

I Have An Infinite Cultivation Resource

Chapter 123: People Only Remember the Benefits, Never the Lessons

"It's actually the Heavenly Opportunity Realm! We only got the chance to enter because of Elder Han Tian."

"And Senior Brother Lu You too! Thanks to Senior Brother Lu You's iron chain."

The disciples of Verdant Cloud Sect were filled with excitement. If Elder Han Tian hadn't refused to abandon a single disciple, and if Lu You hadn't produced an iron chain at the perfect moment, then even if everyone had managed to climb to the summit, they would merely have won a mountain-climbing contest. They would never have had the opportunity to encounter Mount Shu's true reward.

"As expected of Mount Shu. They're actually willing to share something as extraordinary as the Heavenly Opportunity Realm with everyone."

"Only a sect of this caliber deserves to be called the greatest sect under heaven."

Many cultivators looked up at the phantom of the Mount Shu Sword Ancestor in the sky with expressions of reverence.

The Heavenly Opportunity Realm was unlike any other secret realm. Ordinary secret realms contained, at most, ancient inheritances and treasures. But the Heavenly Opportunity Realm truly contained opportunities for immortality.

The founding Sword God of Mount Shu had attained enlightenment within the Heavenly Opportunity Realm, established Mount Shu afterward, and ultimately ascended to immortality.

Any other sect would have guarded such a secret realm with absolute secrecy. Yet the world's strongest sect, Mount Shu, was willing to share it with every person who possessed the proper destiny.

Zeng Yan gazed at the enormous gate that had appeared out of thin air between heaven and earth. Her eyes sparkled with anticipation.

The First Sword God had come from the Heavenly Opportunity Realm. As a sword cultivator herself, Zeng Yan naturally longed to experience such a place.

"Senior Sister."

Lu You gently tugged at Zeng Yan's sleeve and quietly asked,

"Is the Heavenly Opportunity Realm dangerous? Since so many cultivators enter every hundred years, how many actually return alive after obtaining their immortal opportunities?"

Zeng Yan hadn't expected that to be Lu You's concern.

Hearing his question, she frowned, and much of her excitement cooled.

In the past, she would certainly have teased Lu You for being timid. But after what had happened in the Ancient Inheritance Tomb, where Lu You's ominous prediction had come true, she could never forget it.

Moreover, in the Ancient Map Secret Realm, every Golden Core elder had died, and among the Foundation Establishment disciples, only Han Tian had survived. Lu You had also returned alive and had even gifted her the serpent egg.

This was not the achievement of someone who was merely cowardly.

Taking his question seriously, Zeng Yan answered,

"The cultivation world only knows the Heavenly Opportunity Realm through legends. No one truly knows what it's like inside."

"The people who enter it are always the elite disciples of the major sects. If someone obtains an immortal opportunity, their sect will certainly keep it secret to prevent others from coveting it."

"As for how many live or die, that's even harder to determine."

"Today, all of the participating disciples from our Verdant Cloud Sect are here, and there are fewer than three hundred of us. The other major sects have similar numbers."

"Mount Shu never announces the total number of participants from all the sects, nor how many died altogether."

"And for the major sects, only this small group participates once every hundred years. Even if some of them die, the sects don't pay excessive attention to it."

"Besides, if someone succeeds, they obtain an immortal opportunity. Naturally, everyone's attention focuses on who won—not on who died."

Lu You's expression became even more cautious.

"So... those who survive are kept secret by their sects. Those who die are quickly forgotten. Aside from the legend of the Mount Shu Sword God, all anyone knows about the Heavenly Opportunity Realm is that it grants immortal opportunities..."

"Junior Brother, the Mount Shu Sword God isn't just a legend. Even our Sect Master has personally met him."

Zeng Yan shared everything she knew.

"Besides, the Heavenly Opportunity Realm revolves around a single word: fate."

"And because of that one word, its experiences can neither be explained nor replicated."

"Everyone's destiny is different."

"That's why there are no strategy guides or records for the Heavenly Opportunity Realm. Even those who obtain their destined opportunity cannot break it down and explain it to anyone else."

