

I Have An Infinite Cultivation Resource

Chapter 124: He Was a Fellow Disciple First—Only Then Was He My Love Rival

Hand in hand, Zeng Yan and Lu You stepped into the Heavenly Opportunity Realm. The moment they passed through the enormous gate that stood between heaven and earth, they discovered that the other had already disappeared.

"There wasn't even any dizzying sensation."

The instant he entered the secret realm, Lu You took the meteor hammer from his storage ring. Seeing that Zeng Yan was no longer beside him, he wasn't particularly surprised.

The Heavenly Opportunity Realm emphasized fate above all else. Everyone had their own destiny to encounter here. If people could form parties so easily, then how would they divide the opportunities they came across?

Unlike the secret realms he had explored before, this one was covered in dense forests. Every tree towered into the heavens.

They truly reached into the clouds. Each massive trunk measured over ten meters in diameter, standing shoulder to shoulder like an impenetrable wall of bronze. Their height was even more astonishing—each tree was taller than Mount Shu's main peak. Looking upward, Lu You could only see the branches piercing through layers of white clouds. As for the canopy, even

with his eyesight, it appeared as nothing more than a tiny black dot. He couldn't make out its full shape at all.

"The cultivation world really is full of mysteries. Did I somehow arrive in the Land of Giants?"

He couldn't help but complain.

Extending his senses, Lu You found that the perception range which normally covered a thousand meters had been compressed to barely a hundred. The towering trees were like gigantic signal jammers. Not only was his perception greatly weakened, but even his spiritual energy was being suppressed.

He swung his meteor hammer, channeling only spiritual energy into it instead of relying on his physical strength, and smashed it against one of the giant trees.

Bang!

The trunk only received a shallow dent.

Despite being at the Foundation Establishment realm, Lu You hadn't even managed to crack a piece of bark.

"What kind of place is this?"

This time he stopped holding back.

Spiritual energy and physical strength erupted together.

Boom!

The meteor hammer buried itself deeply into the trunk.

Before Lu You could pull it back out, the tree began growing at an astonishing speed. The damaged section regenerated instantly, swallowing the hammer into the wood until only the iron chain remained exposed.

His eyelids twitched.

Cautiously, he scanned his surroundings. Seeing that attacking the tree hadn't triggered any retaliation or other changes, he finally relaxed.

Taking out the replica Manifestation Compass from his storage ring, he quickly discovered that the magical artifact was also restricted within the secret realm. The compass displayed only a single red dot—his own.

"The compass's range must have been reduced by the secret realm. Senior Sister is probably too far away for it to detect."

He then took out a communication talisman and recorded a message.

"Senior Sister, don't reply with a communication talisman. Just listen to my message."

After recording it, he activated the talisman.

Fortunately, communication talismans were affected differently from the compass. Although their transmission speed had slowed considerably under the secret realm's suppression, Lu You could still sense that the message had successfully been sent.

Elsewhere, Zeng Yan gripped her sword tightly as she cautiously observed the bizarre sea before her.

It was called bizarre because the entire sea was covered with lotus flowers.

Every lotus blossom had been enlarged tens of thousands of times, each resembling a floating mountain upon the water. The lotus leaves were like islands, connected one after another across the vast surface.

"...This should actually be a pond."

Zeng Yan muttered to herself.

Her guard rose immediately, worried that an equally gigantic frog might suddenly leap out of the pond and swallow her whole in a single bite.

The next moment, she felt a vibration at her fingertips.

Opening her storage ring, she discovered that it was a message from Lu You.

"Oh no... Junior Brother actually used his communication talisman this early."

Her heart tightened.

The moment she had entered the secret realm, she too had taken out her Manifestation Compass, only to discover that her spiritual energy was being suppressed and the compass could no longer locate Lu You.

Since they each had only one communication talisman left, Zeng Yan had assumed Lu You would think the same way she did—that it should be saved and only used in a truly critical moment.

Zeng Yan glanced at the message on the communication talisman and felt an even bigger headache.

Communication talismans were always crafted in matched pairs, allowing messages to be sent directly between the two linked talismans. By using the paired talisman to send such a practically useless message, Lu You had effectively cut off any chance of further communication. Even if he still had more communication talismans, none of them would be able to contact her.

Just as Zeng Yan was worrying over this, another message suddenly arrived.

"Senior Sister, I'm currently in a forest where every tree is as tall as the sky. It should be very easy to spot. If you're nearby, wait while I figure out a way to send you a signal. If you're not, refine all of the serpent eggs first. Once you've ensured your safety, head toward the forest."

How did Lu You send me a second message?

The moment she received it, Zeng Yan immediately thought of Lu You's extraordinary talent in Talisman Dao.

