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Chapter 151: Purple Flame

Inside the isolated small valley, Xiao Yan and the Fairy Doctor peacefully lived their lives. One trained hard in Dou Qi while the other intently studied the Poison Book. The two did not disturb each other and these tranquil days were relaxing and fulfilling.

Promoting to Dou Shi was much harder than Xiao Yan had imagined. After training in the valley for close to half a month, although the Dou Qi inside the body became stronger and more cohesive, the feeling of breaking through to the next stage still didn't appear. To this, all Yao Lao said was to calmly wait, all according to fate's will.

To Yao Lao's secretive and deceptive words, Xiao Yan felt helpless. However afterwards, he also gradually stopped training Dou Qi all of the time and would occasionally train his Dou Techniques or learn how to recognise the different strange medicinal plants in the valley under the guidance of Yao Lao.

Due to the temptation of being in a place flush with rare and precious medicinal plants, Xiao Yan started to desire to practice his alchemy. And so, Xiao Yan set aside a small section of time every day just for practicing alchemy.

Because he didn't want to expose his status of being an alchemist, Xiao Yan chose a cave in the valley that left the ground about six to seven meters and every day when the sun was hot, he would jump into the cave and quietly practice crafting several kinds of beginner stage pills.

During alchemy, Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised to find out that the yellow flames he funneled into the cauldron were much hotter when compared to before. Following Xiao Yan's careful observation, he realized that the yellow flames inside the cauldron had a faint streak of purple.

Staring blankly at the faintly appearing and disappearing purple flames, Xiao Yan's heart moved and asked in shock, "This is...that Amethyst Winged Lion's Purple Flame?"

"How did it get into my body?" Blinking his eyes in confusion, Xiao Yan's brow furrowed, muttering, "Is it because of that Amethyst Lion Birth Essence?"

After arriving to that conclusion Xiao Yan gradually calmed down. The Amethyst Essence was extremely similar to the small Amethyst Winged Lion, if there were a little of the latter's flame inside the former, it wouldn't be too odd a thing.

Xiao Yan's guess was pretty much correct. The Amethyst Birth Essence was the same as the small Amethyst Winged Lion in the sense that both were kept inside the mother beast's body for many years and after such a long time, it would naturally absorb some purple flames. Under a sheer coincidence, Xiao Yan blindly consumed the Amethyst Essence and the flames which were brought about with the help of the cauldron, naturally had some purple flames.

Although these purple flames were small in quantity, they were far superior to Xiao Yan's normal Dou Qi flames in quality. Xiao Yan having the chance to acquire it could be considered as a significant opportunity.

With his Spiritual Perception gradually extended into the cauldron. Xiao Yan slowly packaged the small purple flame and separated it from the surrounding yellow flames.

Looking at that lonely flickering purple flame inside the cauldron, Xiao Yan licked his lips with excitement and continued to increase the strength of the Spiritual Perception, intending to control the temperature of the flame.

Just as Xiao Yan tried to control the flame, the small little purple flame sent out a sentient will of resistance.

The failure to control the flame left Xiao Yan stunned and then he tightly knitted his brow while staring deadly at the small little purple flame. He slowly increased the strength of his Spiritual Perception and tried to test the baseline of the resistance of the purple flame.

Although purple flame was tyrannically strong and stubborn, Xiao Yan was not worried. No matter how one puts it, it was currently an object without an owner. Xiao Yan had confidence in slowly dominating it.

Inside the cauldron, Xiao Yan wrestled with the purple flame, both unwilling to become the first to be defeated.

This stalemate lasted for nearly ten minutes, and as Xiao Yan was about to give way to exhaustion, the purple flame surrounded by his Perception suddenly trembled, then surged inside the flame like a rolling river of water, quickly being able to control all of it.

As Xiao Yan funneled his Spirit Perception into the purple flame, Xiao Yan's whole body lightly shook; this trembling was as if it came from deep within the soul, quickly diffusing into his entire body. At that moment, Xiao Yan felt as if his soul was promoted, the pores on his whole body, almost all opened at this moment. That feeling was very mysterious and comfortable.

This intense pleasure caused Xiao Yan to tremble once again, his eyes that had mysteriously closed slowly opened. A light purple flashed across his pitch black eyes before fading and as Xiao Yan shifted his attention to the cauldron once again, due to

the Spiritual Perception strength scattering, the yellow flames inside completely vanished while the small purple flame remained, lightly flickering.

Staring at the purple flame, Xiao Yan's gave it a quick command and it immediately flew through the mouth of the cauldron and entered Xiao Yan's body from the center of his palm.

His palm slowly leaving the cauldron, Xiao Yan exhaled in relief. His right hand gradually curled before Xiao Yan stretched out his middle finger, lightly saying, "Appear!"

Following Xiao Yan's voice, the middle finger lightly trembled. A moment after, a small purple flame quietly sprouted out from the fingertip and flickered lightly.

TL: Best way to flick someone off.

Real fire! An actual flame! With Xiao Yan's current Rank One Alchemist capability, he was actually able to create real fire from his palm which required being at least a Rank Four Alchemist to do!

Alchemists under rank four were normally required to use the cauldron's strange changes to bring out the fire natured Dou Qi inside their bodies and transform it into actual flames. Upon reaching rank four and above, the alchemists were then able to save the step of using the cauldron and immediately summon out real flames.

And many alchemists that reached this stage, when battling with another person, would basically summon out real fire to attack. Also, due to alchemist's elemental nature, they were born to have fire with wood nature and due to that wood nature, flames which alchemists summoned were way above what similar tiered Practitioners could do, much hotter and stronger.

So, being able to summon real fire with or without aid from an external object was one of the key points in differentiating whether the person entered rank four of alchemy or not.

Of course, there are no absolutes. The information mentioned above was all built under the assumption of being a normal alchemist. If someone were able to luckily acquire a Heavenly Flame, then even without achieving rank four alchemy, one would still be able to summon out real fire. In addition, the fire that was summoned out, would be way superior to normal flames summoned by normal alchemists. After all, what they controlled, was the most destructive strength under the heavens, a Heavenly Flame!

And so, Heavenly Flames would eternally be every alchemist's sacred divine object without a replacement. Of course, the destructive strength of Heavenly Flames has caused countless gifted alchemists, like moths to a flame, to perish.

Similarly a little shocked while looking at the slender purple flame at the fingertip, after a long while, Xiao Yan inhaled a breath of cold air, his voice trembling a little, "Teacher, quickly come out and see!"

"Mh?" From within the ring carried out Yao Lao doubtful voice and after a moment of silence, a figure of light suddenly flashed out from the ring and lastly floated in front of Xiao Yan, staring blankly at that purple flame.

"Heavenly Flame? No, it's way weaker....this is....Oh right, Amethyst Winged Lion's Purple Flame?" With doubt and shock in his eyes, Yao Lao strangely spoke out, "So that Amethyst Essence had such an effect, even being able to form the Amethyst Winged Lion's fire origin in a human's body."

"Can this be considered a Heavenly Flame?" Staring intensely and agitatedly at that purple flame which looked as if it could snuff out any time, Xiao Yan urgently asked.

"Uh....it's not." First being stunned, Yao Lao then shook his head, said, "Although this is also a kind of strange unique flame, compared to Heavenly Flames, it is inferior by a huge margin. Uhh.....perhaps calling it a Beast Flame would be more appropriate."

Wordlessly shaking his head, Xiao Yan spoke, "Ignoring whether it's a Heavenly Flame or a Beast Flame, I would like to ask: is it stronger than the Dou Qi flame that I summoned using the cauldron?"

"Yes, that is an undisputable fact"

"Then, I can be considered its owner now right? I won't be devoured by it?" Xiao Yan inquired again carefully.

"This purple flame is too small, not enough to attack you."

"Then...if I were to devour it....my Flame Mantra, would it be able to evolve" Deeply sucking in a breath, Xiao Yan inquired again urgently.

"Uh..." Stumped once again, Yao lao's brow knitted, hesitating for quite a while, before speaking out uncertainly, "Perhaps yes....but even if it were able to evolve, it would not evolve to too high a stage. After all, this purple flame is far from being able to compete with a real Heavenly Flame. Also, this purple flame now is too small, even if you were to devour it now, I think, it wouldn't be much use."

Xiao Yan lightly nodded his head, frustration appearing on his face. Although the Flame Mantra was quite mysterious, its starting point was simply too trash. This type of Dou Qi creation and storing capability was far from being able to satisfy Xiao Yan's usage. Also, the Dou Techniques that Xiao Yan were familiar with, most were Xuan Tier, so after using a skill, he had to quickly swallow an Energy Recovering Pill. Or else just depending on the recovery speed of Dou Qi with a low tier Huang ranked Qi Method, would make him enter the awkward situation of having insufficient Dou Qi.

If the current Flame Mantra's tier were able to evolve to the Xuan Tier, Xiao Yan wouldn't have needed the Fairy Doctor's help going to the Wolf's Head Mercenary Group. He alone would be able to neutralize the entire hundred man strong group easily.

This, was the biggest difference between a Xuan Tier Qi Method and a Huang Tier one! And so, the current Xiao Yan, very urgently hoped for his Qi Method to quickly evolve but not only were Heavenly Flames rare, their destructive strengths would mean that Xiao Yan might not be able to successfully devour it!

So the purple flame that appeared was definitely a well in a desert, causing huge delight in Xiao Yan.

"If you really want to devour this purple flame and let it help the Flame Mantra evolve, there is actually a method." Pausing for a while, Yao Lao suddenly spoke out.

"What is it?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan perked up and urgently asked.

Gazing at that small tiny purple flame, Yao Lao smiled.

"Refine it into a flame seed, slowly nurture it, and after it reached a certain stage, use the Flame Mantra to devour it and achieve the effect of evolution!"

Chapter 152: Refining the Flame Seed

"Flame Seed?"

Xiao Yan was slightly stunned upon hearing Yao Lao's words. He was torn between laughing and crying as he said, "Why do I have the feeling that your words suggest something like rearing an animal at home, waiting for it to grow fat and then slaughtering it?"

"Hehe, it shares the same principle." Yao Lao nodded as he smiled.

Xiao Yan nodded his head and his gaze stared at the writhing small Purple Flame on his finger which was his only hope of evolving his Qi Methods. The Heavenly Flames were a little too distant for him while this Purple Flame from the Amethyst Essence was just suitable for his current condition and strength.

"How do I refine it?" Xiao Yan sighed, raised his head and asked.

"Relax, this Purple Flame does not have an owner so it will not put up much resistance against you. Refining it into a Flame Seed should not involve too much danger." Yao

Lao said as he extended his finger and placed it on Xiao Yan's head, "Follow my instructions."

Feeling the large amount of information that was poured into his mind, Xiao Yan carefully savored it before nodding his head. He gradually closed his eyes and crossed his legs, adopting his training position. He observed his eyes, nose then heart as his mind gradually entered deep into his body.

His mind circulated through his Qi Paths and finally arrived at the vortex in his lower abdomen. The appearance of the Dou Qi vortex was strangely much smaller than what it was before. However, if one carefully observed it, the vortex contains was much more dense and agglomerated better than before.

Xiao Yan's mind rotated around the vortex once. When he did not observe any problems, Xiao Yan followed Yao Lao's instructions and began to act.

Xiao Yan's mind went around the vortex and slowly entered it. At the same time, his Spiritual Perception repeatedly searched for the Purple Flame that he was controlling.

Xiao Yan carefully scanned the interior of the vortex. A long while later, numerous threads of extremely small purple colored energy began gradually appearing. When the purple colored energy appeared, Xiao Yan hurriedly controlled his Spiritual Perception and encompassed them in a lightning fast manner.

'Open a small hole in the vortex that can contain the Purple Flame..."

Recalling Yao Lao's words in his mind, Xiao Yan swiftly surrounded the vortex with his Spiritual Perception. After a brief silence, his Spiritual Perception drove the vortex into spinning at a very fast speed.

Following the vortex rotating at a fast speed, the Dou Qi that was flowing in his Qi Paths also surged quickly and ferociously. However, Xiao Yan did not have the leisure to bother about them; his mind was entirely focused on the small empty space at the middle of the vortex that was formed from the fast rotation.

