle-aged cultivator gave Ye Fan a deep look, then without saying a word, directly invoked a Space Spiritual Treasure. With a clatter, three to four directions of Spirit Stones were poured out, the piles of Spirit Stones immediately dazzling everyone's eyes.

"I use these Four Directions Spirit Stones as a wager, anyone who wants to gamble can join in!" Ye Fan seemed like a gambler losing it all, wanting to turn the tide in one go.

"I will bet with you!"

Seeing the Four Directions Spirit Stones thrown on the ground, everyone was eager to try.

Clatter!

In just a short moment, Ye Fan was surrounded by hundreds of thousands of jin of Spirit Stones, a full tens of directions.

In addition to wagering his entire fortune, Wei Xuantong also borrowed several hundred jin of Spirit Stones from others and put them in.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

With the light of the knife flashing up and down, the stone Wei Xuanton selected quickly diminished in size, and before long, a brilliance shone forth, unexpectedly a simple blue hue, like a dream, like a fantasy.

"Heaven Grade Spirit Stone, Dream Blue!"

Everyone exclaimed in shock, not expecting Wei Xuanton's luck to be so extraordinary, cutting out a Heaven Grade Spirit Stone, which, even if only the size of a fingernail, was worth thousands of jin of ordinary Spirit Stones!

Chapter 1637 Peerless Rarity

At this moment, the people from Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop regretted so much that their intestines turned blue, wishing they could slap themselves hard!

Most of the stones here had been tampered with by them, secretly cutting open the stones to extract the spirit stones inside, then sealing them with secret techniques, and selling them as if they were intact, never expecting to miss the most precious one.

If they had known this stone contained a Heaven Grade Spirit Stone, they would have done everything to cut it open and extract the spirit stone. Now, it's too late to say anything.

This is the Heaven Grade Spirit Stone Dream Blue!

It's so precious, and it looks to be much larger than just a fingernail, weighing more than half a pound.

At this time, even the person in charge of Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop rushed over, seeing the dream-like blue in the stone, this person wished to slam his head against the wall; this time, they've really lost a lot.

"The Heaven Grade Spirit Stone surpasses the existence of top-grade spirit stones, with all colors retracted, leaving only one color that exceeds all others, hence what is shown is a single color. This is definitely Dream Blue!"

Anyone who gambles on stones knows this kind of Heaven Grade Spirit Stone is a rare spirit stone formed by highly compressed Heaven and Earth Source Liquid, containing terrifying Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, absolutely a priceless treasure.

"Crack!"

With the appearance of the Heaven Grade Spirit Stone Dream Blue, everyone became excited, while Wei Xuantong breathed a big sigh of relief.

Having cut out the Heaven Grade Spirit Stone, he felt he was already steadily winning, looking at the Four Directions Spirit Stones in front of Ye Fan as if they were already in his hands.

So many spirit stones, even a medium-sized force wouldn't have so much after years of stockpiling, this was definitely a big haul!

Others were also very excited, this was a profitable business, almost like picking up spirit stones for free, their mouths couldn't close from smiling.

"How is it? Do you have confidence?"

Seeing Wei Xuanton actually cut out a Heaven Grade Spirit Stone, Hu Fei started to get nervous too. He didn't know how skilled Ye Fan was at Stone Appraisal, but he knew the value of Heaven Grade Spirit Stones.

"Don't worry, I've set up such a big trap just to ensnare them, I won't fall into it myself!" Ye Fan was very calm.

What could be cut out from Wei Xuanton's stone was all within his expectations, this time there was no room for error!

With Wei Xuanton's actions, a fist-sized Heaven Grade Spirit Stone Dream Blue was cut out, illuminating the surroundings like a fantasy, everyone seemed to be in a dream-like ocean.

"Oh my God, it's indeed Dream Blue, just one piece is worth tens of thousands of ordinary spirit stones."

"Such Heaven Grade Spirit Stones are considered precious even in the Holy Land Gambling Stone Workshop of Feixian City."

Looking at the Dream Blue in Wei Xuantonɡ' s hand, everyone praised him lavishly, congratulating him, looking at Ye Fan and his companions with pity, believing they were bound to lose.

"Little brother, admit defeat, your piece of stone can't possibly cut out any rare treasures."

"Yes, consider it as spending spirit stones to buy a lesson. Remember, stone gambling isn't a field everyone can enter."

Some seniors advised Ye Fan to admit defeat instead of humiliating himself, otherwise he would only disgrace himself further.

"Admitting defeat is so boring? I still want to see what rare immortal treasures this little brother can cut out from this chosen stone!" Wei Xuantonɡ said stubbornly.

At this moment, he hoped Ye Fan could cut out some spirit stones because no matter how many spirit stones Ye Fan cut out, they would all belong to him, which was practically picking them for free, he certainly didn't want to miss this chance.

"Yes, hurry up and cut the stone, I'm waiting to eat the stone skin!"

A young man beside Wei Xuantong joked, which instantly brought about a burst of laughter.

"So it was you who said you're waiting to eat the stone skin, right? I remember you." Hu Fei sneered at Shi Ye, "Later, if you don't swallow the stone skin, I'll smash your teeth and make you eat it!"

"That's fine, I'm waiting!"