"If this communication talisman that allows repeated conversations was really developed by Junior Brother, then this talisman alone would earn him an immortal place in cultivation history."

In Zeng Yan's eyes, the stronger Lu You became, the better.

As for where his opportunities had come from, she didn't care in the slightest. She even smiled lightly at the thought that Lu You had never told her about this.

"Fortunately, Junior Brother is cautious. He didn't publicize it after developing it. Otherwise, even if I asked Zeng Kehan for help, we still wouldn't be able to protect him or this talisman. When we meet again, I must remind him that this talisman can only be used this once. Until he reaches the Divine Transformation realm, he absolutely must not reveal it to the world."

Trees as tall as the sky...

After thinking for a moment, Zeng Yan suddenly leaped onto a gigantic lotus leaf.

She pointed her sword at a lotus stalk, using it as a springboard to vault even higher, landing on another lotus leaf. Repeating the process dozens of times, she finally reached the top of a lotus flower.

Looking into the distance, all she could see was an endless sea of lotus blossoms and the flowing water between them.

"If the trees really are as tall as the sky, then according to Lu You's description, we should both be inside the same secret realm. Everything here has simply been magnified tens of thousands of times."

Using her Sword Flight Technique, she sent her flying sword circling through the sky.

After confirming that it wasn't attacked, she stepped onto it and flew even higher to extend her field of vision.

The suppression of the secret realm greatly increased the sword's energy consumption, and an invisible force also limited how high she could fly.

Even so, she noticed something unusual.

Apart from the boundless sea of lotus flowers, the horizon behind her was nothing but water meeting the sky—there wasn't a single tree in sight.

Yet at the far end ahead lay a vast wall of darkness, so black that not even a trace of light could be seen.

After staring at that terrifying darkness for a while, Zeng Yan descended back onto a lotus leaf.

"If I'm not mistaken, that darkness must be the forest Junior Brother mentioned. Those towering trees really are as tall as the heavens, enough to block out all the light."

After a brief moment of thought, she did not head toward the darkness.

Instead, she found a concave lotus leaf to hide inside, took out the serpent eggs, swallowed one, and began refining it.

Under normal circumstances, seeing such a wondrous place, Zeng Yan would have thought only of searching for her own destined opportunity in this fairyland.

But after Lu You's warning, the bizarre world around her no longer seemed enchanting.

Instead, it filled her with an overwhelming sense of pressure.

Still within the lotus pond, Bai Zihua carefully observed his surroundings.

After confirming there was no immediate danger, he took out the Manifestation Compass.

To his surprise, the compass displayed only a single red dot.

"Why is there only one?"

After pondering for a moment, realization suddenly dawned on him.

"Could it be that the secret realm is suppressing the Manifestation Compass, so it can only detect people who are close to me?"

Could that red dot be Zeng Yan?

Bai Zihua's heart surged with excitement.

However, the lone red dot only proved that either Lu You or Zeng Yan was nearby.

It didn't tell him exactly where.

To determine the precise direction, he would have to infuse the compass with his own spiritual energy, allowing it to compare their positions and point him toward the target.

"...Forget it."

"If Zeng Yan discovers the trick hidden inside the compass, she'll definitely be disgusted with me."

"As long as I know roughly how far away they are, that's enough. I can simply 'coincidentally' run into them."

Bai Zihua continuously hopped from one lotus leaf to another.

Whenever the red dot on the compass began to fade—indicating he was moving out of range—he immediately turned back.

After repeating this several times, he successfully determined the other person's direction.

"I'll just stay within this general area and follow them for now. If that person is Junior Sister Zeng Yan, and she runs into me before she meets Lu You, she'll only refuse to team up with me. But once she reunites with Lu You, she'll agree to let a Golden Core cultivator like me join them—for Lu You's safety if nothing else."

Bai Zihua clenched his fist.

"As long as I can stay by Junior Sister's side, I'm willing to protect Lu You."

After observing the compass for quite a while and seeing that the red dot hadn't moved, Bai Zihua finally relaxed and began inspecting his surroundings.

Looking at the enormous lotus flowers and lotus leaves as large as islands, his eyes shone with excitement.

"As expected of the Heavenly Opportunity Realm! There must be a true immortal opportunity here!"

"Even ordinary lotus flowers have grown to this size. If there are spiritual fruits, spirit stones, or spirit liquid, what kind of spectacle would they become?"

His heart burned with anticipation.

"I understand now! The Sword God of Mount Shu must have obtained some heavenly treasure here—perhaps even one magnified tens of thousands of times. That's how he became a True Immortal!"

Drawing his sword, Bai Zihua made an experimental slash across a lotus leaf.

The next instant, the leaf split open.

It was like opening a spring beneath the earth. A large amount of sap gushed from the cut, filling the air with a faint sweetness.

However, the flow didn't last long.