Seeing that his actions were effective, Xiao Yan increased the strength of his Spiritual Perception that was surrounding the vortex. Following the increase in strength of the spiritual awareness, the speed that the vortex was spinning at grew increasingly fast. In the end, the orbit of the pale yellow colored vortex could no longer be seen while the sound of a shapeless wind reverberated outside of the vortex. Xiao Yan's mind continued to observe the middle of the vortex where the empty space was growing wider. When it was approximately the size of a fist, Xiao Yan finally gave a relieved sigh and slowly withdrew his Spiritual Perception from the vortex.

After the Spiritual Perception was entirely withdrawn, the rotation speed of the vortex also began to gradually become weaker. As for the hole in the middle of the vortex, it

was able to form a strange equilibrium with its surroundings under the control of Xiao Yan's mind and did not disappear with the slower rotation speed of the vortex.

Seeing that the empty space did not disappear, Xiao Yan let out another sigh in his heart. His mind slowly surrounded a thread of the purple colored energy and guided it through the blockade of the surrounding Dou Qi before inserting it into that small empty space.

Immediately after the purple colored energy entered the empty hole, Xiao Yan felt the entire vortex shake and he hurriedly used his Spiritual Perception to stabilize the vortex.

With Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception putting in great effort to maintain the situation, the vortex finally became steady. From within the center hole of the vortex, Xiao Yan could see that numerous threads of fire type Dou Qi were continuously escaping from the vortex and pouring into the purple colored energy occupying the empty hole.

Xiao Yan's mind anxiously observed the small purple colored energy. As more and more fire type Dou Qi was poured into it, the purple colored energy let out a soft cry. A moment later, it began to transform under the observation of Xiao Yan's mind.

The color of the purple colored energy became darker. When it darkened to a certain stage, the purple colored energy suddenly trembled and a faint flame rose from the purple colored energy. Instantly, the purple colored energy was consumed by the tiny purple flame.

In the dark empty hole, the purple colored flame flickered alone. Its faint warmth spewed and entered the Dou Qi vortex outside.

When the faint heat entered the Dou Qi vortex, Xiao Yan could feel that the rotation of the vortex became much faster. Xiao Yan's initial reaction to this occurrence was shock and was instantly replaced by an uncontrolled joy. If the vortex could spin faster on its own, it meant that Xiao Yan did not need to manually control it. The Dou Qi from the surrounding environment would also automatically and continuously be poured into his body, allowing him to constantly be washed by Dou Qi. This kind of benefit was undoubtedly extremely useful for his training.

After the purple colored flame appeared in the empty hole, it was as though it had started a huge circulating machine that was slowly beginning to spin.

The purple colored flame needed to absorb the fire type Dou Qi from within the vortex in order to grow while the heat that it emitted, increased the Dou Qi absorption rate of the vortex. This ever repeating relationship significantly benefited both the Purple Flame and the vortex.

Xiao Yan's mind observed the vortex once again. When he was certain that there were no problems, Xiao Yan finally withdrew his mind from within his body. He gradually

opened his eyes and a purple light flashed across his pitch-black eyes. A moment later, his pair of eyes gradually recovered their original deep black color.

"How is it? Successful?" Seeing that Xiao Yan opened his eyes, Yao Lao, who was waiting patiently, asked.

"Yes, I've refined it into a Flame Seed." Xiao Yan nodded his head and extended his palm. He rubbed his fingers gently. After a clear sound, a tiny purple colored flame rose from the tip of Xiao Yan's finger.

With a gaze that was full of curiosity, Xiao Yan played with the purple fire that belonged to him. A moment later, his finger gently touched a mountain wall beside him. Instantly, the wall was charred.

"This thing appears to be much weaker than Teacher's Bone Chilling Flame..." Xiao Yan bitterly smiled as he eyed the mark created by the flame.

"Of course. My Bone Chilling Flame is a Heavenly Flame and is ranked eleventh on the Heavenly Flames Ranking List. If this broken thing of yours can be compared with it, why would I have bothered taking the risk of being burnt into ashes to search for it?" When he heard Xiao Yan's comment, Yao Lao immediately rolled his eyes and scolded him with a smile.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. Those words of Yao Lao's were a significant blow to him. Something that he had luckily obtained after going through so much effort was described as a broken thing by Yao Lao.

"Alright, stop looking so downtrodden. This Purple Flame of yours has just been born, how much strength can it have? After your raise it, it should not be too weak. Didn't you see the strength of the Purple Flame attack by the Amethyst Winged Lion? Even that woman called Yun Zhi with her Dou Huang strength did not dare to simply block it. From this, it can be seen that this flame is not ordinary." Seeing Xiao Yan's disappointed expression, Yao Lao comfortingly said.

Xiao Yan sighed and nodded. With a bitter smile, he said, "If I want to raise this little Purple Flame to the strength similar to that of the Amethyst Winged Lion, I'm afraid it would take at least a few decades."

"This is true if we use normal reasoning." Yao Lao nodded. When he saw Xiao Yan's depressed expression, he helplessly said, "But don't you have the Amethyst Birth Essence? That thing is the best catalyst in raising the Purple Flame. As long as you can withstand the slight pain that it brings you, your Purple Flame should be able to grow at an extreme pace."

"Amethyst Lion Birth Essence?"

Hearing this, Xiao Yan was momentarily stunned. Unrestrained happiness quickly filled his face as he clumsily took out a small jade bottle from the storage ring. He opened the cap and a warm unusual fragrance was emitted from it.

After taking in a deep breath of this scent that was filled with dense fire energy, Xiao Yan abruptly realised that the purple flame on his finger also became stronger under the scent.

"What a dense fire energy." Xiao Yan involuntarily gasped as he felt the Purple Flame's movement.

"When you train in the future, it will be best if you choose to do so under the hot sun. Additionally, you cannot consume too much of the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence. Of course, if you want to repeat the painful experience like the last time, you can ignore my words." Yao Lao jokingly said.

Recalling the pain of his burning body the last time, Xiao Yan's body shuddered. That feeling was not something he wanted to experience a second time.

"With your current strength, you should only use your finger to dip a little of it and swallow it into your body when you train. If you use too much you might end up burning yourself again." Yao Lao seriously reminded.

"Ahh." Xiao Yan quickly nodded his head. He did not dare make a joke out of this; it was more than enough to experience that kind of pain once.

"Using the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence to speed up the growth of the Purple Flame... how long will it take before it can be swallowed?" Xiao Yan tightly held the jade bottle in his hand, lifted his head and bitterly asked, "A few years? If I had that kind of time, I might as well go and search for the Heavenly Flame."

"With the Amethyst Essence, you don't need so much time. On top of that, it is not necessary for the Purple Flame to reach the strength of that the Amethyst Winged Lion achieved. With your current strength, if you really groom the Purple Flame to that extent, you might end up being burnt to ashes by it. If you don't have sufficient strength, playing with fire will result in you being burnt." Yao Lao shook his head and voiced his thoughts, "Perhaps, a month from now, you should be able to use 'Flame Mantra' to try and swallow the Purple Flame."

"A month?" Xiao Yan licked his lips and softly mumbled. before quickly nodding his head seriously.

"Alright, a month from now, I'll swallow the Purple Flame and evolve my Flame Mantra!"

Chapter 153: Strange Musings

Packing all of his things, Xiao Yan left the cave. At this moment, it was noon outside. The blazing sunlight glared, smothering the entire mountain with blistering heat.

After jumping down from the cave and walking a few steps, he coincidentally met the Little Fairy Doctor, who was carrying a flower basket and had just returned from harvesting medicine. At the moment, she wore a green cloth over her head, like a pretty little village girl. Xiao Yan was a little amused, shaking his head and smiled as he greeted her.

The Fairy Doctor smiled sweetly at Xiao Yan, her eyes sweeping across the mountain cave. She was smart enough to not ask any questions, everyone had their own secrets and she was no exception. So, she did not delve deeper into what Xiao Yan did in the cave and pretended she hadn't seen anything. Xiao Yan did not comment about her reaction, but rather he was instead happy and liked the way she reacted.

"Hungry? I'll make lunch."

While strolling to the house along with Xiao Yan, the Fairy Doctor turned her head, smiled cheekily at Xiao Yan when she spoke. Then, she bent down, rolled up her sleeves and started a fire in the stone kitchen, methodically arranging all of the ingredients.

Sitting on a rock to the side, Xiao Yan watched the Fairy Doctor who was lightly humming a song while working busily, causing him to smile. She was definitely a resourceful and ingenious girl but of course, Xiao Yan wouldn't forget that this beautiful and pure girl who was cooking currently with her white as jade hands, was similarly deft and devious when using poison.

Poison Masters, the reputation of this occupation on Dou Qi Continent wasn't great. A lot of people were scared to build relationships with Poison Masters since the latter could use poisoning methods that were impossible to guard against and would leave enemies, even friends uneasy.

Similarly, if it wasn't for the help of Yao Lao, a grandmaster level alchemist protecting him, Xiao yan wouldn't dare to eat the food that the Fairy Doctor gave him. After all, when one was outside, one had to be very careful because no matter what, each person only had one life.

And perhaps because Xiao Yan didn't reject any of the food that the Fairy Doctor prepared, after living together for half a month, the Fairy Doctor was friendlier and gentler towards Xiao Yan. Of course, this warmth didn't have any hint of romance, Xiao Yan was able to recognize straight away that the Fairy Doctor treated him as a really close male friend.

And to this girl's sensitive heart, what she really needed was not a lot. Only a little bit of trust was able to produce a beautiful smile on her pretty face but alas, her occupation, made her fated to receive little of this.

To this, Xiao Yan was slightly ashamed. If it wasn't for the help of Yao Lao, he definitely wouldn't have been able to attain the Fairy Doctor's friendship.

Sitting on the rock, Xiao Yan looked at the beautiful figure who was busily making lunch for two. Lightly exhaling, he suddenly asked, "When are you planning to leave here?"

"Huh?" Hearing Xiao Yan's question, the Fairy Doctor turned her head back. Her hands pushed aside her bangs and staring doubtfully at Xiao Yan with her beautiful eyes, she lightly asked, "Why?"

"Don't misunderstand, this is your place, I wouldn't dare to chase you out." Wringing his hands, Xiao Yan teased. "Due to several reasons, I might be staying at this place for roughly a half month to a whole month. I was thinking, if you had any urgent matters, you could...."

"Its okay, you can stay however long you like. I really don't have any urgent matters to attend to. I was thinking that if I had time, I could adventure in the Dou Qi Continent for a while but it's not an urgent matter. My time isn't rushed...." Sighing in her heart, the Fairy Doctor turned and laughed unconcernedly.

"Adventuring in the Dou Qi Continent? That's not a bad idea." Xiao Yan nodded his head in agreement. Adventuring in the Dou Qi Continent was also one of his dreams.

"You are interested? Then we could travel together." Adding a little wood into the fire, the Fairy Doctor laughed and said.

"Ah, I still have some matters that I have to complete so in the short term, I don't have that mindset or the free time to do so." Xiao Yan shook his head and laughed.

"That's regrettable. It was so hard to find a likeable companion." Shaking her head with a little regret, Fairy Doctor spoke grudgingly.

"Going out to adventure.....Just some friendly advice: you should try your best to conceal your identity as a Poison Master. If not, your trip will be quite lonely." Brooding for a while, Xiao Yan suddenly spoke out seriously.

Her body trembling, the Fairy Doctor threw a few non-poisonous mushrooms into the pot then stared at the boiling pot. Lightly sighing, she was clear about her own status, it would incite the fear in many.

"Uh....actually, you can't be considered a Poison Master yet. Hmm, you can use your identity as a doctor to adventure. At least a doctor would gain people's respect easily." Gazing at the Fairy Doctor's suddenly mute profile, Xiao Yan forced out a laugh.

"I will become a Poison Master sooner or later and also, I might be the kind that incites the most hatred and fear." Sighing faintly, Fairy Doctor softly spoke.

"...Whether you become a Poison Master, it depends on yourself. This kind of thing, at least no one would force you?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan was a little befuddled.

"Ai, you wouldn't understand....." Her hair fell down and covered her pretty face. The Fairy Doctor muttered softly, "If we meet in the future, I hope you are still able to treat me as a friend."

Scratching his head in bafflement, Xiao Yan's was totally confused by the Little Fairy Doctor's mysterious words.

"Haha, it's done." Shaking her head, the Fairy Doctor looked at the boiling pot, and suddenly smiled. Stretching out to take a small bowl from the side, she ladled a bowl of mushroom soup and served it carefully to Xiao Yan.