That young man beside Wei Xuantong taunted, "Trying to cut out immortal treasures from such a broken stone, dream on forever."

"You all heard it, right? You have to be witnesses, he has to eat the stone skin when the time comes," Hu Fei stepped forward and said to the people around.

"Okay, we'll testify!"

"Go ahead and cut, let us witness the skill of the stone gambling genius!"

Some truly enjoyed the spectacle, instigating from the side.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Amidst everyone's laughter, Ye Fan took a deep breath and began to cut the stone. With his movements, the old skin of the stone fell off piece by piece, Shi Ye snorting ***** as he collected all those stone skins.

He absolutely believed in Ye Fan's skills, dare to make such a startling gamble, naturally has some confidence, obviously intending to ensnare everyone.

The two-meter-high stone quickly shrank under Ye Fan's actions, until it was the size of a human head, but still showed no signs of having any spirit stone.

Hmm?

Seeing this, even Hu Fei and Shi Ye started to get nervous, worried Ye Fan might have misjudged.

If that's the case, then the Four Directions Spirit Stones would truly go down the drain, this result couldn't be borne by them, even the Immortal Academy would feel distressed.

"Whew~"

Ye Fan stopped, gently exhaled, and looked at the white stone in front of him, furrowing his brow, only a head-sized piece remained, yet still no signs of spirit stones; everyone would think this is a worthless stone, with nothing inside.

Spirit stones are strange things, the stone covers encompassing them have the property of isolating all Qi, even cultivators with terrifying Divine Soul cannot see through them.

If not cut open, no one knows whether a stone contains spirit stones, even if Ye Fan learned the Stone Appraisal Technique, he can only infer a rough idea from the stone's color, Qi, and other information.

However—

Exactly what it is, unless it's cut open, no one can ever say for sure. This uncertainty is one of the great joys of stone gambling, everything relies on experience and luck.

Especially luck is the most important. Some newcomers in this field know nothing and don't understand any stone appraisal technique, but often hit it big by pure chance.

"Anyone else wants to bet? You still have time to place your bets, otherwise, once I cut, no more bets will be accepted." Ye Fan leisurely twirled the stone cutting blade in his hand, smiling as he spoke.

"Let's gamble, let's pool our spirit stones together to bet against him!"

Immediately, seven or eight people gathered enough spirit stones to form the first group of gamblers and joined in.

With the first group taking the lead, many others quickly joined in, even some older strong people couldn't resist the allure of the dazzling spirit stones and started joining in.

The number of spirit stones on the ground kept increasing, until even Hu Fei and Shi Ye were secretly surprised. If they fooled so many people, Ye Fan might not have a place to stand in Du City.

The person in charge from the Immortal Academy remained unperturbed, not caring at all. As long as Ye Fan's identity is revealed, no one would dare retaliate against him—the Immortal Academy's deterrent power is not insignificant!

"Anyone else willing to bet against me?"

Ye Fan glanced around, his gaze sweeping over the people present.

Many were tempted, wanting to unite, but seeing Ye Fan and Hu Fei so calm made them suspicious and hesitant.

Especially some well-connected older folks, each smarter than foxes. Seeing Ye Fan urging others to bet against him, they instantly felt something might be fishy.

"No one else?" Ye Fan asked again.

"Aren't you done yet? Hurry up and cut the stone!"

Wei Xuanton was a bit impatient, feeling uneasy, yet it was too late to back out now.

Meanwhile, many participants in the gamble felt suspicious, wondering if they were being played?

But they thought it was impossible, with such a large piece of stone, there couldn't be any world-shocking immortal treasures inside, otherwise a certain aura should have already been revealed.

In the end, no one else joined, leaving Ye Fan with nearly twenty spirit stones in front of him. Even for a medium-sized sect, this would suffice for a year's consumption.

"So many spirit stones, you folks really are rich. I've never seen this many spirit stones in my life!" Ye Fan commented, stroking his chin.

"Aren't you done yet? Quit dawdling, cut the stone!" Wei Xuanton was so agitated he was practically steaming from his nose, urging once again.

"Alright, since you're eager to lose, I'll fulfill your wish. Just wait for the emergence of the supreme rare treasure."

Ye Fan adopted a serious expression, set the stone cutting blade aside, concentrated, and slapped the head-sized stone piece with his hand.

With Ye Fan's current divine power, not to mention a piece of stone, he could directly shatter a spiritual treasure, but he controlled his strength, merely cracking the stone skin.

"Crack!"

The sound of stone breaking resounded, and the surroundings quieted instantly, as if returning to the very beginning, no one spoke.

"Boom!"

A wave of immortal spirit aura spread, making people feel bathed in immortal light, their pores opening as if soaring with clouds.

"This is..."

The next moment.

Everyone was shocked!

Because this aura, besides an immortal elixir, only the exclusive immortal gold of great emperors possesses.

"Swish!"

The light was dazzling!

A Heaven Grade Spirit Stone slightly larger than a fist appeared before everyone, astonishingly in Supreme Purple Crystal color, with purple divine luster reaching the sky, thick Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi incomprehensible.

"Look, something is contained within the spirit stone!"

Hu Fei, sharp-eyed, immediately noticed something else nested within the Supreme Purple Crystal Heaven Grade Spirit Stone.

