

I Have An Infinite Cultivation Resource

Chapter 113: Behind the Gauze Curtains, A Heart-to-Heart by the Bedside

Elder Han Tian said he was "just passing by."

Who would believe that?

The surrounding cultivators all looked at Lu You with envy. Everyone had seen Han Tian's friendly smile just now, but more importantly, the moment Han Tian saw the two female sword cultivators attacking Lu You, he decisively killed them on the spot.

Since his flying swords had reached their throats in time to pierce them, they could just as easily have severed their arms instead. It was obvious that Han Tian had deliberately killed them for Lu You's sake.

Just what kind of fortune had Lu You stumbled into?

The crowd clicked their tongues in disbelief, the more they thought about it, the more jealous they became.

Lu You was nothing more than a cultivator with mixed spiritual roots. Back when he worked in the spiritual fields, he had somehow become close to Zeng Yan, even charming her enough to borrow a precious treasured artifact for him. After entering the outer sect, everyone had assumed he'd never advance beyond the Foundation Establishment realm in his lifetime. Yet, for some inexplicable reason, he had been allowed to enter the secret realm with the Deep Literary Pavilion.

Inside the secret realm, every Golden Core and Foundation Establishment cultivator had died except Han Tian. Lu You, however, not only survived but even obtained a great opportunity, advancing from Qi Refinement to Foundation Establishment.

And now, even Han Tian—the sect's great hero—had personally traveled all this way to back him up.

As long as no Nascent Soul cultivator intervened, wouldn't Lu You practically be able to do whatever he pleased within the sect?

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Zeng Yan watched thoughtfully as Han Tian disappeared into the distance. Then she grabbed Lu You's hand and pulled him back to her room.

After closing the door, the warmth vanished from her face. She gripped his hand tightly.

"Even if you know Han Tian, you must never gamble with your life like that again. And don't ever hold me back like you did today. If Han Tian hadn't reacted in time, and I hadn't been able to free myself, wouldn't you have been killed?"

Lu You abruptly changed the subject.

"If I had died... would you have regretted not getting together with me sooner?"

Seeing the worry on Zeng Yan's face, he suddenly felt an overwhelming urge to steal a few kisses from her soft red lips.

But while holding onto his hand, Zeng Yan pressed her other hand against his chest, refusing to let him come any closer.

"You'd better remember this," she said calmly. "I won't waste my feelings on a dead man. As long as you're alive, maybe I'll let you take advantage of me a little. But if you die... then everything ends there."

"So that's how it is?" Lu You protested playfully. "I risked my life to help you trick those two into exposing themselves, and this is what I get?"

Allowing her hand to remain against his chest, he slipped an arm around her slender waist. With a gentle lift, he picked her up and set her atop the table before leaning in, finally wrapping her tightly in his embrace.

Unlike their first hug, this time Lu You held her firmly, pulling her completely against him until her chest rested against his.

From the side, with Zeng Yan seated on the table, her long legs naturally curled around his waist.

"You came all this way, and this is all that's on your mind?"

Zeng Yan couldn't help smiling. Resting her head on his shoulder, she felt his wandering hands beginning to misbehave.

She caught one of them, then guided it beneath the front of her robe and rested it gently against her lower abdomen, letting him feel the warmth there.

She could even hear the rapid pounding of his heartbeat.

"I can hear it," she teased softly. "Your heart is beating even faster than someone suffering from cultivation deviation. All you've done is touch me a little. Is that enough to make you this excited?"

"I want to hear your heartbeat too," Lu You replied eagerly.

His hand began to move upward, but Zeng Yan firmly held his wrist, preventing him from going any farther.

Slowly withdrawing his hand from inside her robe, she looked at him seriously.

"If you really want to hear my heartbeat, then next time you need to think about how I feel. If you ever risk your life like you did today again... then there won't be a next time."

"You behaved badly today, so this is as far as we go."

With that, she gave him a firm push and stepped lightly down from the table.

At that moment, Zeng Yan's expression had returned to its usual cool elegance. She looked as aloof and composed as ever, though her robe was now slightly disheveled.

