

I Have An Infinite Cultivation Resource

Chapter 117: The Mount Shu Market and the Jade Pool Fairy

Unlike spiritual sense, which is activated through spiritual energy, bone tempering created a strange resonance between the body and nature itself.

Lu You slowly stepped out of the weapon-forging room, adapting to the changes in his body.

Now, in his eyes, the grass beneath his feet was no longer a monotonous shade of green. Instead, it was composed of countless tiny particles that embodied the color of life. The sky was no longer simply blue, but a vast canvas woven together by innumerable microscopic currents of air.

As he walked down the stone steps, Lu You could clearly hear the whispers of wind brushing against dust. Even his sense of touch had transformed. He could perceive the subtle vibrations of the ground beneath every step and the circulation of air with every breath he took.

This perception was not limited to his own body.

Centered on Lu You, everything within a radius of nearly a thousand meters fell within his awareness. If he focused, he could extend that range even farther.

At this moment, Zeng Kehan's gaze from behind him felt like two blazing headlights shining directly into his face. Lu You could not only sense every movement Zeng Kehan made, but without even turning around, he could clearly make out the outline of his appearance.

‘No... I need to gradually learn to control the range of this perception. Otherwise, all this information will interfere with meditation and cultivation.’

While keeping track of Zeng Kehan behind him, Lu You headed toward the largest marketplace in Chang'an City.

There was no need to ask for directions. With his heightened perception, he could accurately pick out the sounds of merchants shouting, customers bargaining, and vendors introducing their wares from within the city's noisy bustle.

‘This kid walks around like he knows the place. Has he been to Mount Shu before?’

Following behind Lu You, Zeng Kehan looked utterly bewildered.

‘A mere Foundation Establishment cultivator... How could he possibly have visited Chang'an City before? Then how is he heading straight for the market without hesitation?’

Smacking his lips thoughtfully, Zeng Kehan hesitated.

‘Could it be... my daughter's judgment really is better than mine? Does this Lu You possess some extraordinary talent?’

He had already watched Lu You draw a Light Talisman with astonishing skill, and had heard his remark about comparing oneself only to yesterday's self.

Now, watching Lu You's footsteps, Zeng Kehan sensed a mysterious rhythm—a harmony with nature that he himself had only comprehended

after reaching the Nascent Soul realm. It was precisely through understanding that natural Dao that he had learned to conceal his aura and create his invisibility technique.

'If only this kid didn't have so many strange fetishes...'

Zeng Kehan sighed regretfully.

Even if Lu You had already entered the Nascent Soul realm, let alone merely sensed Nascent Soul-level Dao rhythms, Zeng Kehan still couldn't accept having such a perverted fellow as his future son-in-law.

Lu You was equally puzzled.

Thanks to his powerful perception, he had already discovered that Zeng Kehan was following him.

The old man's emotions shifted constantly—one moment filled with eager anticipation, the next grinding his teeth in frustration. Yet throughout it all, his gaze remained fixed on Lu You.

Every one of those emotional changes originated because of him.

"Hey there, young hero! First time in Chang'an City, isn't it? Come take a look at my stall! I've got nothing but the finest goods!"

A cultivator dressed in a flashy floral sword robe had been squatting by the roadside, carefully sizing up every passerby.

The moment he noticed that Lu You's clothing bore no sect insignia, he sprang to his feet and rushed over, wrapping both arms around Lu You's arm.

Within Chang'an City, everyone was forbidden from using spiritual energy.

The cultivator's body was packed with muscles, and once he latched onto someone, an ordinary person had no hope of breaking free.

"Young hero, come check out my stall! I guarantee you won't be disappointed!"

Without waiting for a response, he began dragging Lu You toward his shop.

This trick had served him well countless times before.

By relying on brute force to drag newcomers into his stall and then pestering them relentlessly with sales pitches, refusing to let them leave unless they bought something, he made a fortune. Most people preferred avoiding trouble and would simply purchase a few inexpensive items before leaving.

With the ongoing sect tournament, Chang'an City was flooded with first-time visitors, making the scheme even more profitable than usual.

The floral sword robe cultivator gave Lu You a powerful tug.

Then he froze.

Despite all his strength, Lu You didn't budge an inch.

Unwilling to believe it, he pulled even harder.