"That is..."

"The exclusive holy object of a Great Emperor, Chaos Purple Crystal?"

A group of old folks exclaimed, each scrambling forward, wanting to see clearly with eyes glued.

"Indeed, it truly is the exclusive holy object of a Great Emperor, Chaos Purple Crystal!"

Someone exclaimed in disbelief, this inconspicuous stone piece contained not only a Heaven Grade Spirit Stone, but the spirit stone also enveloped the exclusive holy object of a Great Emperor.

"Uh..."

At this moment, the people at Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop felt like killing. This truly was a huge loss, their hearts were bleeding!

"How... how is this possible?!"

Wei Xuantonɡ' s eyes were vacant, staring at the supreme rare treasure ahead, almost spitting out a mouthful of old blood!

Chapter 1638 Famous Throughout Du City

Ye Fan revealed a peerless rare treasure, a result that took everyone by surprise—no one expected such an outcome!

Especially those who bet against Ye Fan, their hearts were bleeding—hard-earned Spirit Stones were lost in one sweep!

"Damn, this luck is too rotten!"

All the participants in the bet turned green, nearly collapsing, cursing endlessly.

Especially Wei Xuanton, who at this moment wished he could slap Ye Fan to death. He thought he had won for sure, but was blindsided by the reversal and lost the gamble—the feeling was like flying high above the Nine Heavens only to be knocked into a pit latrine, the massive disparity nearly driving him to the brink of madness.

The Heaven Grade Spirit Stone Dream Blue is indeed precious, but when compared to the Chaos Purple Crystal, a Holy Object exclusive to a Great Emperor, it's utterly worthless.

However, no one was currently focusing on them. Cutting out a Holy Object exclusive to a Great Emperor—Chaos Purple Crystal, undoubtedly an Immortal Treasure—captured everyone's consciousness.

Immortal Gold is hard to find. Some Great Emperors spend their whole lives without discovering much, preventing them from refining their own exclusive Emperor Weapons, leaving eternal regret. It shows how precious this Immortal Material is.

"Brother Ye Fan, would you be willing to sell me this piece of Chaos Purple Crystal? I will give you a satisfying price."

Someone sent a voice transmission to Ye Fan, hoping to purchase it.

Soon, several voices of divine consciousness reached Ye Fan's sea of consciousness, all projecting goodwill, hoping Ye Fan would sell this Immortal Material to them.

Though this piece of Chaos Purple Crystal is only the size of a fist, it cannot be used for refining a Spiritual Treasure, but it can indeed be used to repair an Emperor Weapon.

In addition, using the Chaos Purple Crystal alongside other Divine Materials can also refine a legendary Divine Weapon, significantly enhancing the quality of a Holy Weapon; it is undoubtedly a rare Immortal Material.

At this moment, many people were expressing goodwill to Ye Fan, seeking to acquire this piece of Chaos Purple Crystal, even though it was small.

"Sorry, the Chaos Purple Crystal is not for sale."

Ye Fan decisively declined these offers, as he couldn't sell this Immortal Material—the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown also required Immortal Material for restoration!

"It's really a pity, this is a Holy Object exclusive to a Great Emperor!"

Many were unwilling, desperately longing to snatch it, but with so many senior figures present, they dared not act rashly.

The people from Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop regretted so much that their eyes turned green, fixating on the Chaos Purple Crystal in Ye Fan's hand, at this moment, even harboring murderous intent.

Ye Fan ignored the gazes of the crowd, collected a huge pile of Spirit Stones from the ground, glimmering brightly, a massive gain, acquiring an additional twenty portions of Spirit Stones.

"This piece of Dream Blue is also ours!"

Hu Fei grinned so widely that it almost reached the back of his head, directly went over, and reclaimed the Heaven Grade Spirit Stone Dream Blue from Wei Xuantong's hands.

Wei Xuantong looked as if he had been drained of energy, went limp, collapsed to the ground, and kept twitching furiously, as if having a seizure.

"Hey you, yes you, stop looking around, I'm talking to you."

Hu Fei called to the young man who had been standing with Wei Xuantong: "Come over here to fulfill your promise and eat the stone skin!"

"This..."

Seeing Shi Ye gather a large pile of stone skin together, the man's face turned green immediately, and he turned to leave.

Hu Fei swiftly stepped forward, grabbed the man's collar, and said, "Kid, I already told you, if you dare not to eat, I will knock out all your teeth. Stop dithering and eat up."

"Haha..."

Upon seeing this, laughter broke out among the surrounding crowd.

If it weren't for the deep backgrounds of the stone workshops, prohibiting fights, this person might have already turned hostile, feeling utterly embarrassed.

"You... let go!"

"A bet's a bet, you said you would eat the stone skin. If you're truly a man, keep your word and eat it down."

The man lost all face, wishing to dig a hole and hide, gritted his teeth, took out a spiritual artifact holding Spirit Stones, handed it to Hu Fei, and then slinked away, sparking another wave of laughter from the crowd.

"Everyone, what do you think this Great Emperor exclusive Holy Object is worth?"

Hu Fei fixed his gaze on Wei Xuanton, then posed the question to the crowd.