Lu You felt a chill run through him, every hair on his body standing on end.

Having lived two lifetimes, he wasn't like those who had been born and raised in the cultivation world. Ever since childhood, all he'd ever heard about was the pursuit of immortality, so the prospect of an immortal opportunity didn't cloud his judgment.

To him, the Heavenly Opportunity Realm felt eerily similar to the endless overtime culture of his previous life.

It was like a company boss telling the employees:

"Working overtime is a blessing. Keep it up. One day, all of you can become bosses yourselves."

So everyone worked overtime day after day until they went bald, while the boss simply upgraded to a bigger mansion and a more luxurious car.

Even the rhetoric was almost identical.

The Mount Shu Sword God had attained enlightenment after entering the Heavenly Opportunity Realm.

Those wealthy business magnates had supposedly succeeded by working hard step by step.

The information everyone received was the same:

Enter the Heavenly Opportunity Realm and you'll attain the Dao.

Work hard and you'll become successful.

Naturally, everyone rushed toward those goals without hesitation.

The difference was that although people in his previous life couldn't live forever like cultivators, the explosion of information in the modern world was almost miraculous in its own way—another kind of immortal technique.

People had broader horizons, interacted constantly, and had long since learned not to be deceived by such empty promises.

"Senior Sister," Lu You said solemnly, "if we enter the secret realm, don't think about competing for immortal opportunities first. The two of us should find each other before anything else."

He glanced at the long-browed monk and the phantom of the Sword Ancestor floating in the sky, then took a communication talisman from his storage ring and handed it to Zeng Yan.

After experiencing two secret realms already, he was worried that the Heavenly Opportunity Realm would also scatter everyone through random teleportation.

"I understand."

Zeng Yan accepted the communication talisman.

While explaining the Heavenly Opportunity Realm earlier, she had also begun to feel that something about it was subtly unsettling.

She couldn't quite put her finger on it yet, but she understood what Lu You was trying to say.

She placed the talisman into her storage ring, thought for a moment, then tightly clasped Lu You's hand.

"Junior Brother, even if the secret realm teleports people randomly, if we're holding hands, there's a better chance we'll end up together."

"And if we do get separated inside, don't run around. I'll find a way to come look for you."

"Junior Sister Zeng, I've finally found you!"

"I fulfilled my promise—I broke through to the Golden Core Realm the day before the tournament began!"

Just as Zeng Yan and Lu You intertwined their fingers, Bai Zihua finally squeezed through the crowd.

As Verdant Cloud Sect's official representative, Bai Zihua hadn't needed to undergo the trial at all and had been allowed to enter the Heavenly Opportunity Realm directly. He had been waiting at Mount Shu's main peak all along.

When he saw that every disciple of Verdant Cloud Sect had qualified, he excitedly rushed over.

Unfortunately, his fellow disciples were equally excited. One after another, they stopped him to greet him, delaying him until only now was he able to find Zeng Yan.

Then he saw it.

Zeng Yan and Lu You's hands were tightly clasped together.

The smile on Bai Zihua's face froze.

Why...?

I've reached the Golden Core Realm at such a young age. I've even become an elder of the Deep Literary Pavilion. I'm talented, accomplished, and have such a promising future...

Yet you won't even spare me a glance.

Instead, you're holding hands with Lu You—a mere Foundation Establishment cultivator.

Just what is so great about Lu You?!

A sharp pain welled up in Bai Zihua's chest.

He was just about to say something when a disciple of Verdant Cloud Sect rushed over excitedly and grabbed his hand.

"Senior Brother Bai! Wonderful—you really are here! Being able to enter the Heavenly Opportunity Realm alongside Senior Brother Bai and Senior Brother Han Tian is the honor of a lifetime!"

"Oh, and Senior Brother Lu You too! It was Senior Brother Lu You who came up with the idea of using the iron chain. That's how every one of us managed to pass the trial!"

"That's right! Senior Brother Lu You is amazing!"

Even a Golden Core disciple nearby chimed in.