It felt as though he were trying to drag an entire mountain.

The tendons around his arm joints screamed in pain from the strain, yet Lu You remained perfectly motionless.

"So..."

Lu You smiled faintly.

"Are the goods in your shop truly worth the price?"

He casually grabbed the cultivator's arm in return.

Without using even a trace of spiritual energy, Lu You's physical body alone now possessed strength comparable to the peak of the Golden Core realm.

The instant his fingers tightened, the floral sword robe cultivator felt as though every bone in his body were about to shatter.

In the next moment, it seemed as if Lu You could crush him to death with a single squeeze.

"Im-Immortal Sir... the goods in my little shop... they're certainly not suitable for someone as distinguished as you."

The floral sword robe cultivator's face was twisted together in pain.

"Only *not suitable*?"

Lu You made no move to release him. Instead, he tightened his grip by another degree.

"AAAH!"

With a miserable cry, the floral sword robe cultivator collapsed to his knees with a thud, his entire body trembling violently as though every muscle had cramped.

"Immortal Sir, I know I was wrong! I admit it! Everything I sell is flashy junk—cheap goods passed off as quality merchandise! It's all fake, all meant to trick people! I swear I'll never sell them again! Please show mercy!"

Only then did Lu You nod in satisfaction and release him.

He then took out the eavesdropping artifact he had copied from Han Tian.

After the incident in the Deep Literary Pavilion's secret realm, Lu You had erased all of its previous recordings and repurposed it as a simple recorder.

He replayed the floral sword robe cultivator's confession before saying,

"Behave yourself. Otherwise, I'll hand this evidence over to the law enforcement cultivators of Chang'an City."

. . .

'The kid still has a strong sense of justice.'

Watching from afar, Zeng Kehan nodded inwardly.

'He's got a bit of that carefree sword immortal spirit—rewarding virtue and punishing evil without hesitation. No wonder he gets along so well with Zeng Yan.'

After seeing Lu You finish teaching the scammer a lesson and enter Chang'an City's largest marketplace, Zeng Kehan hurried after him, afraid of losing sight of him.

The moment Lu You disappeared, however, the floral sword robe cultivator spat viciously at his departing figure.

"Idiot! Who the hell needs you telling me what to do? Report me to the Chang'an City law enforcement? Do you have any idea how much rent I pay every year? If I don't scam people, where am I supposed to make my money?"

He hadn't taken Lu You's warning seriously in the slightest.

Just then, he spotted Zeng Kehan approaching.

Instantly, the cultivator plastered another bright smile across his face.

"Immortal Sir! Perfect timing! Come take a look at my stall! I just acquired an artifact that's waiting for its destined owner!"

With a single bound, he threw himself forward and wrapped both arms around Zeng Kehan.

'Hm?'

Zeng Kehan smiled disdainfully.

'You couldn't even drag away a Foundation Establishment brat like Lu You, and you think this trick will work on me?'

'Back in my day, I was a Nascent Soul cultivator. Even though I'm injured now, I'm still comparable to a peak Golden Core cultivator. I've got countless trump cards—even Nascent Soul cultivators could fall victim if they're careless.'

'How could a little cultivator like you possibly take advantage of me?'

Thinking this, Zeng Kehan rooted his feet to the ground.

With a flick of his arm, he grabbed the floral sword robe cultivator's wrist and imitated Lu You's earlier move, squeezing his palm.

The next second—

"Eh?! Eh?! Hey! Hey! Hey!"

Zeng Kehan stumbled violently.

Before he could react, the floral sword robe cultivator dragged him along at a full sprint.

Step after hurried step, Zeng Kehan was hauled helplessly straight into the shop.

'Damn it!'

'This guy is actually a Foundation Establishment body cultivator! And spiritual energy is forbidden inside Chang'an City!'

Held tightly by the cultivator, Zeng Kehan couldn't run away, nor could he fight back.

Body cultivation was a path many cultivators with poor spiritual roots took out of necessity, focusing entirely on strengthening the flesh.

Their cultivation generally peaked at the Golden Core realm, and their lifespan was only about one-third that of an ordinary Golden Core cultivator.

In actual combat, they were far weaker than orthodox cultivators.

After all, no matter how tough a body cultivator became, flesh could never compare to an artifact.