With this question, everyone fell silent. The Immortal Material exclusive to a Great Emperor is undoubtedly an invaluable treasure, its worth exceeding a million Spirit Stones is no exaggeration.

If it were to be auctioned off at the Treasure Pavilion, it might fetch a terrifyingly high price, as currently the Emperor Weapons of various Di Clans are severely damaged, urgently needing sacred material exclusive to Great Emperors for repairs, they would pay any price to secure it.

"So, let's assume it's worth one million jin of Upper Grade Spirit Stones, Young Master Wei, kindly compensate us with Spirit Stones!" Hu Fei approached Wei Xuanton with a smile and said.

"Uh..."

Upon hearing Hu Fei's words, Wei Xuanton's mouth twitched and then he fainted on the spot.

A million catties of Upper Grade Spirit Stones, not even if they sold the entire Chi Xia Sect, they wouldn't have enough, it's a complete fiasco this time.

At the same time, several cultivators who had a good relationship with Wei Xuanton felt as if their hearts were bleeding, and even had murderous intentions—they lost miserably following Wei Xuanton!

"You are ruthless enough!"

A few people were tearful yet unable to cry. Years of savings were instantly gone, and they were now deeply in debt with no chance of recovering in the next decade.

"You deserve it!"

Hu Fei sneered: "When you were winning Spirit Stones from us, you were jumping for joy, more excited than getting married during Chinese New Year, ridiculing and mocking us—how do you feel now? To borrow your words that mocked us, you fell from the Nine Heavens right down to the ground, face first."

"You..."

Several were angered, but helpless, as they had long seen through it. Ye Fan's Stone Appraisal Technique was astonishing; he had been setting up a trap, digging a pit for them.

At this moment, even the elderly individuals with significant backgrounds surrounding Ye Fan treated him with great respect; they did not want to tempt fate.

By now, these elders understood well — Ye Fan's skill in stone gambling was profound, his Stone Appraisal Technique extraordinary. Naturally, they wanted to win him over; even if they couldn't acquire the Chaos Purple Crystal from him, befriending such a genius was absolutely beneficial.

Many shared this thought, offering olive branches to Ye Fan, hoping to establish good relations. They valued not just the Chaos Purple Crystal and Heaven Grade Spirit Stones, but more importantly, his Stone Appraisal Technique.

Numerous people, with this intent, made deliberate efforts to befriend Ye Fan, believing there would be great benefits in the future.

However—

Ye Fan rejected them all, having discovered the Ancient Emperor's exclusive Immortal Gold, he was undoubtedly at the center of attention, with countless eyes watching him.

At such a time, one must not become complacent, or it could invite disaster.

Seeing Ye Fan had no intention of selling this piece of Immortal Gold, many felt regretful. This piece, though small, if known to the Di Clan who possessed incomplete Emperor Weapons, would cause a fierce competition, regardless of the price.

The Chaos Purple Crystal uproar gradually subsided, and Ye Fan left the Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop under the protection of a powerful figure comparable to a Holy Land Supreme Elder, returning to the Immortal Academy's local office.

...

Night fell, the Bright Moon hung in the sky, moonlight like water illuminated all of Du City, marking the beginning of its nightlife.

By the eastern part of the city, amidst Mirror Lake, music and clear female singing could be heard from a pleasure boat, while various teahouses and taverns began to bustle. Many cultivators enjoyed this lifestyle, experiencing the mundane human aura amidst monotonous cultivation.

This stone betting round had far-reaching effects. Many from the Di Clan came to Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop, hoping to meet this young genius who uncovered Chaos Purple Crystal.

At this moment, a tempest swept through Du City, attracting many young geniuses hoping to try their luck and unearth Immortal Treasures.

Influenced by the Chaos Purple Crystal incident, the small Du City became unprecedentedly lively, with many stone workshops packed to capacity, not excluding those of smaller powers.

However, all these had nothing to do with Ye Fan. Upon returning to the Immortal Academy's local office in Du City, Ye Fan immediately delved into the various secret techniques within the Dragon Seeking Formulas, essentially remaining secluded.

The Dragon Seeking Formulas were vast and profound. Ye Fan found methods recorded within to observe the orientation of mountain and river terrains were akin to Earth's Feng Shui, yet far more advanced, undoubtedly Divine Arts.

Through observing terrain, the direction of dragon veins could help deduce if there were Spirit Stone Veins underground, determining whether it's a barren deposit or a rich one.

When cultivated to a high realm, a mere glance would reveal the presence of Spirit Stone Veins, Dragon Energy, Dragon Essence underground, even corresponding with celestial stars, harnessing Star Power.

Of course, Ye Fan was far from reaching that realm yet. He barely managed to wield Earth Vein Dragon Qi in combat after studying Liang Boyao's methods and refining this part of the secret techniques within the Dragon Seeking Formulas.

"Ye Zi, you've truly made a name for yourself, your deeds are being discussed all over Du City. Many major powers are seeking you out, hoping to recruit you into their sects or Holy Lands."

One day, Hu Fei came in from outside, bringing this news to Ye Fan. Currently, Du City was abuzz with talks about Ye Fan setting a trap that cost others twenty branches of Spirit Stones. His Stone Appraisal Technique was highly praised.