Lu You stared blankly for a moment before smiling.

"Senior Sister... you're beautiful."

Zeng Yan rolled her eyes at Lu You.

"Stop staring. It's time to cultivate."

Leaving Lu You in the sitting room, she returned to her bedroom. Before long, she emerged carrying two meditation cushions, having changed into a different outfit. Though she was still wearing a white dress, this one had a slightly shorter hem, exposing her slender ankles. She wasn't wearing any shoes.

Barefoot, she tossed one of the cushions to Lu You before sitting down cross-legged herself. As her skirt settled, it covered everything once again.

Lu You swore he had never been so eager to cultivate in his life.

After laying out his cushion, he hurriedly sat down cross-legged as well. But after a moment's thought, he paused, opened his storage ring, and took out a longsword and a covered bowl.

"Senior Sister, your sword has already been reforged. And this bowl of lotus seed soup—I got up early this morning to make it especially for you. Give it a try."

After discovering the benefits the lotus seeds had on the body, Lu You had no intention of keeping them to himself. He had brought some spirit-infused lotus seed soup specifically for Zeng Yan.

"Senior Sister, since I brought the ancient map out of the secret realm, Venerable Wu Hao rewarded me with a lotus seed. It was too small for the two of us to eat directly, so I stewed it into soup instead. Hurry and try it—I still have plenty."

Afraid that Zeng Yan might refuse, Lu You took another bowl out of his storage ring, showing her there was no need to save any for him.

Zeng Yan deliberately uncovered both bowls and examined them with her spiritual sense. After confirming there was no difference between them, she picked up one bowl and took a gentle sip.

Her eyes immediately widened in surprise.

"This soup... it's actually richer in spiritual essence than the spirit liquid I gave you...."

Knowing she would certainly try to refuse, Lu You copied her by taking a sip himself. Then he closed his eyes and began cultivating, deliberately acting as though he would only drink as much as she did.

Helpless, Zeng Yan finished the entire bowl of lotus seed soup.

Only then did Lu You drink the rest of his own.

As spiritual energy surged through their bodies, the two of them closed their eyes almost simultaneously and entered a meditative state.

Instead of using the spiritual energy to increase his cultivation realm, Lu You's consciousness immediately arrived at the location of his spiritual root.

There, he used the power contained within the lotus seed soup to nourish the great tree that his spiritual root had become.

Unlike spirit stones, medicinal pills, or even the serpent egg, the lotus seed soup contained wood-element energy.

The spiritual root seemed especially delighted by it, absorbing it effortlessly.

The next moment, tender buds burst forth from the trunk, competing to sprout into fresh leaves that rapidly unfurled.

By the time all the spiritual energy within a bowl of lotus seed soup had been exhausted, half of Lu You's spiritual root tree had already turned lush green.

‘Excellent. The lotus seed soup is even more effective for my spiritual root than the spirit liquid or the serpent egg.’

After hearing Zeng Yan say that he had yet to discover his Dao, Lu You had begun trying to cultivate his own spiritual root, hoping it would eventually bear its very first Dao Fruit.

No matter how much he thought about it, he couldn't determine what his own Dao truly was or which path he ought to specialize in.

So he simply decided to let his spiritual root choose for him.

Whatever kind of Dao Fruit it ultimately produced—that would be the path whose techniques he would cultivate.

With a single thought, Lu You no longer needed to take out the bowl physically. The lotus seed soup flowed directly into his mouth under the guidance of his will.

Taking advantage of the natural affinity between the green lotus and his spiritual root, he nourished the tree at astonishing speed.

Watching leaf after leaf bloom upon the branches filled him with a profound sense of accomplishment, and he became completely absorbed in the process.

By the time he came back to his senses, nearly five hours had passed.

His spiritual root had become lush with dense branches and vibrant foliage.

And after every branch had become covered in leaves, the thickest branch finally produced a single flower bud.

Lush growth...

Then blossoms...

Then fruit.