Reaching over and taking it, Xiao Yan smelled a delicious fragrance, his mouth started to salivate and swallowing his saliva, he gave the Fairy Doctor a thumbs up, then ignoring the heat of the soup, he started drinking it.

Staring at Xiao Yan who was holding the bowl of mushroom soup and eating without any hesitation, a happy smile appeared on the Little Fairy Doctor's pretty face. She really liked how Xiao Yan trusted her.

Squatting on the rock, Xiao Yan drank quite a few bowls of mushroom soup then returned the bowl to the Fairy Doctor in satisfaction. Patting his round stomach, smiling happily and said, "Good skills. Whoever marries you will be very fortunate."

"Marry me?" Hearing Xiao Yan's words, the Fairy Doctor couldn't help but smile and said, "You have to know that a Poison Master is one of the Dou Qi Continents least married occupation because not many people would be brave enough to share a bed with a wife that can release a deadly poison in a split second."

Shaking his head helplessly, Xiao Yan felt that the Fairy Doctor was really a little too pessimistic. Even if being a Poison Master made people a little scared and fearful, her current ability was far from reaching that stage right?

Those grandmaster level Poison Masters that were infamous, able to make everyone fearful and not dare to step anywhere near, wasn't something that anyone could become.

"Remember, if we are to meet again on the Dou Qi Continent in the future, you cannot detest me. Because if so, I think I would be really sad." Organizing the utensils, the Fairy Doctor walked towards the house and just as she was about to enter, her footsteps stalled and quickly turned around to speak with a slight smile. Upon finishing speaking, she entered the house, leaving a totally baffled Xiao Yan on the rock alone.

Staring blankly at the small house for a long while, Xiao Yan smiled helplessly. Even if she were to become a Poison Master in the future, why did that matter? Just based on her occupation, he would hate her?

After entertaining wild thoughts and crazy conjectures for a while, Xiao Yan lazily stood up. Arriving at an area under a mountain, he lifted his head and looked at the scorching sun in the sky. His legs slightly moved then stepped heavily on the ground. Following that was a crisp explosion sound, Xiao Yan's body was like a cannon bullet, charging up the cliff and as that strength was expiring, his feet once again heavily stepped on the rock wall. Amidst the explosion noises, Xiao Yan's body charged straight up the rock wall unendingly.

Upon the fifth explosion, Xiao Yan's body volleyed in the air, landing firmly on one of the mountain peaks inside the valley. From here, the small house down in the valley was not even as large as half a fist.

As it was noon currently, the glaring sun in the sky gave out burning hot rays of light unrelentlessly. The exposed rocks outside, under this baking sun, was so hot that people wouldn't dare to touch it.

Xiao Yan's landing location was just a nice protruding rock slab. This was the best place to "enjoy" the hottest sunbathing.

Wiping the sweat on his forehead, Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head. After complaining about how tough training was to himself, he sat down on the sweltering stone slab. A moment later, the heat from his butt caused Xiao Yan to grit his teeth. Sitting upright, Xiao Yan ignored the constant sweat that kept rolling down from his face, both hands forming the training seal and started to still his mind.

Just as he finished completing his training posture, Xiao Yan found that the fire natured elemental energy from the surroundings started to funnel into his body. His mind routinely and familiarly refined the energy that just entered in his Qi Paths, lastly channeling it into his Qi vortex. After circulating it into the Qi vortex, it was then channeled into the purple flame in the middle of the Qi vortex.

Absorbing this fire natured Dou Qi with hints of the hot sun, the purple flame started to flare up and after devouring, the small purple flame seemed as if it grew a little bit.

Under the attention of his mind, every bit of the slow growth of the small purple flame was noticed by Xiao Yan. Looking at the decent results of training, he was quite

delighted and after absorbing the energy from the outer environment for a while, Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes. He then took out the jade bottle which contained the Amethyst Essence from the ring. His fingertip lightly and carefully dabbed a little, then put it into his mouth and lightly tasted it. Following his saliva, it was swallowed into his stomach.

Just as the Amethyst Essence was swallowed into his stomach, Xiao Yan's face flared red. The originally normal skin, at this moment started to have hints of red. Feeling the change in his body, Xiao Yan quickly focused, then circulated the Dou Qi in his body and started to neutralize this intense and tyrannical energy.

On the mountain rock, under the glaring sun, the youth was sweating heavily and gritting his teeth while he endured the trial of the intense heat inside his body, like a silkworm enduring the pain before breaking out from the cocoon and becoming a butterfly.

After the pain, it was like a rebirth. Only, this journey of change, required painful and harsh trials to nurture.

Chapter 154: Woeful Poison Body

Day after day gradually passed as Xiao Yan quietly trained in the isolated valley. Since Xiao Yan had begun refining the Purple Flame, half a month had passed.

During this half a month, Xiao Yan had basically gave up on training his Dou Qi and transferred all of the energy that his body had absorbed from the surroundings into the Purple Flame that was similar to a bottomless pit. As this craziness was prolonged, Xiao Yan's achievement was also very obvious.

The Purple Flame, which used to be approximately the size of one's pinkie, had now been enlarged by ten times. Each time Xiao Yan looked into himself and saw the growing Purple Flame, a satisfied feeling would appear within him. At this pace, he would at the very most need another half a month before the Purple Flame would achieve the requirement necessary for him to evolve his Qi Method.

It was another day training under the hot sun. Xiao Yan was seated on the rocks. his clothes had already been drenched by his sweat. After enduring the training under the hot sun for around two hours, Xiao Yan finally exited from his training mode when the temperature in the air was slowly declining, He lowered his head, saw his drenched clothes and helplessly shook his head.

Xiao Yan stretched his body and then closed his eyes to look inside him. When he observed that the Purple Flame has grown a little again, he gave a satisfied smile, got to his feet and lightly hopped.

After half a month of being under the sun, Xiao Yan's skin had turned darker. His delicate and handsome face also appeared a little more mature from his perseverance in training.

When his slightly numbed legs recovered to their original state, Xiao Yan extended his arm and lightly flicked his finger. Following a soft sound, a huge ball of purple colored flame suddenly rose from Xiao Yan's palm and instantly covered his entire hand.

After half a month of tough training, the tiny Purple Flame that erupted from his finger could now cover his entire hand.

Xiao Yan grinned as he watched his hand that was encompassed within the Purple Flame. He slowly tightened his fist and suddenly threw a punch out. Instantly, the high temperature grilled the air in front of him till it became slightly distorted and blurry.

"Tsk tsk. If this was hit onto someone's body, the effect should not be too bad." Xiao Yan smiled and said softly while allowing the Purple Flame on his hand to slowly rise.

Xiao Yan played with the Purple Flame on the mountain rock before he reluctantly kept it in his body. His body shook slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings shot out from his back. He tilted his head and smiled at the black wings that held a glowing purple color, then leaped back down into the valley.

The intense sound from the wind blew past Xiao Yan ears. When he was around twenty meters from the ground, Xiao Yan's wings flapped and his quick descent slowed down. He extended his palm, aimed at the ground and unleashed an explosive pushing force.With the force, Xiao Yan's body was lifted slightly, allowing him to flip in the air. Meanwhile, the Purple Cloud Wings on Xiao Yan's back transformed back into the tatoos on his back with a shrinking sound.

Xiao Yan's legs steadied landed on the ground and his body shook slightly, eliminating all the forces on his body. A moment later, he straightened his body and headed to the small cottage with a smile.

As he slowly approached the small cottage, Xiao Yan frowned. Normally, the Fairy Doctor would have returned from picking herbs by now. Yet, why was it so quiet today?

A suspicion flashed in his mind. Xiao Yan gradually arrived at the front of the small cottage and knocked on the wooden door but there was not the slightest sound in it. He knocked again for a few times, obtaining the same result.

Pressing his eyebrows together, an uneasiness flashed across Xiao Yan's heart. He stood at the door and hesitated for awhile. Finally, he clenched his teeth and violently kicked opened the wooden door.

After roughly kicking open the door, Xiao Yan hurried in, only to find that the room was filled with smoke, causing him to cough a few times. His right palm was hurriedly extended and a ferocious force was unleashed from his palm, instantly sweeping all of the smoke out of the straw house.

As the smoke inside slowly dissipated, Xiao Yan saw the Fairy Doctor on the bed with her eyes closed. Her originally red and moist face was now strangely covered with seven different colors.

Seeing that the Fairy Doctor did not appear to be breathing, Xiao Yan panicked. He was about to hurry over when a light figure suddenly rushed out from the black colored ring in his hand and shouted, "Don't go over!"

Yao Lao's shout shocked Xiao Yan into pausing at the same spot. It was a long while later when he recovered from this deafening scream. He looked at Yao Lao curiously, his face filled with confusion.

"If you want to die, you can touch her." Yao Lao said in a deep voice as he stared at the Fairy Doctor's seven colored face with a serious face.

"Why?"

Seeing Yao Lao display such an expression for the first time, Xiao Yan suffered a great shock. His gaze swept across the Fairy Doctor once more as he asked in a perturbed voice.

Yao Lao did not answer. His floating body circled the unconscious Fairy Doctor for a few times. A moment later, he shook his head and sighed softly, "It really is..."

Seeing Yao Lao's downcast face, Xiao Yan's heart tightened. He carefully asked, "What exactly is wrong with her?"

"Look at her hand." Yao Lao pointed at the opened jade bottle in the Fairy Doctor's hand.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan hurriedly moved his gaze towards the Fairy Doctor's hand. On it, he saw that she was holding a small bag of black medicinal powder. Xiao Yan's eyes blinked doubtfully. He stepped forward, stopped a few feet from the Fairy Doctor's hand and lightly sniffed the smell unleashed by the medicinal powder. Instantly, his head felt giddy and his chest felt like everything was being overturned. He felt weak and was forced to sit on the ground while gagging for a long while. Finally, he stood up and said in a stunned voice, "What a powerful poison. That thing should even be able to kill a Dou Shi if they are not careful."

"Yes, even I have to admit that this little girl is extremely gifted in making poison." Yao Lao nodded with a smile. His voice containing a praise or some other feeling.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. He also felt that the Fairy Doctor was a natural expert poison manipulator. Maybe calling her a Poison Fairy was more accurate.

"Look at the corner of her mouth." Yao Lao pointed out as he floated in the cottage.

Xiao Yan's gaze moved from the Fairy Doctor's hand to her red lips that was dripping with beauty. His eyes narrowed. Beside the red moistness, there were remnants of the black powder. From its color and scent, it was obviously the black colored poison the Fairy Doctor held in her hand.

"She took the poison and committed suicide? How is that possible? For no reason, why did she kill herself?" Staring stupidly at the black remnants, Xiao Yan muttered in a perplexed manner.

"Who said that she committed suicide? Have you seen any dead person who looks so beautiful?" Yao Lao rolled his eyes and curled his lips as he said.

"Her strength is only that of a one star Dou Zhe, how can she withstand something that could even kill a Dou Shi?" Xiao Yan wanted to pounce forward and check for the Fairy Doctor's breathing but after Yao Lao's yell from before, he could only pace around anxiously.

"If she was an ordinary person, she would certainly die. But..." Yao Lao's eyes stared at the beautiful sleeping posture of the Fairy Doctor on the bed and softly said, "But she won't."

"What do you mean?" Xiao Yan paused his footsteps and asked in a stunned voice. "Where is she different? Is it because of her identity as a poison master? But even if it was a poison master, being poisoned to death by their own poison is not something unusual. It is not as though they are invulnerable to poison."

"Correct. Even highly skilled poison masters have the possibility of being killed by their poisons." Yao Lao nodded and said in a grave voice, "But there are always exceptions. In the Dou Qi continent, there is a kind of special physique. This kind of physique is given the name... 'Natural Poison Body' or 'Woeful Poison Body' as the appearance of such a poison body would usually bring woe to others."

"Natural Poison Body? Woeful Poison Body?" The foreign names held no significance in Xiao Yan's mind.

"You have stayed in Wu Tan City for most of your life and it is only natural that you are unaware of some of the secrets of the Dou Qi continent. Back when I still had my physical body, a woman with the Woeful Poison Body appeared on the Dou Qi continent. In a moment of anger, this woman poisoned the grounds of an entire empire. On the poisoned grounds, hundreds of thousands died." "Hmmm..." Hearing those words, Xiao Yan quickly inhaled cold air. Was that woman not overly vicious? Hundreds of thousands of lives were just mercilessly taken? Was she simply killing chickens?