"The mouth's theirs, so they can say whatever they want." Ye Fan cared little for outside events.

"By the way, there's something related to you!"

Hu Fei laughed, saying: "Remember that Eldest Young Master Wei who acted all high and mighty? He's had the worst luck; lost everything and owed enormous Spirit Stone debt, then got beaten into a pulp by the Sect Leader of Chi Xia Sect upon return, dead and gone..."

"Greedy hearts are insatiable, blame his dark heart, not me!"

Ye Fan shook his head, words devoid of mercy.

Because...

He knew, if he lost, Wei Xuantong definitely wouldn't spare him!

Chapter 1639 Wanted Order!

After Hu Fei left, Ye Fan stroked his chin and thought for a long time. He finally decided to first cultivate a strange technique from the Dragon Seeking Formulas before appearing in public without being recognized.

This is a strange technique recorded in the Dragon Seeking Formulas called the Human-Faced Geography Technique, which can change one's form and appearance from the inside out by moving muscles and bones, far more powerful than the ordinary cultivator's disguise technique.

However, this secret technique is also very difficult to master, and Ye Fan spent half a month in seclusion before achieving a small success.

After coming out of seclusion, Ye Fan activated the strange technique, his entire body's bones crackling and popping, drastically changing his form and appearance. His body forcibly grew three inches taller, his shoulders broadened significantly, and his cheekbones also changed considerably.

Looking in the mirror, Ye Fan was quite satisfied. He had sword-shaped eyebrows, starry eyes, a chiseled face, broad shoulders, and a brawny physique, exuding a sharp, domineering energy, very different from before.

"Two days should be no problem!"

Ye Fan nodded with satisfaction. Even if he appeared before Hu Fei now, Hu Fei probably wouldn't recognize him.

"I've been absent for almost a month. The stone gambling turmoil should have settled by now, right?" Ye Fan decided to go out with this appearance, and also to gather information to see if anyone has gone to the Primordial Ancient Mine area for exploration.

Du City, small and old, full of the vicissitudes of time. Rather than a city, it was more like a large town.

Existing since ancient times, no one can say exactly when Du City was founded. The gray-brown ancient city walls and buildings speak of the passage of time, with many cracks on the mottled structures.

Walking in the city, Ye Fan felt the sediment of time and the far-removed history. The stone slabs on the streets were worn down, and the comings and goings were all cultivators.

Just as Ye Fan expected, no one recognized him after his change in appearance. Nearby, some cultivators were discussing the classic showdown at Rongsheng Gambling Stone Workshop, speaking highly of his stone appraisal technique.

"Hmph! Just a blind cat stumbling upon a dead rat. Talking about how amazing his stone appraisal technique is, I think it's nothing more than that. Otherwise, why doesn't he dare to show up again? You know, many in the Earth Master Family are looking for him now, wanting a showdown to see who is truly stronger!"

Some people with ulterior motives spread such remarks, trying to force Ye Fan out.

However, it was clearly in vain, as Ye Fan paid no attention to such comments at all.

He stayed in the Northern Domain, not primarily for gambling stones or to win spirit stones, but to seek the whereabouts of the first generation Earth Master in the Primordial Ancient Mine area.

"This heroic figure, first time in Du City, want to try your luck and place a bet? Come to our Gambling Stone Workshop; we guarantee you'll have great gains."

"Brother, are you interested in some good material brought from the edge of the Primordial Ancient Mine area? Genuine stuff. Why not come in and take a look? Satisfaction guaranteed."

On both sides of the street, there were many shops and gambling stone workshops dealing in various stone materials, enthusiastically greeting the passing cultivators. Ye Fan was also among those being invited.

Feeling idle, Ye Fan walked into a stone house.

The stone house was small, just a room facing the street, with only a rosewood rack in the store, displaying just over a dozen stone materials.

Ye Fan took a casual look and found the prices of the stones here ludicrously high. These stones were priced the same as spirit stones of equivalent weight, meaning the stones on the rack were equivalent to spirit stones.

"It's ridiculously expensive! Does anyone buy them?" Ye Fan couldn't believe it.

"Young brother, you don't get it. These aren't ordinary stones. They are precious stones to be sent to Feixian City, mined from the area near a forbidden zone in the Primordial Ancient Mine area, imbued with the aura of the primordial ancient mine."

The host explained to Ye Fan that the gamble here was not on the spirit stones imbued, but on rare treasures, on heaven grade spirit stones, and on even more precious things.

Having comprehended the stone appraisal technique from the Dragon Seeking Formulas, Ye Fan, with his extraordinary insight, selected a single stone and made no further purchases.

Stone gambling here was not cost-effective, as things more precious than spirit stones are rare. His purchase was only to build some rapport with the host, hoping to glean some useful information from him.

"Old brother, do you have any connections? I'd like to visit the Primordial Ancient Mine area," Ye Fan mentioned casually.

The mining areas outside the Primordial Ancient Mine were all divided among major Holy Lands and Di Clans. Other areas were negotiable, but the zones adjacent to the Forbidden Zone of Life were difficult for outsiders to access.

Though he could enter the Primordial Ancient Mine through the Immortal Academy's mining area, he chose not to. It would draw too much attention, and the responsible figures of the Immortal Academy's mining area would not agree; he had to find another way.