Because Lu You and his spiritual root were connected in heart and mind, he instantly understood his progress.

As long as he continued nurturing that flower bud until it fully bloomed, he would obtain his very first Dao Fruit.

Lu You tried continuing to nourish his spiritual root with the lotus seed soup, but he soon sensed a faint feeling of saturation.

His spiritual root had already absorbed too much lotus seed energy. It had begun to resist further absorption, almost as if it had developed a kind of tolerance. The speed at which it absorbed and converted the energy had slowed dramatically compared to before.

'That's already good enough. Even if the pace has slowed, another few days of nurturing should be enough for the spiritual root to blossom. There's no need to rush.'

Satisfied with his progress, Lu You ended his meditation and opened his eyes.

Across from him, Zeng Yan was still sitting cross-legged, quietly looking him over with a pleased expression.

'Not bad. Now I can finally stop worrying.'

She genuinely let out a sigh of relief.

Lu You had been blessed with one fortunate opportunity after another. First, he had obtained the serpent egg, and then the lotus seed. Combined, those treasures contained enough spiritual energy for an ordinary cultivator to advance from Foundation Establishment all the way to the Golden Core realm.

What Zeng Yan had been worried about was Lu You's tendency to lose focus and become easily distracted.

But after seeing him calmly remain in meditation for five full hours without wavering, even her last lingering concern disappeared.

Seeing the relieved look on her face, Lu You immediately grinned and pounced toward her.

Reaching beneath the hem of her skirt, he gently grasped her ankle and placed her foot across his lap before massaging her foot and leg with both hands.

"Senior Sister, sitting cross-legged for so long must have been tiring. Let me give you a massage."

Zeng Yan was surprisingly generous.

She simply lifted her skirt and rested both of her jade-like legs across Lu You's knees, allowing him to busily massage them to his heart's content.

Then she teased him with a smile.

"I had originally planned to invite Junior Brother to look around another room. Who would've thought Junior Brother liked the sitting room so much?"

Lu You froze for a moment before suddenly understanding.

Without another word, he scooped Zeng Yan into his arms and hurried toward the bedroom.

Sure enough, the time Zeng Yan had spent in her room earlier hadn't been just to change dresses.

She had also prepared the bed.

Lu You gently placed her on it.

Her eyes curved into crescents as she smiled before slipping beneath the blanket and wrapping herself up like a rice dumpling.

"Thank you for escorting me to bed, Junior Brother. Now I'm going to sleep. You should head back."

"Huh?"

Unwilling to give up, Lu You immediately climbed onto the bed as well.

"Senior Sister, I'm tired too. I can't walk anymore. Let me rest here for a while."

He hugged the blanket-wrapped Zeng Yan and coaxed, "Let's just chat for a bit, alright?"

Zeng Yan pulled one hand out from under the blanket and pushed his face away.

"My mother once thought she'd 'just have a chat' with my father."

"And then she had me."

"I'm really just talking with you. I'm not lying."

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Lu You held her hand and lightly kissed it.

"Fine."

"I'll let you lie here for a while."

"Tomorrow we leave for the tournament. Rest a little longer, then go back and make your preparations."

"Cultivation isn't everything. Combat is just as important."

"Never think that your cultivation level alone determines victory. Timing, terrain, allies, karma, and even the interactions between the Five Elements all influence the outcome of a battle."

"This tournament isn't about rankings. It's about experience."

"Only if you prepare carefully will you have something to reflect upon after defeat. Then, when you someday face a true life-and-death battle, you won't panic."

After speaking, Zeng Yan unfolded the blanket and shared half of it with Lu You.

He immediately snuggled closer.

One hand held hers while the other rested on her leg.

Inside, he was overjoyed, but on the outside he asked in an entirely serious tone,

"I noticed your swordsmanship has improved again, Senior Sister. What stage of the Foundation Establishment realm are you at now? You're not about to break through to the Golden Core realm already, are you?"

"On the path of the sword," Zeng Yan replied softly, "the sword heart is more important than cultivation."