In the blink of an eye, the wound healed completely, and the sword mark disappeared without a trace.

"If this lotus weren't completely devoid of spiritual energy, it would probably count as a heavenly treasure."

Looking at the remaining sap, Bai Zihua touched it lightly with the tip of his treasured sword.

Sizzle!

The treasured artifact instantly grew scorching hot, accompanied by a harsh hissing sound of corrosion.

By the time Bai Zihua forced the sap away with his spiritual energy, the tip of his treasured sword had already been corroded away.

He gasped.

A chill ran down his spine.

It wasn't just the lotus itself that had been enlarged tens of thousands of times.

Everything contained within it had also been amplified by the same amount.

Outside the Heavenly Opportunity Realm, lotus sap was nothing more than ordinary plant juice.

But after being magnified tens of thousands of times inside this realm, it had become a powerful acid that ordinary people couldn't even touch.

"So... this is the danger of the Heavenly Opportunity Realm?"

Bai Zihua instinctively stepped backward, a shadow falling over his heart.

Sure enough, immortal opportunities were never so easy to obtain.

Even if one truly discovered a treasure, after being strengthened tens of thousands of times... would it still be safe to consume?

"It seems that even if I obtain some treasure, I can't use it recklessly. I'd better bring it back and let Grandfather study it first."

As that thought crossed his mind, Bai Zihua suddenly froze.

His scalp tingled.

"No... this can't be right."

"Things like these are everywhere in this world. So why has no one in the Verdant Cloud Sect ever mentioned them?"

"The sect tournament is held once every hundred years. How could there have been absolutely no information passed down?"

"Even if ordinary disciples weren't allowed to know such secrets... why don't I know either?"

Bai Zihua was the grandson of a Nascent Soul Venerable.

He couldn't believe that if his grandfather had known about the Heavenly Opportunity Realm, he wouldn't have told him.

But if even his grandfather didn't know...

Then what exactly had happened inside this secret realm that caused every disciple who entered to keep completely silent?

"No. I need to find a way to contact the disciples of the Verdant Cloud Sect. This Heavenly Opportunity Realm requires much more careful consideration."

He took out the Manifestation Compass once more, checked the direction of the red dot, summoned his flying sword, and weaved through the sea of lotus flowers toward it.

"Even if that red dot turns out to be Lu You, I still have to warn him."

"After all, he's a disciple of the Verdant Cloud Sect first... and only afterward my love rival."

Although Bai Zihua knew the direction indicated by the red dot, the Manifestation Compass covered an enormous area.

All he could tell was that the red dot was becoming clearer, confirming that he was heading the right way.

As for how far away it actually was, he had no means of calculating.

The Manifestation Compass functioned more like a map.

A single centimeter on the compass could very well represent millions of li in the real world.

With the Heavenly Opportunity Realm suppressing both his spiritual energy and the speed of his flying sword, Bai Zihua flew for about two hours before sensing that his spiritual energy was nearly exhausted.

He chose a spot to land, took a Qi-Nourishing Pill from his storage ring, and swallowed it.

After meditating to recover his strength, Bai Zihua glanced at the sky before summoning his flying sword once more.

"Time passes a little faster inside the Heavenly Opportunity Realm than it does outside. When we entered, it was around the Hour of You (5–7 p.m.), but inside the secret realm it's already the Hour of Xu (7–9 p.m.). The sun is about to set."

He opened his storage ring and took out a magical artifact containing an hourglass.

"The flow of time inside the secret realm may differ from the outside world. Fortunately, I brought a timekeeping artifact. No matter how time changes in here, I'll always know the time outside."

After comparing the two times, Bai Zihua looked at the rapidly darkening sky.

He accelerated toward the direction indicated by the Manifestation Compass, hoping to find either Zeng Yan or Lu You before nightfall.

He continued flying for a while longer.

Eventually, the sun disappeared completely below the horizon.

Bai Zihua reached into his storage ring again and took out a lantern.

It wasn't an artifact of the cultivation world, but an ordinary lamp used by mortals.

Its light came from a large luminous pearl serving as the lamp's core.

To cultivators, treasures like this from the mortal world were practically worthless. A single spirit stone or a bottle of medicinal pills could be exchanged for many of them from wealthy mortals.

Since the secret realm suppressed cultivation and Bai Zihua didn't want to waste spiritual energy on illumination, he chose to use this instead.

As the gentle glow of the luminous pearl spread through the darkness, Bai Zihua suddenly felt a violent sense of danger.

Without hesitation, he hurled the pearl far into the distance.

At the same instant, he controlled his flying sword and shot backward several hundred meters.

A vast curtain of darkness swept over the luminous pearl.

The night, which had only just gained a trace of light, was swallowed by darkness once more.

Croak!

A frog croaked in the darkness.