"I tell you, young brother, that area is the Forbidden Zone of Life. Going there is absolutely not an option. Even Saint Lord Level strong people can't make a ripple there," the owner of the stone house advised.

Ye Fan smiled slightly and said, "Don't worry, I'm not going to court death. I won't go deep, just want to take a distant look. After hearing so much about the Primordial Ancient Mine's fame, it's a pity not to see it."

The host laughed and said, "Completely understandable. Many young people like you want a distant view, but in the end, they can't restrain themselves, as if called by some mysterious presence, heading into the forbidden zone's depths. Many people disappear every year."

"Is that so?"

Ye Fan was quite curious. The Primordial Ancient Mine area was extraordinarily mysterious. Could there really be some creature in it?

"Absolutely true!" said the host with a serious expression.

"So there must be a way to go to the Primordial Ancient Mine area?" Ye Fan's eyes lit up. After this period of studying the Dragon Seeking Formulas intensively, he felt somewhat confident.

"Young brother, I advise you not to take risks. Excessive curiosity doesn't do any good; it can indeed get you killed," the owner of the stone house kindly cautioned.

"Rest assured, old brother, I know the severity and insist on your help," Ye Fan was determined to go.

"In that case, you should look for a man named Liu Da and his companions. He often organizes groups to enter the Ancient Mine, but it's not cheap and can be quite a rip-off." The host couldn't persuade Ye Fan otherwise, so he had to provide this piece of information.

Afterward, Ye Fan left the Stone House and went to the Treasure Pavilion's local office. He presented the VIP Gold Card that Yaling had given him and quickly obtained the information he wanted.

Liu Da and his companions are known local figures. Of course, they're not your average hooligans; they're tough characters among cultivators.

In the entire Du City, Liu Da and his companions have extensive connections, accepting various kinds of business, such as escorting stone materials, and even including assassinations.

Liu Da lives in the West District, in a simple set of five stone houses that look desolate and shabby, not like the residence of a tough character.

When Ye Fan found Liu Mazi, he was squatting under an old locust tree in the yard, puffing on a dry tobacco pipe, showing no semblance of a seasoned local snake.

Liu Mazi was true to his name, with a face full of pockmarks; big ones layered over small ones, leaving no unmarred area on his face, making him look particularly terrifying.

"Could someone like this really be a tough character among cultivators?"

Ye Fan found it hard to believe, but he trusted the information from the Treasure Pavilion, so he didn't doubt it further and directly stated his purpose.

"It's really strange. Every year, people are eager to throw their lives away..."

Liu Da mumbled in a barely audible voice, then lifted his head to glance at Ye Fan, saying, "Wait a few days; we'll go once we gather enough people."

"Brother, are all these jobs you're accepting?"

Ye Fan noticed there were numerous bounties and announcements posted on a wall not far away, so he couldn't help but ask.

"I'm an honest person, not capable of doing violent stuff anymore, nor do I want to. These are all commissions. I'm just a middleman. People who want to take on jobs come to me to get tasks."

Liu Da tapped his pipe on the stone beside him, placed it at his waist, and said, "If you want to take on a job, I can also make contacts for you. As for the payment, I take a twenty percent cut."

Ye Fan, intrigued, stepped forward and casually browsed through the bounties, immediately noticing something that made his brows jump. One of the tasks involved him, issued by a place called Lingxiao Sacred Land.

Ye Fan glanced over it and noticed that there was a clear drawing of his likeness. Providing a lead could reward one hundred jin of Mid-Grade Spirit Stones, killing him could earn five hundred jin, and capturing him alive would be worth a thousand jin.

This was truly a hefty price, sparing no cost in wanting to hunt him down.

Ye Fan was quite puzzled. He had almost no dealings with this Lingxiao Sacred Land, so why did they harbor such intense animosity toward him?

"Could it be for the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown?"

Ye Fan thought to himself, it's not out of the question.

The allure of an Emperor Weapon was too great; it's likely many forces were eager to move, and Ye Fan's situation would become increasingly difficult in the future.

Fortunately, his Human-Faced Geography Technique had achieved Small Success. As long as he was careful, it wouldn't be easy for people to locate him.

Additionally, the ancient families of the Li Family and Zhou Family in the Northern East Domain also issued bounties. The rewards were not low, even higher than those from Lingxiao Sacred Land.

Seeing their bounties made Ye Fan smile. The ancient families in the Northern East Domain – the Li Family and the Zhou Family – were none other than the families of Li Tianfeng and Zhou Zhaolong!

In the Immortal Academy's latest disciple ranking competition, he defeated the Li Family genius, Li Tianfeng, and the Zhou Family's strongest successor, Zhou Zhaolong, almost killing them. Naturally, they were unwilling to let it go.

While in the Immortal Academy, they couldn't do anything. Once outside, they had fewer restrictions. If they secretly killed Ye Fan and seized the Emperor Weapon, the Immortal Academy might not even find out.

"I think I've seen this bounty order in other cities too."

Ye Fan tested the waters, though he had never actually been to other cities. He was just trying to elicit information from Liu Da and ended up getting some useful news.

"If a tree stands out in the forest, the wind will destroy it. This kid stands out too much, offending those he shouldn't provoke. He won't live long unless he immediately returns to the Immortal Academy. Under its protection, no one would dare to touch him."