"You should know that there are laws amongst the strong in the Dou Qi continent. The woman's actions were undoubtedly breaking these unofficial rules. After all, there were many strong people who originated from that empire... thus, the situation was erupted from this. One by one, many strong people went to find that woman to seek revenge but each of them in turn were defeated. Oh yes, amongst those strong people, the weakest was at least a Dou Ling and the strongest was a nine star Dou Huang who was about to step into the Dou Zong stage." As Yao Lao recounted, he suddenly waved his hand. "Unfortunately, they were all killed in the woman's hands."

"Gulp..." Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva with difficulty as he wiped the cold perspiration off his face. Wasn't that woman too strong? She really killed people like killing chickens and dogs.

"At the end of the entire mess, a couple of the old farts were pulled into the mess. After an intense fight that outsiders were unaware of, this woman who was a mere five star Dou Huang escaped after being injured while among the old farts, a Dou Zong level Practitioner took ten years to expel the poison before he managed to fully recover."

"Incredible ... "

Xiao Yan's throat rolled for a moment. With just the strength of a Dou Huang, she dared to confront a Dou Zong and actually managed to leave behind a severe wound? With regards to this type of person, Xiao Yan could only use the word "Incredible" to describe them.

"After this woman fled afar for twenty years, she once again appeared. By that time, she had already been promoted to the Dou Zong class. At this time, those old fools which had secretly suffered in her hands did not dare come out and randomly judge her. Thus they could only pretend to be deaf and ignored all news about her."

"Twenty years... Rising from a five star Dou Huang to a Dou Zong. This speed can be considered to be abnormal." Xiao Yan said as he shook his head.

"Ah... this woman does indeed possess that kind of frightening talent." Yao Lao nodded his head as he shifted his gaze to the Fairy Doctor on the bed and softly said, "After that, I bumped into that woman once when I found a Spiritual Herb and a conflict started. Finally... we ended up fighting." Xiao Yan's eyes gradually widened. This was the first time he heard Yao Lao leak some of the his old deeds. Immediately, he hurriedly asked, "What was the result?"

"The result..."

Yao Lao smiled and raised his head. His muddy eyes appeared to sigh over the memories. A long while later, he gave a faint smile and said, "The result can be considered that I beat her by a little."

Xiao Yan took in a deep breath. His face was filled with shock.

Chapter 155: The Terrifying Condition

A tiny victory: although Yao Lao had been very vague about it, Xiao Yan still managed to sense the meaning within. When the woman was at the Dou Huang level, she had already dared to put her strength against Dou Zong level Practitioners. And at the time when she fought with Yao Lao, she had already reached the Dou Zong level yet it still ended in Yao Lao taking the upper hand. Looks like, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Yao Lao at that time stood at the apex of the Dou Qi Continent.

Gazing at Xiao Yan's stunned face, Yao Lao could not help but chide, "What's there to be surprised about? In the future, you can also reach such a stage!"

"Maybe."

Xiao Yan shrugged, declining to comment. That kind of level was already beyond the reach of just talent alone, both chance and luck were indispensable for it to happen. The current him merely wished for the Purple Flame to be quickly nurtured before gobbling it up to evolve his Qi Method and also allow himself to quickly become a Dou Shi. As for Dou Huangs, Dou Zongs..... these were just super existences that could easily suffocate Xiao Yan with just their names, he truly did not want to bite off more than he could chew.

"According to the teacher's explanation...the Fairy Doctor, could she possibly have a Woeful Poison Body?" Xiao Yan asked as his gaze once again swept across the seven colors on the Fairy Doctor's good-looking face while she laid on the bed.

"Yes." Slightly nodding his head, the smiling expression on Yao Lao face slowly receded. He stared at the Fairy Doctor for a good while before lightly sighing, "I had once fought that woman, thus my rather deep impression of the Woeful Poison Body."

"This kind of poison training method is rather unique, they do not need long years Dou Qi training. Rather for them to become stronger, they only need......" As he spoke till this point, Yao Lao's eyes turned towards the traces of powder at the corner of the Fairy Doctor's mouth with a slightly odd expression.

"Consume...poison?" As he saw where Yao Lao was looking at, Xiao Yan was firstly stunned, though his expression quickly changed as he said in shock.

"Ah, correct... it's is consuming poison. Once they consume poison, their Woeful Poison Body will use a stange technique to convert the energy contained in the poison into a special poison Dou Qi." Yao Lao smack his lips in amazement as he continued, "The more acute the poison is, the more effective it is in raising their strength. Thus, they don't need to go through any tough training. As long as they continue eating poison, their strength would rapidly rise."

"It truly is.....a terrifying physique!" Sighing gently, Xiao Yan bitterly laughed.

"Naturally, there is nothing perfect in this world. This Woeful Poison Body may be able to swiftly raise one's strength through the consumption of poison but poison at the end of the day is still poison. By relying on the Woeful Poison Body, one can stop the poison from devouring his or her bodies. However, when more poison accumulates over time to the point when the Woeful Poison Body cannot suppress the poison Dou Qi, then... tens of thousands of poisons will devour the body, causing the owner to slowly die under the most painful torture." Yao Lao shook his head and sighed.

Recalling pain makes one prefer death over life, Xiao Yan's body gently shivered. With some pity, he looked at the Fairy Doctor on the bed who appeared like Sleeping Beauty and dejectedly asked, "Is there no solution to this?"

"It is only natural to pay the price for gaining the ability to train quickly. In this world, there is no such thing as a free lunch." Yao Lao said faintly.

"Then if she were to give up consuming poison to gain strength, is it possible to avoid such an end?" Xiao Yan pupils spun around as he asked.

"In theory, it is possible."

Nodding his head, Yao Lao saw the happiness on Xiao Yan's face and sighed, "Unfortunately, you need to know that for those who own a Woeful Poison Body, the more potent the poison, the greater the attraction to them. It can even go to the extent of killing and stealing just to get their hands on an acute poison. In their eyes, acute poisons possess a lure similar the lure that the 'Heavenly Flames' has to an alchemist. They will use all kind of methods to get it, even if they have to become like moths leaping into a fire, they will not hesitate to leap into it... Do you think it is possible for you to get her to give up consuming poison?"

"If she had never consumed poison then the Woeful Poison Body would never kick in. However, once she consumed poison, even if it is by mistake, then the Woeful Poison Body will really be activated. Once that happens, the conditions that I have just describe will occur and there's no longer a chance to reverse it. In summary, we have discovered it too late, otherwise..." Yao Lao sighed regretfully.

With his mouth opened, Xiao Yan's expression continued to change irregularly. A long while later, it dispiritedly softened. According to Yao Lao, those acute poisons had the same attraction as drugs to an drug addict. Getting her to give it up may not be possible.

"Her current Woeful Poison Body is at its initial stage so it is alright for her to come into contact with you when she's conscious. However, when she's unconscious or when the poison body matures in the future, that will be... whatever she touches, will die."

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth twitched. He finally understood why the Fairy Doctor had told him those strange words not so long ago. It looks like she had already known that she possessed this strange Woeful Poison Body.

"How does she know? She has been staying in that small town, so how would she know about this secret information that not many people in the entirety of the Jia Ma Empire knew?" Xiao Yan mumbled suspiciously.

Yao Lao quietly mused before his gaze swept towards the seven colored scroll on the Fairy Doctor's chest. His palm beckoned it and sucked it into his palm. He then slowly opened it and scanned the different kinds of poison formulas on it before stopping at the last paragraph. Instantly, he shook his head helplessly and handed it over to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan received the seven colored scroll and swept his gaze over it. His face was also filled with a bitter smile.

"Woeful Poison Body, a strange type of Poison Body that can swallow poison in order to swiftly increase one's strength. The method to recognize a Woeful Poison Body: At the lower abdomen region, there will be a very tiny seven colored line. This seven colored line will grow with the increase in the intensity of the body's poison strength. When the seven colored line extends towards the heart, it is the time when the Woeful Poison Body is at its strongest. At the same time, the owner will also feel the pain of tens of thousands of poisons devouring the body." Below this line, there was a detailed explanation on the damage that the Woeful Poison Body can cause. Amongst them were the things the Yao Lao had described earlier.

"It looks like she already knows about it. If she continues like this, she will sooner or later be a vessel for potent poison." Xiao Yan waved the seven colored scroll and laughed bitterly.

"Yes."

Nodding his head and sighing, Xiao Yan returned the scroll to Yao Lao. His eyes stared at the Fairy Doctor and said softly, "Isn't the Woeful Poison Body immune to all poison? Why is she like that now?"

"The poison's strength is too intense. She has only temporarily fainted and should wake up very soon." Yao Lao carelessly said.

"Oh." Nodding his head, Xiao Yan sat down beside a table in the small house and waited for the Fairy Doctor to wake. Yao Lao simply gave another reminder before he disappeared back into the ring.

Seated by the side of the table, Xiao Yan stared at the Fairy Doctor, shook his head and sighed. Her original aspiration was to become an alchemist. Unfortunately, due to her inborn attributes, she had to take a step back and become a physician. However, with the development of her constitution, she will likely end up becoming a grandmaster level poison master that many in the Dou Qi continent would fear.

When she reached that stage, it may well be like what she had described that day. There would no longer be anyone who dared to come into contact with her, much less become a friend whom she can have a cordial conversation with. She had originally wanted to be a physician who could save lives but the heavens did not seem to want it. Instead, it allowed this kind young lady to have a Woeful Poison Body that everyone feared.

"Ugh." Taking in another breath, Xiao Yan lifted his eyes and found the seven colors on the Fairy Doctor's face slowly diminishing.

"Is she waking up?"

Xiao Yan muttered before he once again sat quietly for another short moment. The Fairy Doctor who was tightly closing her eyes on the bed finally opened them slowly. Her hand moved slightly as the corner of her eyes looked at the black poison. The corner of her mouth gradually curled bitterly. A moment later, the bitterness spread as the Fairy Doctor pulled the quilt over her face. On and off, some sobbing noises were emitted from within the quilt.

"I failed to control myself again... I should really die."

Seated on the chair and listening to the weak and gentle sobbing sound, Xiao Yan's feelings became heavier. He slowly stood up and sat beside the bed. His hand gently patting the Fairy Doctor's body that was hiding behind the quilt.

Feeling that someone was touching her, the quilt was abruptly pulled down. The Fairy Doctor's eyes widened when she saw the young man sitting by her bedside. Quickly, she rubbed away her tears and softly asked, "When did you come in?"

"I entered when you were still unconscious." Xiao Yan gently smiled.

Hearing this, the Fairy Doctor's pretty face slightly changed. She secretly hid the black colored poison that she held tightly in her hand into the quilt. A moment later, she appeared to have suddenly remembered something and hurriedly asked, "Did you touch me?"

"Uh,,, after knowing me for so long, do I look like the type who would take advantage of you when you're in an predicament?" Xiao Yan laughed dryly.

"No, I'm not talking about this... I mean... you didn't touch any part of my body, did you?" The Fairy Doctor waved her hands as she asked.

"No." Xiao Yan shook his head.

Seeing Xiao Yan shake his head, the Fairy Doctor finally sighed in relief. She tugged her legs into her chest and lowered her snow white chin onto her knee as she said softly, "I'm fine. There was some problem with the poison I was making."

Xiao Yan did not speak. His eyes simply stared at the Fairy Doctor. A long while later, he suddenly said softly, "Really... you cannot abandon that thing?"

Hearing the words, the Fairy Doctor initially reacted blankly. Following which, her beautiful body tensed and looked at Xiao Yan with an ugly expression, "You...what do you know?"

"I've read the Seven colored Poison Book. At the same time, I know that you consumed poison." Xiao Yan stared at the pair of vivid eyes as he said.

"Then... you also know about the Woeful Poison Body described in it?" Seeing Xiao Yan nodding his head, the Fairy Doctor gave a sad smile and bit down hard on her red moist lips. She asked, "Then you are also afraid of me, aren't you?"

Staring at the Fairy Doctor who had a tear sliding down her pretty face, Xiao Yan felt emotions stir in his heart. He shook his head and gently patted her head with a warm smile on the corner of his mouth. He said tenderly, "If I was afraid, I would have ran just now. No matter how you put it, we've been through thick and thin together."