This time, every disciple of the sect had passed the trial.

Besides the joy of succeeding, every one of them carried an indescribable feeling in their hearts.

For the first time, despite Lu You's relatively low cultivation, they all sincerely addressed him as Senior Brother.

You... all of you... actually think Lu You is impressive...

Bai Zihua froze once again.

Looking at Zeng Yan and Lu You standing shoulder to shoulder with their fingers interlocked, while everyone around him showered Lu You with praise...

He felt a sharp crack inside his heart.

Another tiny fracture had appeared.

"Junior Brother Lu You... thank you."

A bitter look filled Bai Zihua's eyes as he looked at Lu You and Zeng Yan.

Then a thought suddenly occurred to him.

Lu You is only at the Foundation Establishment Realm. At most, he'll live for about two hundred years.

I've already reached the Golden Core Realm. I have a lifespan of a thousand years.

With Lu You's aptitude, reaching Foundation Establishment has probably exhausted his potential. How could he possibly break through to Golden Core?

As for Zeng Yan... she's one of the finest among sword cultivators.

That means... I still have a chance.

As long as I outlive Lu You, I'll still have another eight hundred years to spend with Zeng Yan.

"Hahaha!"

Bai Zihua suddenly burst into laughter.

That's right! I haven't lost at all.

I'm simply watching Lu You slowly lose.

I shouldn't be heartbroken. Instead, I should treat both Lu You and Zeng Yan well. When Lu You's lifespan finally comes to an end, I'll naturally be able to step in and end up with Zeng Yan.

Thinking this, Bai Zihua smiled warmly at Lu You.

"Junior Brother Lu, from reaching Foundation Establishment after beginning as a Qi Refinement cultivator, to helping every disciple of Verdant Cloud Sect pass the trial... I've grown more and more impressed by you."

"I believe it won't be long before you attain the Golden Core Realm as well."

His smile remained bright.

I'll praise you.

I'll keep praising you.

I'll praise you to death.

From now on I'll compliment you every single day.

There's no way Zeng Yan will keep distancing herself from me after seeing that.

"Thank you, Senior Brother Bai."

The one who answered wasn't Lu You.

It was Zeng Yan.

When Bai Zihua approached, she not only kept her fingers intertwined with Lu You's, but also wrapped herself around his arm, pressing her body closely against his.

Her intentions couldn't have been clearer.

She wanted to draw a firm line between herself and Bai Zihua and make him give up.

"I never expected Senior Brother Bai to think the same way I do," she said with a smile.

"I also believe Lu You will one day reach the Golden Core Realm."

Did you hear that?

It worked!

She said she thinks the same way I do!

Right now, we're already thinking alike.

Doesn't that mean we'll eventually end up together?

This... this is what people call soulmates!

Bai Zihua suddenly felt his newly condensed Golden Core tremble.

A faint trace of life seemed to appear within it, as though something was about to break free from the core itself.

But his mind was completely occupied with fantasies of a future together with Zeng Yan.

He immediately ignored the unusual movement inside his Golden Core.

"Junior Sister Zeng is absolutely right."

"At first, I only thought Junior Brother Lu was loyal and righteous. Now I've discovered that he's also courageous and resourceful."

"I simply must do something for you."

Bai Zihua reached into his storage ring.

"Medicinal pills? A treasured artifact? Junior Brother Lu, just tell me what you want."

Lu You glanced at his hand, still tightly clasped with Zeng Yan's, and said somewhat embarrassedly,

"Senior Brother Bai, I'd like to reunite with Zeng Yan as soon as possible after entering the secret realm."

"Do you happen to have an artifact that could help with that?"

Bai Zihua immediately shook his head.

You've got to be kidding.

Why would I help you two stay lovey-dovey inside the secret realm as well?

But after shaking his head, he met Zeng Yan's gaze.

He saw the disappointment and distance in her eyes.

His heart ached instantly.

He hurriedly continued, "Hahaha~~ how could I not?"

"I just so happen to have a Manifestation Compass."

"As long as the two of you each infuse it with your spiritual energy beforehand, then as long as you're inside the same secret realm, you'll be able to locate each other."