A Golden Core cultivator flying on a sword could simply send out a flying blade and slice a body cultivator clean in half.

But...

Inside Chang'an City, spiritual energy was forbidden.

The body cultivator wasn't trying to attack anyone.

He was simply clinging to his target like glue and refusing to let go.

Against such shameless tactics, Zeng Kehan had absolutely no answer.

"Don't touch me! Stop grabbing me! Fine! I'll buy something! I'll buy it, alright? What kind of disgraceful behavior is all this pulling and tugging?"

Red-faced with frustration, Zeng Kehan had no choice but to surrender.

He grudgingly paid for two of Chang'an City's specialty talismans—a Rain-Calling Talisman and a Wind Talisman.

There was nothing different about these "exclusive" talismans compared to ordinary ones.

The only distinction was that the talisman paper was brightly colored and had the words Chang'an printed on it.

For that alone, the merchant fleeced him for one hundred spirit stones.

"When did Mount Shu become such a ridiculous place?"

Adjusting his bamboo hat, Zeng Kehan hurriedly escaped from the shop and chased after Lu You down the main street.

His favorable impression of Mount Shu had noticeably diminished because of this aggressive sales tactic.

From the perspective of Mount Shu's upper management, this kind of dishonest business practice should have been easy to supervise and correct.

Yet Mount Shu seemed completely indifferent to it.

Fortunately, Lu You hadn't gone far.

He had stopped in front of a spiritual herb shop.

Compared with the street-side scammers, the herb shop was magnificent and imposing, with luxurious decorations and the appearance of a proper, respectable establishment.

"Chang'an City actually sells rare medicinal herbs?"

Lu You was astonished.

Inside the magnificent herb shop, all kinds of medicinal plants were on display. There were even signs advertising 1,000-year-old Lingzhi and 3,000-year-old Fo-ti (He Shou Wu).

Although they weren't as precious as spirit liquid or similar treasures, herbs with such long growth periods were still extremely rare. More importantly, they were much easier to sell.

He couldn't openly sell the lotus seeds, spirit liquid, or serpent eggs.

But if he copied a few Lingzhi mushrooms or He Shou Wu roots, he could easily trade them for spirit stones.

"How much is this three-thousand-year-old He Shou Wu?"

Seeing no price tag, Lu You asked directly.

"Honored customer, are you an alchemist?" the apprentice asked while lifting the He Shou Wu with gloved hands. "Are you buying just this herb, or are you purchasing a complete prescription?"

"I'm not an alchemist. I only need the He Shou Wu."

"I see. The He Shou Wu is only two hundred spirit stones."

The apprentice held it out for Lu You to examine.

'Only two hundred spirit stones?'

Lu You was surprised.

This was his first time buying medicinal herbs, so he had no idea what they normally cost. Worried that the apprentice might be deceiving him, he gently placed a finger on the herb.

With his enhanced five senses, Lu You could easily perceive the vitality contained within the He Shou Wu.

Moreover, the knowledgeable Evil Eye was silently evaluating it as well.

After only a brief touch, Lu You confirmed that the herb was genuine.

"Alright, I'll take this one."

He retrieved two hundred spirit stones from his storage ring and handed them to the apprentice.

This was Mount Shu, where nobody knew anyone else, so there was no concern about appearing wealthy.

"Certainly, honored customer. I'll wrap it up for you."

The apprentice took out a talisman paper, wrapped the He Shou Wu inside, and handed the package over.

"Wait."

The moment Lu You accepted the package, he immediately placed it back on the counter and unwrapped it.

Inside was another He Shou Wu.

It looked exactly the same as the one he had just inspected.

But Lu You could clearly sense that the vitality contained within it was at least several thousand times weaker.

"This isn't the one I selected."

He grabbed the apprentice by the arm before the latter could react.

"Give me the herb I paid for."

Only then did Lu You realize why the apprentice had asked whether he was an alchemist.

It had been a test.

If Lu You had been an alchemist capable of identifying medicinal herbs, they wouldn't have dared switch the goods.

"What are you doing?!"

The apprentice was surprised, but not frightened in the least.

"This is Chang'an City of Mount Shu!"

Standing behind the counter, he immediately began shouting at the top of his lungs.

"Help! Help! An outsider is attacking people!"

The cry instantly attracted everyone nearby.