When she heard this, the tears in the Fairy Doctor's bright eyes paused as she looked at Xiao Yan with a wide mouth. "Are you really not afraid of me? Will you still dare to eat the food that I cook for you?"

"Anytime." Xiao Yan said with a face that was full of smiles.

Watching Xiao Yan's face that held a smile full of warmth, a warm feeling flowed into the Fairy Doctor's heart. She wiped away the tears from her face, inhaled through her stuffy nose and mumbled in her heart, "Thank you, Xiao Yan. Perhaps, you will be my only friend in the future. Regardless of what happens in the future, as long as you still consider me as your friend, I will always be the Fairy Doctor from Qingshan Town in front of you even if I end up becoming a grand poison master that everyone fears..."

Chapter 156: The Preparations Before Swallowing the Purple Flame

Since the day when the Fairy Doctor fell unconscious after consuming poison, the days in the valley once again returned to leisurely and peaceful days. It was likely that the Fairy Doctor was extremely moved because Xiao Yan did not distance himself after knowing about her condition. Now, she had reached the point where there was nothing she would not talk to Xiao Yan about.

From the looks of it, Xiao Yan's actions which originated from his pity had somehow won the complete trust of the Fairy Doctor. With regards to this, even Xiao Yan felt surprised.

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Day by day, the peaceful days in the valley slowly passed by. The Purple Flame in Xiao Yan's body grew increasingly strong as Xiao Yan persevered through the tough training under the hot sun. Of course, this speed was in large part due to the support given by the Amethyst Essence. Were it not for this magical item, Xiao Yan would require many years before the Purple Flame would be able to grow to this extent.

It was another tough training session under the hot sun when Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes. The strong purple flame persisted in his black eyes for a long while before gradually disappearing.

At the end of this training, Xiao Yan did not stand up and hide from the hot sun like he usually did. Instead, he lifted his head and narrowed his eyes as he stared at the distant huge hot sun. He slowly lifted his hand and softly cried, "Appear!"

As his voice died down, a purple colored flame violently rose on Xiao Yan's hand. The current Purple Flame not only covered his hand but his forearm as well, extending until his elbow before it gradually stopped. Lowering his head and seeing his arm covered in purple colored flame, joy rushed onto Xiao Yan's face. He tightened his fist and ferociously struck against the ground. Following an explosion, numerous crack lines originated from where Xiao Yan's fist came in contact with the ground and continued to spread out until they reached the mountain wall.

"What a strong force." Eyeing the damage caused by one punch, Xiao Yan could not help but gasp.

"It's barely passable but the current strength of the Purple Flame has reached the limit of your control. If you continue training like this, a backlash may soon occur." Yao Lao floated out of the ring, glanced at the arm which was half covered by the Purple Flame and said.

"Indeed, it will soon reach the limit. My control of the Purple Flame in the vortex is obviously not as easy as before. If it is allowed to continue growing, it might try to take over me." Xiao Yan nodded and said.

"Since it's like this..." Yao Lao smiled and whispered, "Then... you will swallow it before it has the chance to bite you." Lowering his head and looking at the withering flame on his hand, Xiao Yan grinned widely, tilted his head and asked, "When will we do it?"

"Tomorrow afternoon. Today, you will need to prepare some things." Yao Lao replied with a smile.

"What do we need to prepare?"

"Swallowing the Purple Flame and evolving the Qi Method is not as easy as you think. This Purple Flame may be far inferior to a 'Heavenly Flame' but with your current strength as a nine star Dou Zhe, it is a little difficult to successfully swallow it. Thus, you need to prepare two different medicinal pills in order to be ready for the unexpected." Yao Lao laughed.

"Path Protecting Pill and Icy Heart Pill. These two types of pills are tier two medicinal pills. Under normal circumstances, it would be difficult for you to succeed refining them with your strength as a tier one alchemist. But now that you own the Purple Flame, which is much stronger than an ordinary Dou Qi Flame, you have an increased chance of succeeding.

"Path Protecting Pill, as the name suggests, has the effect of protecting your Qi Paths. When you are swallowing the Purple Flame you will need to move the Purple Flame along the Qi Paths of the 'Flame Mantra'. However, this kind of essence flame is unlike the gentle Dou Qi. It will cause tremendous amounts of damage wherever it passes and since Qi Paths are the most important things in training which means they cannot receive even the slightest bit of damage. Hence, this Path Protecting Pill is something you must make." Yao Lao said in a serious tone.

"Moreover, the nature of the Purple Flame is overbearing and wild. When you swallow it, the wild nature contained in the Purple Flame will begin to influence your mind as you swallow it. If your mind is encroached upon, then your intention of swallowing the flame would naturally be destroyed. Additionally, it might leave you with a phobia that is difficult to overcome. Hence, these two pills are a must when you swallow the Purple Flame."

Seeing Yao Lao's serious manner, Xiao Yan did not dare slight him and hurriedly nodded.

"These are the two formulas for the medicinal pills. The medicinal ingredients that are needed could be gathered in this small valley. On top of it, you will also need one rank two Wood type Monster Core and one rank two Ice type Monster Core." Yao Lao's finger lightly touched Xiao Yan's forehead and transmitted the necessary information into it while he told him the other information.

"One wood and one Ice type rank two Monster Core?"

Xiao Yan stilled upon hearing this but quickly nodded his head helplessly. His current stock only had one rank two Wood type monster core. He had to put in a lot of effort to kill a rank two Magic Beast the last time he was trying to gauge his strength. As for a rank two Ice type Monster Core, he did not have one. In the remaining time, it looked like he may need to enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range to hunt for a Magic Beast with this kind of monster core.

Xiao Yan closed his eyes and recalled the medicinal ingredients needed for the two types of medicinal pills. After that, he took another look at the sky before leaping down from the cliff. He found the Fairy Doctor in the valley quietly studying the Seven Colored Poison Book and explained the motive for him leaving the valley.

When she heard that Xiao Yan was going out to hunt a rank two Magic Beast, the Fairy Doctor became worried and wanted to go with him. However, she was stopped by Xiao Yan. After all, with his current strength, he could not ensure her safety when facing a rank two Magic Beast.

The Fairy Doctor could only helplessly give up her decision to accompany him when Xiao Yan stopped her. However, she was still worried, prompting her to hand a poison pill that she had meticulously made.

Being very clear of the Fairy Doctor's ability to manufacture poison, Xiao Yan did not decline and carefully kept the black pill. He voiced his thanks and rushed to the mountain wall. Under the Fairy Doctor's watch, his feet released an explosive sound as they stomped on the ground. Like a Roc, his body shot up toward the peak of the valley.

Standing on the peak, Xiao Yan waved at the Fairy Doctor who was at the bottom of the valley. After that, his body shook and the Purple Cloud Wings comfortably opened behind him, spreading bits of purple light under the hot sun.

As Xiao Yan stood at the top of the valley, he lifted his eyes and saw a small outline of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. In the regions that were visible, dark green trees occupied most of his sight. Occasionally, a violent wind would blow from the mountain range, causing the trees to form a green colored wave, presenting a majestic sight.

Xiao Yan lifted his head to glance at the blazing sun and wiped his perspiration. The pair of wings on his back flapped and he leaped over the cliff. As the pair of wings flapped, Xiao Yan borrowed the lift and swiftly flew inside the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

The Magic Beast Mountain Range was extremely vast. Trying to search for a rank two Ice type Magic Beast in this huge expanse of space was still a little difficult. After searching for nearly an hour to no avail, Xiao Yan could only helplessly get Yao Lao to help. Because of his abnormally strong Spiritual Perception, the ranks of the Magic Beasts within a radius of a kilometer would have a difficult time escaping from his search. Although Yao Lao had repeated that Xiao Yan would have to rely on himself for everything once he entered the Magic Beast Mountain Range, Yao Lao did not find an excuse to reject him for this current situation. He closed his eyes for a moment before slowly opening them and pointed south saying, "There's a rank two Ice type Magic Beast there but there appears to be some problem. Are you going? If you are not, we can change our location and search again but this will mean we will have to spend some time searching again."

Seeing the direction Yao Lao pointed toward, Xiao Yan flapped his wings and swiftly flew over. At the same time, he threw an 'Energy Recovery Pill' into his mouth and vaguely muttered, "Let's take a look first."

Xiao Yan quickly flew across the ground. He frowned just as he was about to arrive at his destination. Frightened yells were being emitted from the forest below. From the different volumes, it appeared that there were quite a number of people.

"Teacher, is this the place?" Xiao Yan asked uncertainly.

"Ah. There are mercenaries below hunting Magic Beasts but when they were attracting the Magic Beast, it appeared that they mistakenly attracted an extra rank two Ice type Magic Beast. Which in turned caused them to fall into their current state of disorder." Yao Lao's laughter escaped from the ring.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head and slowly recalled the pair of wings on his back, turning them into tattoos on his back. He somersaulted in the air and his legs slowly passed through the dense leaves before landing on the branch of one of the large trees. He then swept his gaze below him.

Under Xiao Yan was a somewhat spacious piece of empty land. On it were tens of harried looking mercenaries who were fleeing. Behind these mercenaries were two rank two Magic Beasts which were persistently chasing after them. These mercenaries merely had the strength of a Dou Zhe and naturally could not hold their own against two rank two Magic Beasts. Hence, the situation below was basically them trying to escape from death.

After carefully scanning these mercenaries, Xiao Yan abruptly noticed that these people all belonged to a single Mercenary Company. Moreover, the Company badge appeared somewhat familiar. It seemed to belong to the Mercenary Company Ka Gang and the others that Xiao Yan had met back then which was: the Bloody Battle Mercenary Company.

"Ahhh..." Just as Xiao Yan was scanning the place, a familiar frightened sharp cry suddenly sounded from the battered group of people below. Xiao Yan stilled and shifted his gaze below. There, he found a young girl among the group who appeared to have tripped over a rock and fell. At that moment, a rank two Magic Beast behind her opened its large mouth and revealed it fangs, viciously pouncing towards her. Xiao Yan pressed his eyebrows together as he stared at the young girl who gave the loud screech. This young girl was the one called Ling Er who was part of Ka Gang's small group back then.

With Xiao Yan's current distance, even if he wanted to save her, he would be too late. Thus, he could only bitterly smile as he shook his head.

Just as the Magic Beast was about to kill Ling Er, an angry yell sounded out, "Beast, get lost!"

Following the yell, a sturdy human figure suddenly shot out from the forested area. His hand carried a huge broadsword and together with the rising dense Dou Qi, violently hacked at the claw of the rank two Magic Beast. Instantly, both of them hurriedly took a step back.

"What?" Seeing that the person who suddenly appeared did not lose in a direct confrontation with a rank two Magic Beast, Xiao Yan immediately let out a shocked gasp.

"Uncle Fei Lei!" The young girl hurriedly called. Upon seeing the man at his prime, a happiness from escaping a close encounter with death surfaced on the young girl's originally terribly pale face.

"Ling Er, step back."

The man in his prime called Fei Lei did not turn around. He simply gave an order while he swept his gaze toward the two Magic Beasts that were gathering together because of his presence and involuntarily felt a bitterness in his mouth. With his strength as a two star Dou Shi, he could at the very most handle one rank two Magic Beast.

"Company Leader, what do we do?" A middle aged man walked out from the group of mercenaries and asked. He understood Fei Lei's level of strength.

"Ka Gang, first reform the formation. Do not panic. Otherwise, we will be separated and conquered by them!" Fei Lei's deep voice said.

"Uncle Fei Lei, you won't be able to beat two rank two Magic Beasts on your own." Ling Er said with panic evident in her voice. She was about to step forward when a long hand grabbed her from behind. At the same time, a lady's cold voice sounded, "Don't disturb the Company Leader!"

Being caught by the lady, Ling Er pitifully turned her head and looked at the lady with an incredibly good figure and said, "Qing jie-jie, we can go and help Uncle Fei Lei temporarily hold them off."

The lady who was being addressed as Qing jie-jie had a tall, lovely body. Her skin was not a jade white color but was more inclined toward the sexier bronze color. A black tight and short leather blouse revealed the protrusion of her chest at a seductive angle. Since the skin tight blouse was short, it only reached her belly button, displaying the smooth and narrow waist, presenting a sight that others yearned for.

The lower body of the woman was similarly covered by a short tight black colored leather skirt. Her long tight legs had a long dagger attached to one of them. The image she presented was like a female leopard in the forest that was filled with the wild characteristics of being strong and vicious.