Bai Zihua wore a cheerful smile.

Inside, however, he was crying.

Reluctantly, he handed the Manifestation Compass over to Lu You.

"Thank you, Senior Brother Bai."

Once again, it was Zeng Yan who spoke.

The moment Lu You received the compass, she immediately poured her spiritual energy into it.

When she looked back at Bai Zihua, the gratitude in her eyes was completely genuine.

Did you hear that? Did you see that?

Zeng Yan has me in her eyes now!

A mere Manifestation Compass is nothing.

I'm not doing this for the present—I'm doing it for the next eight hundred years!

Bai Zihua's mood instantly brightened.

By using his own Manifestation Compass to help Zeng Yan and Lu You reunite quickly inside the secret realm, he felt that not only would the next eight hundred years belong to him, but even these present two hundred years of Zeng Yan's love now carried a faint trace of his own presence.

Crack

Almost imperceptibly, Bai Zihua's Golden Core trembled once more.

The aura of life within it grew slightly stronger.

Leaving Zeng Yan with what he believed was a dashing smile, Bai Zihua turned around and waved grandly.

"Disciples of Verdant Cloud Sect—follow me into the Heavenly Opportunity Realm!"

With that, he strode confidently through the colossal gate standing between heaven and earth.

At the same time, his fingers unconsciously rubbed against his storage ring.

Inside it was the matching half of the Manifestation Compass.

The compass had originally come as a pair, allowing two people to locate each other.

Now, however, Zeng Yan and Lu You had received only one half.

Bai Zihua still possessed the other.

That meant he could see where Zeng Yan and Lu You were at any time.

He could even "coincidentally" run into them inside the secret realm.

Helping Lu You a little more wouldn't matter.

As long as Zeng Yan acknowledged him, that was enough.

All I have to do is endure these two hundred years...

The remaining eight hundred years will be nothing but happiness.

Crack. Crack. Crack.

The trembling of Bai Zihua's Golden Core became increasingly violent.

. . .

"Lu You."

"Your cultivation isn't high enough. Searching for me inside the secret realm would be too dangerous."

"I'll keep the Manifestation Compass. I'll be the one who comes looking for you."

Zeng Yan urged Lu You to infuse it with his spiritual energy so she could carry it herself.

Lu You's thoughts stirred.

While channeling his spiritual energy into the compass, he secretly commanded the Cauldron of Cornucopia to make a duplicate of it.

Then he handed the original to Zeng Yan.

"Senior Sister, you must be careful too."

"Don't keep saving those serpent eggs."

"If you're ever in danger inside the secret realm, refine them immediately to increase your strength."

"Compared to my life, I naturally know what's more important."

Zeng Yan stored the communication talisman away.

With one hand she held the Manifestation Compass.

With the other, she kept her fingers tightly intertwined with Lu You's.

Whether Lu You's suspicions proved correct or not, she had already made up her mind.

Even if she had to give up her chance at an immortal opportunity, she would ensure Lu You's safety.

The two of them would leave the secret realm alive—together.

. . .

Gradually, every team atop Mount Shu entered the colossal gate.

When the final person disappeared inside, the massive gate slowly closed.

"It seems... two little ones have begun to suspect the truth about the Heavenly Opportunity Realm."

The long-browed monk had kept his eyes closed in meditation all this time.

Only after the gate shut did he slowly open them.

His gaze settled precisely on the place where Lu You and Zeng Yan had been standing moments earlier.

The phantom of the Sword Ancestor gradually solidified.

The next instant, an ugly creature appeared in the sky.

It had pointed ears, a sharp nose, and mottled gray skin.

Smiling, the creature said, "You know perfectly well how foolish and greedy the people of the lower world are."

"As long as the temptation is great enough, even if everyone is destined to die, they'll still believe that *they* will be the lucky one."

It chuckled softly.

"We only need to control the scale of it."

"Once every hundred years—that's just enough for one generation to pass."

"The old die."

"The young are born."

"They remember only the rewards, never the lessons."