Liu Da filled another pipe and continued smoking, saying, "Many young members of the Li Family and Zhou Family have come, along with some young people from Lingxiao Sacred Land. Once they find him, it will surely be a fight to the death."

"I wouldn't mind meeting the young generation experts."

Ye Fan chuckled coldly to himself. He had refined a considerable amount of Spirit Stones recently, steadily increasing his strength. He was tempted to find some opponents to test his skills against.

Chapter 1640 Exploring the Primal Mining Zone

An hour later, Ye Fan left the West District.

"How did it go, little brother? Did you manage to negotiate, or get ruthlessly exploited by that old geezer?" the host of the Stone House warmly greeted as Ye Fan passed by.

"Not too bad, he charged me fifty pounds of mid-grade spirit stones, we set off in three days!"

Ye Fan replied, having a decent impression of this host, unlike those deceitful merchants with honeyed words.

"Although the price is steep, it wasn't too ruthless."

The Stone House's owner enthusiastically recommended, "Since you've decided to explore the Forbidden Zone, you must buy a Stone Robe from me. It is made from stone skin peeled off Heaven Grade Spirit Stones, capable of isolating primordial essence and warding off evil, making it the best armor for entering the Forbidden Zone."

"Oh?"

Listening to the host, Ye Fan was quite tempted. Having thoroughly studied the Dragon Seeking Formulas, he knew the uniqueness of stone skin peeled from Heaven Grade Spirit Stones, indeed capable of isolating primordial essence and warding off evil.

The preciousness of spirit stones lies not only in their creation during ancient times when Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi liquefied and solidified into Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, but also their rarity.

Spirit stones are encased in layers of stone skin, much like jade on Earth. The stone skin isolates any aura, and even the most advanced equipment can't detect whether a piece of stone contains jade.

Similarly, spirit stones are the same; although the Xuan Realm lacks high-tech equipment, another path has been opened—the divine consciousness of cultivators and the Martial Arts Heavenly Eye can see through illusions but not stone skin. Wrapped in stone skin, no matter how great your cultivation, without cutting it open, you can't know if there are spirit stones inside, let alone any Immortal Treasures.

After some bargaining, Ye Fan finally spent fifty pounds of spirit stones to purchase a Stone Robe.

Just as he stored the Stone Robe into his Space Spiritual Artifact, Ye Fan heard the roaring of Xuan Beasts outside, followed by a team charging past as if experiencing an earthquake.

These were a group of young people, all appearing in their twenties, riding powerful Xuan Beasts that shook the ground as they rushed down the street.

As these young people flashed past, Ye Fan distinctly saw the gold "Gu" character embroidered on their clothes; they were from the Ancient Emperor Family.

"The Di Clan is really arrogant! Even the youngsters are so brazen!" Ye Fan said with a smile.

"Well, there's nothing we can do; the Ancient Emperor Family is a local tyrant in the Northern Domain, nobody dares mess with them. They used to be very low-profile, but lately, they've been emerging, strutting around like they're invincible."

The host shared Ye Fan's sentiments and was in a great mood having made a sale, sharing an important piece of information—people from the Ancient Emperor Family have come forth and are currently in Du City.

Three days later, Ye Fan and Shi Ye, Hu Fei, Wenren Jing arrived in front of Liu Da's dilapidated house in the West City District, where seven or eight people were already waiting, mostly young.

Hu Fei, Shi Ye, and Wenren Jing all skillfully concealed their true appearances using divine skills; otherwise, the descendants of the Nine Great Bandits in the Northern Domain, with their obvious marks, would be too easily recognized.

They marveled at Ye Fan's strange technique that changed appearance from within, with Hu Fei persistently asking Ye Fan to teach him a few tricks.

"This secret technique seems designed for wrongdoing. If I master it, won't the spirit stone mines of the Holy Land and Di Clan be available for me to rob? No one would discover me!"

Hu Fei's words left Ye Fan amused and exasperated. He practiced such strange techniques not for wrongdoing but to evade those hunting him, as possessing an Emperor Weapon made him a coveted target, drawing everyone wanting a piece of him. He had to be cautious.

"It's been over half a month, and we finally have enough people."

Liu Da puffed on his tobacco pipe, exhaling clouds of smoke as he spoke, "Just to be clear, I'm only guiding, you bear your own life and death. Should anything unforeseen occur, it has nothing to do with me."

"Got it; this isn't the first time you've said that. Let's get going!"

"It's truly bizarre, an ancient mine abandoned for who knows how many years—not a beauty, what's there to see? Every year, plenty lose their lives in there." Liu Da muttered softly,

Some took offense, saying, "Master Ma, can you avoid saying something ominous? It feels like we're rushing to our deaths."

"Alright, here's to our safe and smooth journey!" Liu Da said no more, leading the way out of the city.

Liu Da never delegated this task; he always took charge himself, as it was too dangerous, and he didn't trust anyone else.

Just after leaving the city gates, Ye Fan saw those young people from the Gu family again, hastily riding their Xuan Beasts away. The herd of Xuan Beasts kicked up a cloud of dust, making those heading to the Primordial Ancient Mine glower.