When men first see this kind of woman who was filled with wild characteristics, their first thought was to tame her, letting this woman who was like a female leopard creep tactfully under them. Of course, this was also a thought that Xiao Yan had when he first saw her. However, the thought was immediately thrown aside when it was formed. After all, he did not have a sperm filled brain. This long period of tough training had resulted in his restraint reaching a superior level.

"With the current people we have here, we would be killed off, one by one by a rank two Magic Beast if we do not reform our formation. Now, we should listen to the Comapn Leader's order and reform our formation. You should stop adding to the trouble. If you had not caused a mess before, why would we end up attracting two Magic Beasts? Our friends had almost lost our lives earlier because of this!" The woman who was addressed as Qing jie-jie frowned and softly chided at Ling Er.

Ling Er felt some grievances from being scolded like this but did not dare to say anything as she obediently stood beside the woman.

"Qing Ye, if anything were to happen later, bring Ling Er along and leave first. We will hold them here." A young man wearing white clothes went over and said.

A pair of wavy eyes glanced at the young man as the woman who was called Qing Ye said faintly, "I won't leave first without the Comapny Leader's order. And if we compare our strengths, you are no where near me."

Hearing this, the young man in white rubbed his nose in embarrassment as he waved at Ling Er who was purposefully displaying a grimace on her face.

Seeing Mu Lan receiving a cold response, Ling Er secretly laughed. If she saw Mu Lan try to curry favor with Qing Ye in the past, she would definitely be secretly unhappy in her heart. However, for some reason, the Mu Lan da-ge that she worshipped in the past could no longer give her the same feeling as before. Instead, occasionally, when she let her imagination run wild, the black figure of a young man would appear for no reason. A young man who was carrying a large black ruler on his back...

"Rumors says that he actually killed Mu She of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company, a strong Dou Zhe that even Uncle Fei Lei would have a hard time over. What a liar, to actually say that he's only a two star Dou Zhe..." As her small hand held the hand of Qing Ye, who was by her side, Ling Er recalled the hot news that had spread around Qingshan Town for a whole month. An unknown feeling surfaced within the young girl's heart.

"Bloody Battle Mercenary Company, in formation! We will help the Company Leader hold off that Ice type rank two Magic Beast!"

When Ling Er was lost in her daydream, Ka Gang had managed to swiftly reorganise the mercenaries. He waved his hand and over ten mercenaries immediately rushed out with great coordination and headed for one of the rank two Magic Beasts that were attacking Fei Lei.

Being surrounded and blocked by a group of weaker mercenaries, the fairly large sized Magic Beast immediately let out a furious roar. Its huge sharp claws violently slashed down, ferociously shooting out an icy force. This force knocked against the shields that the mercenaries held in their hands, forming a thin layer of ice on them. The bone pricking cold caused a few mercenaries to quickly abandon the shields that had turned into ice shields.

"Hold it back! Ground type Dou Zhe to the front, Fire type Dou Zhe attack its weak points!" Watching the Company that had fallen into a disadvantaged position on the first exchange, Ka Gang hurriedly ordered.

After Ka Gang gave the order, the ice type Magic Beast impatiently faced the sky and let out a loud roar. Immediately, a snow white layer of ice quickly spread from under its legs and a white gas would flow up the body of any mercenary who came into contact with the ice layer. The icy temperature almost froze the blood in their bodies.

The formation that took a lot of effort to reorganize was easily weakened to a vulnerable state under this attack by the rank two Magic Beast.

After breaking through the formation, the eyes of the ice type Magic Beast turned red as it began its killing spree. A few mercenaries who could not dodge in time were immediately smashed by it and threw up blood as they frantically retreated,

"Company Leader, we cannot hold it off any longer!" Seeing the tyrannical massacre of the rank two Magic Beast, Ka Gang's face turned utterly white as he shouted to Fei Lei who was having a difficult fight with the other rank two Magic Beast.

The large sword in Fei Lei's hand ferociously forced the rank two magic beast to pull back before he also took a couple of steps back. Under everyone's gaze, he suddenly

lifted his head, faced a tall tree and cried, "Friend. All of us make a living in the Magic Beast Mountain Range. If it is convenient, I hope that you can extend your help. The Bloody Battle Mercenary Company will be eternally grateful!"

Seeing Fei Lei's action, the surrounding Bloody Battle mercenaries looked at each other in shock. Then they shifted their gaze to the spot where Fei Lei was looking at,

Not long after Fei Lei's voice was sent out, a response came from the dense woods, "I can help you kill that rank two Ice type Magic Beast. But if there is a monster core in its body..."

"It belongs to you!" Hearing this, joy struck Fei Lei as he called out without any hesitation.

"Hehe, Company Leader is really forthright. Some time ago, I was helped by some members of your compnay. Today, I shall repay the favor." Following a light laugh, the leaves in the forest swayed. A black shadow swiftly pounced down like an eagle.

"Ding!"

Qing Ye clenched her silver teeth as she clashed against the Ice type Magic Beast that was coming after them. The enormous strength immediately caused her pretty face to turn white as she hurriedly retreated.

After pushing Qing Ye back, the Magic Beast let out a menacing loud roar and once again violently pounced forward.

Just as Qing Ye was planning to once again stake her life and clash with the beast, a black shadow suddenly shot over from midair and landed heavily on the ground. A violent sound rang out, scattering dust throughout the area.

As the dust slowly settled, a skinny young man carrying a strange looking huge black colored ruler on his back appeared in front of everyone's eyes.

"Xiao Yan?" Ka Gang let out an involuntary gasp. With the unique huge ruler as a symbol, Xiao Yan was recognizable anywhere.

"Haha, Uncle Ka Gang, I hope that you have been well." Xiao Yan slowly turned his head. His gaze first swept across Qing Ye behind him and then smiled at Ka Gang by her side.

"Alright, we'll reminisce later. First, we need to get rid of this beast."

Xiao Yan waved to Ka Gang whose face was filled with an unrestrained joy. Turning around, he faced the huge rank two Magic Beast in front of him and let out an involuntary smile. He slowly lifted his leg and then stomped it on the ground. Following

an explosion, Xiao Yan's body turned into a black shadow and appeared on the left side of the magic beast like lightning. His hand tightly held the hilt of the ruler and drew it in a sudden motion. The Heavy Xuan Ruler left his back and carried an intense wind pressure as it smashed heavily on top of the head of the Magic Beast. Instantly, the huge force threw the huge body of the Magic Beast up. It smashed through quite a few trees before coming to a slow stop.

"Bravo!" Fei Lei whose eyes had been looking over, saw Xiao Yan's frightening move and could not help but praise him.

Standing behind Xiao Yan, Qing Ye involuntarily covered her moist red small mouth with her hand when she saw Xiao Yan knock the rank two Magic Beast over ten meters away, much like how one would hit a rubber ball. Her face was filled with shock. It was difficult to imagine that this skinny young man actually possessed such incredible strength. Really... a person cannot be judged by his appearance.

Not far away, Ling Er's gaze was entirely focused on Xiao Yan ever since his appearance. Seeing his incredible strength, a strange glint immediately flashed in her charming eyes.

"Roar!"

In the distance, the Ice Magic Beast that was sent flying once again got up. The humiliation of being sent flying caused it to roar angrily. All over its body, an icy air began to shroud it. It opened its huge mouth and ten sharp icicles shot toward Xiao Yan.

Seeing the icicles shooting toward him, Xiao Yan stabbed the Heavy Xuan Ruler in front of him. Following numerous clanging sound, it managed to completely block the wave of icicles.

Xiao Yan held the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly as he glanced at the ruler's body where a layer of ice was being formed. He smiled faintly and a purple colored flame gradually rose on his palm. He lightly rubbed the ruler surface and melted all the thin ice on it.

"Roar!"

Seeing that the icicle attack was useless, the Magic Beast once again faced the sky and roared angrily. All of its hair straightened while an icy white vapor surrounded its entire body. A moment later, the mist solidified into a layer of snow white ice armor. The ice armor covered the entirety of the Magic Beast, giving it the appearance of an ice carving under sunlight.

After being covered by the ice armor, the Magic Beast widened its four legs and charged at Xiao Yan like a tank.

Xiao Yan slowly steadied his breath as he lifted his eye to watch the Magic Beast charging over with an explosive force. His hands released the heavy ruler and tightened into a fist. A purple colored flame rose from it and encompassed half of his arm.

After lowering his head and glancing at the ascending flame in his hand, Xiao Yan raised his head and observed the Magic Beast approaching. At this moment, a gust of cold wind, caused by the ice armor on the beast's body, carried forth a large amount of pressure as it charged toward Xiao Yan.

Letting out his breath, Xiao Yan stomped heavily on the ground and his body shot out like an arrow released from a bow. Under everyone's stunned gaze, he chose to meet the Magic Beast head on.

"This guy... is he crazy?" Seeing Xiao Yan's action, everyone present mumbled in shock.

"Octane Blast!"

Just as the two sides were about to crash into each other, Xiao Yan lightly called out in his heart. The fist that was covered in the Purple Flame suddenly emitted a sharp explosive sound. A moment later, it carried a frightening force and smashed viciously into the Magic Beast's Head.

Almost instantly after they made contact, the ice armor on the Magic Beast was melted away by Xiao Yan's Purple Flame, allowing a large hole that exposed the Magic Beast's head inside.

"Bang!"

Accompanied by the Purple Flame, the fist smashed heavily onto the Magic Beast head. A brief silence later, Xiao Yan's fist borrowed the heat from the Purple Flame and together with a muffled sound, created a hole in the Magic Beast's head.

A depressing noise sounded in the vast forest. Half of Xiao Yan's arm appeared to have entered the Magic Beast's head and fresh blood trailed along his arm as it dripped down, finally landing in the somewhat quiet forest to make a strange soft sound,

Indifferently watching the Magic Beast, whose bloody red eyes were still open, Xiao Yan let out a soft sigh. He slowly withdrew his arm, took out a cloth and wiped the blood off his hand.

As Xiao Yan's hand withdrew, the rank two Magic Beast which had forced tens of the members of the Bloody Battle Mercenary Company to flee in all directions, finally fell to the ground under everyone's stunned gaze.

Chapter 157: Getting the Monster Core

As he eyed the fallen Magic Beast beside him, Xiao Yan threw aside the cloth in his hand that was filled with blood. After which, he flipped his hand and a dagger appeared. Squatting down, he cut opened the Magic Beast's head while ignoring everyone and slowly began searching within it.

After a few more cuts, Xiao Yan's eyebrows began to be pressed together and he shook his head helplessly. He wiped off the blood on the dagger and kept it. Finally, he stood up and shrugged his shoulders at those who was watching him. "It looks like I'm unlucky. There's nothing at all."

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, everyone gradually began to recover from their shock. Staring at Xiao Yan's empty hands, Ka Gang could only shake his head regretfully. He then waved his hand and shouted, "Everyone, let's first help the Company Leader finish off the other Magic Beast."

Upon hearing Ka Gang's shout, all the members of the Bloody Battle Mercenary Company quickly gripped the weapon in their hands and began swarming toward Fei Lei's battlefield and began to attack the Magic Beast as a group under Fei Lei's command.

Carrying the heavy ruler, Xiao Yan leaned against a tree trunk. He chewed grass in his mouth and lowered his head to see the abrasions on his fist. His eyes were full of excitement. Although he only managed to defeat the rank two Magic Beast in one blow because of his elemental advantage, the strength of the Purple Flame had far exceeded Xiao Yan's expectation. If this happened during another time, he could at the very most only injure a rank two Magic Beast after he used 'Octane Blast'. Killing it would still be impossible.

Xiao Yan slid his finger over the storage ring and retrieved an 'Energy Recovery Pill'. He threw it in his mouth without anyone noticing and swallowed with a slight tremble of his throat.

"Ugh, if this lousy Qi Method still doesn't evolve, I won't even be able to afford consuming 'Energy Recovery Pills'." Xiao Yan helplessly whispered as he felt his body gradually recover its Dou Qi.

While the bored Xiao Yan was leaning against the tree trunk, two beautiful shadows were slowly headed at him from a short distance away.

"Hey, Xiao Yan, are you alright?"