People poured in from the street, surrounding Lu You from all sides.

"Hey! Which sect are you from? Let him go!"

"Another cultivator from some tiny sect. Seriously, why do those little sects even come here? They're the ones ruining Chang'an City."

"Exactly. Just seeing people from small sects makes me sick. They have no manners at all, and they're the reason prices in Chang'an City keep rising."

Listening to the accusations, Lu You swept his gaze across the crowd.

He recognized many of these people.

Earlier, they had been wandering around outside the herb shop without actually buying anything.

At the time, he hadn't understood why.

Now it was obvious.

They were all hired skills working for the shop.

Not only did they create the illusion of endless customers, but the moment trouble occurred, they immediately stirred up public opinion, turning everyone against the outsider without bothering to determine who was actually right or wrong.

Still gripping the apprentice firmly, Lu You spoke calmly.

"This man switched out the He Shou Wu I purchased."

"I'm only asking for an explanation."

"I want him to return the herb that belongs to me."

"If you have something to say, then talk. Let him go first."

"Yeah. Stop pretending to be righteous. If spiritual energy weren't forbidden in Chang'an City, I'd slap you to death with one hand."

Several people suddenly surged forward.

On the surface, they appeared to be trying to separate the two.

In reality, every one of them reached toward Lu You.

The next moment, Lu You casually turned sideways as though by accident and lightly bumped into them.

The tremendous strength of his physical body erupted instantly.

"Agh!"

"Ow!"

The cultivators stumbled one after another, tripping over each other like a collapsing line of dominoes until they were sprawled across the ground.

"The outsider is attacking people!"

"The outsider is attacking people!"

Still trapped in Lu You's grasp, the apprentice immediately began shouting again.

The cultivators lying on the ground also cried out dramatically, groaning in pain without making any attempt to stand up.

"Fellow cultivator, please release him first."

A cool, clear voice suddenly rang out from behind the crowd.

The gathered spectators immediately parted, opening a path.

A young woman dressed in flowing pink robes walked forward, accompanied by several female guards carrying longswords on their backs.

"This is Mount Shu. Regardless of what has happened, I advise everyone not to cause trouble."

The young woman in pink robes spoke in a calm, melodious voice.

She possessed an ethereal, almost otherworldly grace.

The female guards accompanying her immediately split into two groups.

One group moved to push the crowd back, preventing anyone from approaching the young woman.

The other advanced toward Lu You, attempting to separate him from the apprentice.

"It's the Jade Pool Fairy, Xiao Yue!"

"Wow... Jade Pool Sect really lives up to its reputation. It's full of beautiful female cultivators. Even the female guards are this gorgeous."

The Jade Pool Sect stood alongside Mount Shu as one of the world's greatest cultivation sects.

In terms of combat strength, the Jade Pool Sect was somewhat inferior to Mount Shu.

However, the Jade Pool Sect accepted only female cultivators, and only those of exceptional beauty.

Furthermore, the sect cultivated an extraordinarily unique set of cultivation techniques.

Every time a Jade Pool Sect disciple advanced to a new realm, not only did her cultivation improve, but her appearance became even more beautiful as well.

As a result, the stronger a Jade Pool Sect cultivator became, the more breathtaking her beauty grew.

It was said that the Sect Master of the Jade Pool Sect, already a Tribulation Transcendence cultivator, was the most beautiful woman in the world.

Numerous sect masters wished to become her Dao companion.

In fact, several sect leaders had even fought one another over her.

Nor was it only the Jade Pool Sect Master.

The sect's Venerables and elders all had countless admirers.

Because of this, the Jade Pool Sect's influence actually surpassed Mount Shu's.

If men had been allowed to join the sect, the Jade Pool Sect would likely have long since eclipsed Mount Shu as the number one sect under heaven.

Jade Pool Fairy was a title bestowed upon the most outstanding members of Jade Pool Sect's younger generation.

Among them, Xiao Yue ranked near the very top.

After all, she had broken through to the Golden Core realm at only twenty-one years old.

Seeing that Lu You still hadn't released the apprentice even after she had arrived, Xiao Yue frowned slightly.

"Fellow cultivator," she said, "with me here, I will absolutely ensure that justice is done."

"Please release him first."

"Then simply tell me what happened, and I will hear your side of the matter."