"Junior Brother first gave me the serpent egg, and today you shared the lotus seed soup with me."

"As far as cultivation is concerned, I no longer have any bottlenecks."

"What I still lack is a life-and-death battle to temper my sword heart."

"This sect tournament comes at exactly the right time."

"I'll get to witness the geniuses from every sect."

Her gaze grew deep and distant.

"They say that all the greatest sword cultivators under heaven come from Mount Shu."

"This trip is the perfect opportunity to see just how sharp the swords of Mount Shu truly are."

Lu You understood exactly what she meant.

With the abundance of cultivation resources she had received, Zeng Yan was already capable of breaking through.

She was deliberately suppressing her cultivation, waiting to unleash all of her accumulated potential in a single exhilarating battle before making her breakthrough.

After doing a quick calculation, Lu You couldn't help asking,

"Senior Sister... what kind of spiritual root do you actually have?"

He had consumed far more cultivation resources than Zeng Yan had.

Even if she had already found her own Dao, there was no way she should be so much further ahead than he was.

Zeng Yan didn't answer. Instead, she suddenly turned over to face Lu You directly.

With a quick movement, she squeezed his wandering hand firmly between her legs.

"That's enough, Junior Brother. No farther than that."

Lu You gave an awkward laugh. He had been so absorbed in chatting with Zeng Yan that he'd forgotten to keep his hands under control.

Seeing the lingering reluctance on his face, Zeng Yan raised a leg and gently pushed him out from under the blanket.

"Alright, time to go back. I already told you how important the tournament is. Hurry back and make your preparations."

After thinking for a moment, she added encouragingly,

"If you perform well in the tournament... I'll secretly come watch you."

Lu You and Zeng Yan belonged to different mountain peaks. They would be traveling to the tournament with different groups, and as a man and woman, they couldn't conveniently spend time together.

Her words immediately brightened Lu You's mood.

Even without using the Evil Eye, his physical strength alone was already comparable to a Golden Core cultivator, and his defensive abilities were arguably even stronger. He wasn't particularly concerned about matches against Foundation Establishment cultivators.

He was actually becoming curious about what the geniuses from the other sects could possibly use to compete against him.

"Senior Sister, see you tomorrow."

Before leaving, Lu You mischievously gave her leg one last squeeze, then hurried out of the room.

Zeng Yan rolled her eyes at his antics.

After he left, she casually beckoned with one hand.

The bedroom door shut and locked itself.

At the same time, the longsword Lu You had left on the table floated through the air and landed gently in her hand.

She lightly flicked the blade with a finger before closing her eyes and beginning to nourish it with her spiritual energy.

Ordinary flying swords required a sword core as their foundation, but treasured artifact grade weapons were much more convenient. Their superior materials made them considerably easier to nurture.

"...This was forged by Tang Long?"

Zeng Yan suddenly opened her eyes in surprise.

The sword had completely exceeded her expectations.

Even without her controlling it, the blade naturally contained an enormous amount of spiritual energy. It had already surpassed the level of an ordinary treasured artifact and possessed effects comparable to a magical artifact.

Yet after examining it carefully, she couldn't detect a single formation engraved within the blade.

"So that's why Junior Brother insisted on retrieving the sword himself..."

She quickly realized what had happened.

She had personally seen the forging materials that day, and they were nowhere near sufficient to create a magical artifact.

If Tang Long truly possessed the ability to forge a treasured artifact into a magical artifact, he wouldn't have struggled to find clients in the first place.

That could only mean one thing.

After she had left, Lu You must have secretly added some extremely precious material to the forging process.

Her fingers gently brushed across her storage ring.

She thought to herself,

If Lu You's cultivation progresses slowly, then I'll save these serpent eggs for him to use.

But if he continues improving every day... then after the tournament, I'll return home with him.

I'll give the remaining nine serpent eggs to Dad as a shut-up bribe.

And while I'm there... I'll also tell him to give up any thoughts of sending me to Mount Shu.

In this lifetime... I've already decided to stay by Lu You's side.