A young lady's lovely and clear voice caused Xiao Yan to lift his head lazily. He carelessly glanced at Ling Er before resting it on the other lady with the demon like figure for a while. Finally, he withdrew his gaze lazily. When faced with this young lady who had given him the impression of being unruly, Xiao Yan had little intention of paying any attention to her. Hence he said in an indifferent voice, "I'm fine."

Being treated indifferently by Xiao Yan, Ling Er's face became somewhat bright red. She opened her moist and small red mouth, looking as though she wanted to speak but was unable to. She was unable to find any words to ease the atmosphere; it appeared that she knew what kind of impression she left on him.

"Your palm is bleeding. Do you need to bandage it?" Seeing the gloomy atmosphere, the female with the devilish figure could only helplessly open her mouth to speak. Instantly, the cool and crisp voice sounded beside Xiao Yan's ears.

Xiao Yan lifted his gaze and scrutinized this lady with quite a good appearance. He swept his gaze over her body and slightly shook his head. In a similarly helpless voice, he said, "There's no need. I'm fine."

The similar indifferent manner Xiao Yan displayed much like he did before caused Qing Ye to be slightly shocked. It was not that she was vain but with her stunning appearance, she had seldom received such treatment. However, she was also a proud person. When she saw Xiao Yan shake his head, rejecting, she did not continue to inquire. Thus, the atmosphere between the three of them once again returned to its depressing state.

The gloomy atmosphere continued for a while before it was finally interrupted by the celebratory cry from within the forest. The three of them raised their heads and found that the Magic Beast that was originally putting up a tough fight with Fei Lei was finally defeated by the combined strength of everyone. No wonder they were so excited.

Leaving the Magic Beast carcass aside, Fei Lei instructed a few mercenaries to search for the Monster Core and led Ka Gang and the others, who were laughing together, toward Xiao Yan. The unrestrained laughter frightened the birds away from the forest. "Ha ha. Brother Xiao Yan, I've heard about you, but never had the luck to see you in person. Thank you very much for today."

Xiao Yan nodded his head with a smile. He greeted Ka Gang first before smiling at this strong middle aged man who appeared to be a forthright person. "How can I have any good reputation in Qingshan Town?"

"Ha ha. Despite being so young, you were able to kill that crafty Mu She with your own hands. Your reputation is far from being inferior. At the very least, no one in my Bloody Battle Mercenary Company could be compared to you." Fei Lei sized up Xiao Yan and could not help but sigh to himself as he shook his head. After seeing Xiao Yan fight just now, it appeared that the rumors of him killing Mu She were true. He could not figure out just how this person trained. How could he be so ridiculously strong in spite of being younger than twenty years of age?

Smiling carelessly, Xiao Yan raised his head and looked at the sky as he helplessly said, "I'm sorry. There was no rank two Ice type Monster Core in the body of that Magic

Beast. Therefore, I'll have to continue searching and won't be able to chat with all of you."

As he spoke, Xiao Yan replaced the Heavy Xuan Ruler which was in his hand onto his back as he prepared to once again enter the forest to search for a target.

"I'm really sorry that you gained nothing for your effort. If you do not mind, why don't you take the Monster Core of the other Magic Beast? It's a ground type one." Fei Lei waved his hand and expressed his apologies.

"Forget it. I only need an Ice type rank two Magic Core. You can keep that thing." Waving his hand with a smile, Xiao Yan turned around and headed toward the interior of the dense forest.

"Wait!"

A cool sweet voice of a woman suddenly sounded from behind him, causing Xiao Yan to halt his footsteps and turn around doubtfully to face Qing Ye.

"Do you have a great need for a rank two Ice type Magic Core?" Qing Ye asked with her eyebrows slightly standing.

"Yes, I need it soon."

Hearing this, Qing Ye hesitated for a moment before reaching out her hand and gradually retrieving the pendant from her long neck. One end of the pendant was hidden within Qing Ye's skin tight clothing and as she gently pulled, the pendant was pulled out in its entirety. At the end of the pendant hung a round white colored ice pearl.

"This is a monster core from a rank two Magic Beast Icy Snow Snail. Since you helped our Bloody Battle Mercenary Company once, treat it as a reward." Qing Ye touched the beautiful white colored Magic Core, seemingly unwilling to part with it. Then she threw it towards Xiao Yan and out of instinct, Xiao Yan reached his hand out and caught the milk colored Monster core. The part of his hand that caught it felt both warm and cool. Moreover, the pendant had a faint body fragrance remaining, perhaps a result of having remained on the skin of a woman for a long time.

"Qing Ye..." Seeing Qing Ye's action, Fei Lei could not help but shout. After musing, he could only helplessly say, "Since you are willing, then do as you please. But this is your personal item. Once we return, I will find something to compensate you. After all, these are the company rules."

"There's no need. If he had not intervened and helped, we would at least have lost half of our members here." Qing Ye said with a smile as she shook her head. "It really is a rank two Ice type Monster Core." After sensing the energy of the Monster Core in his hand, a joyful smile appeared on Xiao Yan's face. He blatantly kept the monster core and lifted his head to eye Qing Ye's exquisite and pretty face. He smiled and said, "Thank you very much. But this is yours and I should not let you lose out. How about..." After thinking with a frown for a moment, Xiao Yan flipped his hand and a jade bottle appeared in his hand. He then tossed it to Qing Ye and said with a bright smile, "There are five 'Energy Recovery Pills' in there which can help you quickly recover your Dou Qi in times of danger. If we were to compare prices, it should not lose to your rank two Monster Core... Consider it a fair trade."

Qing Ye did not originally intend to accept anything from the other party but when the words 'Energy Recovery Pill' entered her ear, her pretty face became blank. She quickly reached out her hand and carefully caught the jade bottle. When she opened it, surprise filled her face, "It is a medicinal pill?"

Hearing this, Fei Lei and the others around her were also moved. In this kind of place, they could seldom see a medicinal pill that originated from an alchemist. Thus, when they saw that Xiao Yan could take out five 'Energy Recovery Pills', they were all shocked.

"This young man seems to have an impressive background. Seeing this style of spending money, it appeared that he was a young master that had left home to come out and gain experience. That Mu She was indeed quite unlucky." Upon seeing the jade bottle in Qing Ye's hand, Fei Lei could not help but quietly say in his heart.

"Everyone, thank you very much. I still have some urgent matters so I won't be able to stay any longer. Goodbye."

With the Monster Core in his hand, Xiao Yan was anxious to return back and refine the two medicinal pills needed for him to swallow the Purple Flame. He immediately faced Fei Lei and cupped his hands together before stomping off the ground and swiftly shooting into the dense forest. Gradually, he disappeared from everyone's sight.

Watching Xiao Yan slowly disappearing into the dense and dark forest, Fei Lei could not help but let out a sigh. He laughed bitterly, "I had wanted to ask Xiao Yan to join our Bloody Battle Mercenary Company but seeing his generous trade, I did not have the face to open my mouth."

"Let's go. Stop thinking such ridiculous thoughts. With his talent, he would not stay in our small Mercenary Company. If I guess correctly, it is likely that he has come to the Magic Beast Mountain Range to train. With his training talent and calculating mind, the vast world is the stage where he can display his talent. For us... we should just focus on being insignificant mercenaries. Maybe in twenty years time, when he returns to Qingshan Town, he might have become a Da Dou Shi or Dou Ling." Qing Ye kept the jade bottle, turned around and said in a faint voice.

"Haha, that's true."

Fei Lei shook his head in a manner that appeared to mock himself. He waved his hand and led everyone into loudly singing the song of triumphant return as they carried the carcass of the two Magic Beasts back to Qingshan town. Although they did not possess the talent Xiao Yan had, they as small flies, also had their comfortable lives.

After entering the dense forest and hurriedly dashing for some time, Xiao Yan finally came to a stop. His back trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings gradually opened. The Dou Qi in his body circulated for a few times before finally pouring into the pair of wings on his back.

Instantly, Xiao Yan's body slowly floated up. The pair of wings flapped once again and his body broke free of the bounds of the forest and flew into the blue sky. He took a moment to locate his bearings before he extended his wings and hurriedly flew toward the direction of the small valley.

During the flight journey, Xiao Yan consumed three 'Energy Recovery Pills' before he gradually found the small valley that was covered by a dense fog. He braced himself and broke through the thick fog and flew into the small valley. When he was about to land on the ground, the pair of wings trembled and transformed into tattoos on Xiao Yan's shoulders.

After having been through a tough battle, Xiao Yan involuntarily let out a sigh as he once again returned to this peaceful valley. He quickly strode toward the straw house in the valley and found the anxiously waiting Fairy Doctor. When she saw Xiao Yan came back in one piece, the weight in the Fairy Doctor's heart was similarly relieved.

After greeting the Fairy Doctor, Xiao Yan hurriedly gathered all the necessary medicinal ingredients for the two types of pills. Once finished, he carried the medicinal ingredients and leaped into the cave on the mountain wall, preparing to refine the two important medicinal pills for the swallowing of the Purple Flame.

Chapter 158: Refine Pills! Qi Method Evolution!

Seated with his legs crossed in the cave, Xiao Yan extracted the Medicinal Cauldron from within the storage ring and placed it gently in front of him. He then placed all the necessary medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Path Protecting Pill' and the 'Icy Heart Pill' beside him. After he carefully checked everything again, he finally let out a relaxed breath.

Seeing that Xiao Yan was about to start the fire to refine the medicinal pills, Yao Lao slowly and unsteadily floated out from the ring. He landed on a huge rock, folded his arms and watched Xiao Yan work with a smile.

Xiao Yan glanced once at Yao Lao before slowly closing his eyes. Once again, his mind brought forth the two medicinal formulas Yao Lao had imparted him with and rechecked the quantity of each ingredient needed and the overall fire temperature. After revising them once, he began to open his eyes slowly as he gently rubbed his hands together. He then placed his palm on the fire outlet and his mind began to slowly sink into his body, carefully retrieving the purple colored flame from within the center of the vortex.

The purple colored flame was surrounded by Dou Qi as it swiftly passed through his Qi Paths and palm before entering the medicinal cauldron.

When the Purple Flame rushed into the medicinal cauldron, a soft 'bang' sounded. The Purple colored flame rose within the medicinal cauldron and began to burn.

Through the glass on the surface of the medicinal cauldron, Xiao Yan's eyes could see the randomly leaping purple colored flame. When the ice cold medicinal cauldrons temperature slowly rose, Xiao Yan tilted his head and smiled at Yao Lao. His expression once again became serious as his Spiritual Perception exited his body, entering the medicinal cauldron through his hand and successfully controlled the untamed Purple Flame.

"You can begin."

Seeing the increasingly calm Purple Flame in the medicinal cauldron, Yao Lao nodded his head with a smile on his face as he quietly commented in his heart, "This brat is becoming familiar with the use of Spiritual Perception. He was actually able to suppress the flame's temperature so quickly."

Nodding his head slightly, Xiao Yan's hand habitually grabbed a dark green plant from beside him. This plant was called Evergreen Flower. The warm energy contained within the leaves would make it very suitable to protect his Qi Paths.

Xiao Yan's eyes glanced at the Evergreen Flower in his hand. His hand paused for a moment before throwing it into the interior of the medicinal cauldron.

Just as the Evergreen Flower entered the medicinal cauldron, the surging Purple Flame pounced on it. In an instant, it's dark green leaves swiftly became brown. At this stage, Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception slowly suppressed the Purple Flame's temperature with quite a bit of effort. The faint flame seed carried a temperature that was neither cold nor hot as it gradually grilled the Evergreen Flower that was floating in it.

As this method of grilling continued, drops of green colored liquid began to form on the surface of the Evergreen Flower leaves. Following the increase in the amount of liquid that formed, the leaf quickly shrunk. When the last drop of green colored liquid from the Evergreen Flower was forced out, the body of the Evergreen Flower turned into black soot and sank to the bottom of the medicinal cauldron.

"Ah... not bad. With your outstanding Spiritual Perception, even some tier two alchemists cannot compare to you." Seeing that Xiao Yan succeeded on his first step, Yao Lao could not help but praise with a smile.

Smiling, Xiao Yan beckoned with his hand, sucking out the green colored liquid from within the medicinal cauldron. Finally, he carefully poured it into a jade bottle, storing it as it awaited to be merged with the other ingredients.

After obtaining the energy liquid from the Evergreen flower, Xiao Yan refined three other different colored liquids and a pale green powder that was obtained from grilling the Dark Cloud Spirit Fruit.