"The Gu family is too arrogant; do they think this is their private paradise?"

"Shh, keep it down. Those are people from the Ancient Emperor Family; provoke them and it could bring disaster."

Among the departing group, a few glanced back, one smiling coldly, "Disaster comes from the mouth; manage your tongues."

With that, they didn't stop, rushing away.

"The damn Di Clan thinks it's so great? Isn't the Ling Family also a Di Clan? They were still scared silent by a little cultivator named Ye." someone grumbled, but only dared whisper after the group was gone.

Upon hearing this, Hu Fei and the others couldn't help but chuckle, glancing towards Ye Fan.

...

Ye Fan noticed that among these people, there was a young man named Huai Gu who was very calm, as if nothing had happened. This kind of composure was extraordinary.

Liu Da and his companions, seasoned as they were from spending half a lifetime in this area, led the group through twists and turns, successfully circumventing the blockade zones of the major Holy Lands and Di Clan, and entered via a secret passage.

The group walked and stopped intermittently, traveling through vast uninhabited areas over several days, crossing boundless deserts, until Liu Da brought them to the outskirts of the Primordial Ancient Mine.

Here, they were less than a thousand miles from the edge of the so-called Primordial Ancient Mine. They had reached the legendary Forbidden Zone of Life.

"You can only advance another five hundred miles, otherwise, you'll be in danger. You must control yourselves, don't act on impulse, and especially don't speak recklessly. Talking recklessly here can be deadly," Liu Da cautioned solemnly.

In this place, there's nothing. The ground is blood-red, as if soaked with fresh blood. It's been like this since ancient times, with desolation as the eternal theme. Gravel covers the ground, and the occasional stone mountain is as red as blood, as silent as a tombstone.

"This is truly a godforsaken place. You can't even see a ghost, let alone any living thing!" someone exclaimed.

"Don't speak recklessly!" Liu Da reprimanded them harshly.

"Is it necessary? There's nothing here, what's the harm in saying a few words? Are ghosts really going to come out and eat us?" A young man voiced his dissatisfaction, thinking they were being overly cautious.

"Get lost. Here's your Spirit Stone, don't follow us anymore. I don't want everyone to die because of you!" Liu Da took out a hundred pounds of Mid-Grade Spirit Stone and threw it at the young man, showing his firm resolve.

"What do you mean?"

The young man's face changed dramatically. Remembering the terrifying legends about the Primordial Ancient Mine, he was no longer calm.

"I've made myself very clear. Our group doesn't need a troublemaker like you. We're already inside, so you can go on your adventure alone!" Liu Da's tone was hard, leaving no room for negotiation.

"Come on, let's cool down. We're almost at our destination, let's all say a little less," someone nearby advised.

Liu Da said coldly, "I'm doing this for your own good. Speaking recklessly in this area can be deadly."

"Is it really that serious?" The nearby people were skeptical.

Liu Da let out a cold snort and said, "Two years ago, because someone in the group spoke recklessly, it caused a disaster. In the end, only three others and I survived out of more than twenty people."

Ye Fan understood that Liu Da was speaking the truth, because in such places, unexplained and ominous occurrences could happen, otherwise, it wouldn't be called the Forbidden Zone of Life.

A vast and desolate land extended as far as the eye could see, entirely crimson, with no end in sight. Occasionally, dust storms arose, giving an extraordinarily barren impression, with no signs of life whatsoever.

Everyone exchanged glances, all startled by what Liu Da had just said.

The young man who just spoke clearly didn't believe it and sneered, "We are all cultivators, are we really afraid of demons and ghosts? I believe, as long as we don't go deeper into the Forbidden Zone of Life, nothing bad will happen outside."

"Get lost! Otherwise, I'll kill you to prevent you from leading everyone into danger." Liu Da's murderous aura surged, directly throwing Spirit Stones at the young man.

"Alright, everyone, stop speaking recklessly. Let's continue forward," someone placated.

"Alright, I admit I was wrong. Is it okay if I don't speak anymore?" The young man felt a chill upon seeing Liu Da's intent to kill.

"Remember, no one is allowed to speak recklessly!"

Liu Da's face was grim as he especially warned that young man, "If you dare speak recklessly again, I'll be the first to eliminate you."

"You're being too tyrannical! We're hiring you as a guide, not to be lectured by you," the young man retorted angrily.

"Fine, everyone just say less!"

Hu Fei stepped in to mediate. Being from the Northern Domain, he understood more about the ominous nature of the Primordial Ancient Mine than most and naturally knew better than to speak recklessly.

Liu Da let out a heavy humph and distanced himself from the young man, avoiding him like the plague and refusing to walk alongside him.

"Ye Zi, Wild Man, Second Brother, make sure to stay close to this old man, and don't make any mistakes," Hu Fei transmitted to Ye Fan and his companions.

Without his reminder, Ye Fan and the others naturally knew to stay close behind Liu Da, keeping a distance from the young man who spoke recklessly.

He came to search for the traces of the first-generation Earth Master, not to court death. Staying with that indiscreet young man would only eventually lead to bad luck.

At this time, he noticed that the young man named Huai Gu also stayed close to Liu Da, consciously or unconsciously distancing himself from the young man arguing with Liu Da.