When refining these few types of medicinal powders, Xiao Yan destroyed twelve rare medicinal herbs despite his outstanding Spiritual Perception. This was because it was his first time creating this kind of medicinal pill and trying to grasp the necessary flame control and ingredient quantity. If the valley did not possess a large supply of medicinal ingredients, he might have faced the embarrassing situation of exhausting his medicinal ingredients.

Seated on a rock, Yao Lao quietly watched Xiao Yan refine medicine. When the latter managed to refine all the necessary medicinal ingredients, he nodded his head. Xiao Yan may have damaged quite a number of medicinal ingredients during this period of time but this number of failures was quite good considering that he was refining these medicines for the first time.

After refining all the ingredients, Xiao Yan let out a long breath. He took an 'Energy Recovery Pill' from the storage ring, threw it in his mouth and crossed his legs as he recovered the Dou Qi in his body.

Observing Xiao Yan's manner, Yao Lao could only helplessly shake his head. No wonder Xiao Yan was going crazy with his desire to evolve his Qi Method. After only refining for a short while, the Dou Qi in his body was already extremely exhausted. The current medicinal pill that he was refining was only tier two. If he was to refine a tier three or even tier four medicine, Xiao Yan might have to put a handful of 'Energy Recovery Pills' in his mouth in order to avoid failing due to his Dou Qi being exhausted. After crossing his legs and recovering for a long while, Xiao Yao finally opened his eyes. He watched Yao Lao's helpless expression and could only smile bitterly. He then placed all the different refined ingredients beside him and flicked his palm. A snow white Monster Core that was emitting cold air appeared in his hand.

Watching the rank two Ice type Monster Core, Xiao Yan slowly let out a breath. He flicked his finger and accurately shot the Monster Core into the medicinal cauldron. At the same time, Xiao Yan's palm quickly touched the fire outlet of the medicinal cauldron. He used his Spiritual Perception to suddenly release the suppressed temperature of the Purple Flame. Immediately, the Purple Flame began to rise with a crying sound and spread throughout the interior of the cauldron.

Within the soaring Purple Flame, the rank two Ice type Monster Core began to release an icy cold stream as it did its best to struggle again the heat, hoping to avoid being destroyed.

The Purple Flame and the icy fog started to be locked in a stalemate within the medicinal cauldron. Sheets of white colored fog began to seep through the cover of the medicinal cauldron and continued to spread throughout the surrounding area.

Lifting his eyes to see the increasingly thick white gas, Yao Lao lightly waved his sleeves. A ferocious force swept the white gas out. Immediately, the cave returned to its clear state. However, the current Xiao Yan did not have the luxury of noticing all this; all of his attention was placed on the stalemate between the Purple Flame and the ice type Monster Core.

The Purple Flame in him continued to be poured into the medicinal cauldron while the Ice type Monster Core did not wish to be outdone. It continued releasing cold air, struggling to escape its fate of being destroyed.

The stalemate continued until Xiao Yan swallowed another 'Energy Recovery Pill'. Although the Ice type Monster Core contained a vast amount of Ice energy, there was no reinforcement for the energy. Hence, under the relentless grilling of the Purple Flame, the Ice type Monster Core's cold air barrier was finally broken.

Following the breaking of the ice air barrier, the Purple Flame released an excited writhing sound. It pounced from all directions and surrounded the Ice type Monster Core before beginning to calcine it.

As the flame calcined it for a long time, numerous crack lines gradually appeared on the lce type Monster Core's hard surface. After a while, a clear cracking noise sounded and the surface of the Monster Core turned into ashes and sunk. When the ashes settled at the bottom of the cauldron, a small ball of snow white paste like energy appeared and drifted within the medicinal cauldron.

When he saw this white colored energy paste ball appear, joy finally surfaced on Xiao Yan's tensed face. After using the Purple Flame to grill for a little longer, he finally sucked it out and stored it properly within a jade bottle.

After refining the energy from within the Monster Core, Xiao Yan swiftly grabbed the few refined ingredients in front of him and poured all of them into the medicinal cauldron.

The Purple Flame surrounded the few ingredients in the cauldron and began to calcine them in a very intense manner.

As the intense flame continued to burn, the different colored medicinal ingredients began to slowly fuse. The liquid and powder began to merge and slowly rolled around in

the flame. As time went on, an initial medicinal pill shape began to slowly and faintly appear within the medicinal cauldron.

The current medicinal pill's surface was extremely uneven, on its surface, the luster was made up of patches of green and purple. When one looked at it, it appeared to be a strange looking object that was covered with edges, totally unlike the roundness and the luster of a fully formed medicinal pill.

Seeing this initial medicinal pill, the heavy weight in Xiao Yan's heart was finally lifted. At this stage, he had completed ninety percent of the refining process. The remaining step was to condense the pill.

Carrying the refined Monster Core energy in his hand, Xiao Yan tilted his head and eyed Yao Lao. Seeing that he nodded his head with a smile, Xiao Yan took in a gentle breath and poured the Monster Core energy into the medicinal cauldron without any hesitation.

Just as the white colored paste like energy entered the medicinal cauldron, it was controlled by Xiao Yan into covering the initial medicinal pill. After which, the mix of pill and energy began to slowly rotate. At the same time, Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception hurriedly suppressed the temperature of the Purple Flame, containing it to a point where it was neither too mild nor too hot as it gradually broiled the medicinal pill that was covered by the energy from the Monster Core.

The final step of condensing the pill took nearly half an hour. The energy from the Monster Core was grilled into the medicinal pill slowly by the flame. At this moment, Xiao Yan suddenly recalled his Spiritual Perception that he was using to suppress the Purple Flame. Immediately, the Purple Flame turbulently poured forth and carried a wild temperature as it surrounded the medicinal pill in an instant.

The Purple Flame was suppressed again soon after it was given full freedom and was quickly brought back down to its lowest temperature. As the Purple Flame slowly retreated, a jade white round pill appeared in an attention grabbing manner within the medicinal cauldron.

Seeing this jade white medicinal pill. Xiao Yan involuntarily opened his mouth and grinned. He beckoned with his hand and sucked it from the medicinal cauldron. Following which, he quickly took out a jade bottle by his side and stored the pill in it.

Xiao Yan's hand pulled away from the medicinal cauldron and the Purple Flame within it quickly disappeared. A moment later, the hot medicinal cauldron quieted down.

Shaking the medicinal pill within the bottle, Xiao Yan gently inhaled the fragrance released from the mouth of the bottle. His face could not help but revel in it. A long while later, he finally laughed to Yao Lao by his side, "The Path Protection Pill is a success!"

"Yes, not bad. Although there were some small errors during the process, your performance was quite good..." Yao Lao praised Xiao Yan with a nod. He glanced at the medicinal ingredients meant for the 'Icy Heart Pill' on the floor and smiled, "Rest for a little while. Next, you will need to refine the 'Icy Heart Pill'. With that success, I believe you should be able to damage fewer medicinal ingredients this time."

Nodding his head, Xiao Yan carefully put away the Path Protecting Pill'. Once again, he took out another 'Energy Recovery Pill' and swallowed it. Afterwards, he closed his eyes and waited for the Dou Qi in his body to recover.

Half an hour later, Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes. He had finally recovered to his peak condition. Seeing the medicinal cauldron in front of him, he took in a deep breath and extended his hand; once again he began to refine a pill.

Things went according to what Yao Lao had said, with the prior success from refining the Path Protecting Pill', the refining process for the 'Icy Heart Pill' had become much smoother. Other than the choppiness originating from the different flame intensities for the different medicinal ingredients, the remaining steps were extremely natural and unforced. The refining process satisfied even the extremely picky Yao Lao. From this, it could be seen just how outstanding Xiao Yan's performance was.

Two hours after the start of the refining process.

At that moment, Xiao Yan's face appeared slightly exhausted. However, there was an even greater feeling of excitement and joy. This was due to the two jade bottles he tightly held in his hands; contained within these transparent jade bottles were white and green round sleek pills that were naughtily rolling around.

Seeing Xiao Yan's tired expression, Yao Lao glanced at the already dark sky outside and smiled, "The time taken to refine the pills was approximately what I anticipated. Due to the strong sun during daytime, the Purple Flame would have increased strength. If you were to swallow the Purple Flame during that time, it would increase the difficulty of doing so. Hence, now is the most suitable time to swallow the Purple Flame. So? Can you still persevere?"

Xiao Yan rubbed his temples and smiled. "Of course. I'm only slightly tired, staying up for for the entire night should not be a problem."

"Hehe, that's good." Yao Lao smilingly nodded. Voicing his thoughts, he asked, "How many 'Energy Recovery Pills' do you have with you?"

"Eighteen." Xiao Yan's finger probed the ring before replying.

"That should be sufficient. After the swallowing process begins later, you should immediately consume one whenever you feel your Dou Qi is insufficient. It would not be

anything fun if you suddenly find your Dou Qi exhausted at any time." Yao Lao seriously said.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded his head heavily. Naturally, he did not dare fool around with his life.

"Alright, we'll now see the result. To be honest, I am also interested in seeing how much 'Flame Mantra' can evolve with this Purple Flame." Yao Lao released his breath as he said in a manner that suggested he was looking forward to the result.

"In any case, it cannot directly leap to the Xuan Class." Regarding this, Xiao Yan still understood his limits. Although the strength of the Purple Flame was good there was still a huge gap between it and a 'Heavenly Flame'.

"Naturally, I know that it is impossible to reach the Xuan Class. The jump between each class for a Qi Method is like the distance between the earth and sky. The Purple Flame may be able to evolve Mantra to a different level within the same class but if it wants to evolve it to a different class... difficult!" Yao Lao rolled his eyes and scolded with a smile.

Xiao Yan bitterly laughed but did not continue speaking. He sat crossed legged and closed his eyes. After he deepened his spirit and quietly sat for a moment, his eyes suddenly opened. Within his black eyes, a brilliant light flashed past. When the brilliant light in his eyes to diminish, Xiao Yan tilted his head and faced Yao Lao.

"Yes, begin. It's time." Noticing Xiao Yan looking over, Yao Lao smiled and gently nodded.

Nodding his head with great force, Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the two jade bottles in front of him. After which, he closed his eyes and his mind sunk into his body.

Under the control of his mind, the vortex in his lower abdomen suddenly began spinning at a high speed. Following its increased rotation speed, clusters of Purple Flame in the vortex were thrown out.

The Purple Flame that was thrown out seemed to be puzzled. Why had the partner that was working with it days before suddenly chasing it out? The Purple Flame that was thrown outside slowly gathered all the Purple Flame that had been thrown out of the vortex, finally forming an intense ball of Purple Flame.

Just as the Purple Flame attempted to charge into the vortex without thought, the surging pale yellow Dou Qi within the vortex came gushing outwards from the vortex and encompassed the Purple Flame within it. Under the control of Xiao Yan's mind, the surrounding pale yellow Dou Qi pulled the Purple Flame and began to move along the fixed Qi Paths dictated by 'Flame Mantra'.

When the Dou Qi surrounded the Purple Flame, the latter felt danger. Instantly, it began to angrily attempt to shoot out of the surrounding Dou Qi energy. Each time they struck, they would burn a large amount of Dou Qi energy into nothing. However, an unceasing supply of Dou Qi from the vortex continued to be emitted. Regardless of how the Purple Flame burned, it could not escape being trapped by the Dou Qi.

When Xiao Yan's Dou Qi surrounded the Purple Flame, he completely lost control of it. However, it did not bother him. He focused all his attention into controlling the Dou Qi, pulling the Purple Flame into becoming a long and thin flame before swiftly moving it into the Qi pathways for training 'Flame Mantra'.

Just as the Purple Flame that was encompassed by Dou Qi entered the Qi Paths that was predetermined, Xiao Yan's body trembled violently. Numerous small drops of cold perspiration continued to appear on his forehead. Like dripping water, it flowed along Xiao Yan's face and smashed against the mountain rock with a tapping noise.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth. The Qi Paths in his body emitted a twitching like terrible pain that almost caused his face to grimace. He did not expect that even with Dou Qi as the initial protection, the pain caused by the Purple Flame would be this intense.

"Consume the Path Protecting Pill!"

When Xiao Yan was clenching his teeth and enduring, Yao Lao's soft order suddenly sounded in his ears.

Hearing the order, Xiao Yan's hand did not hesitate as he grabbed a small jade bottle in front of him, poured out the jade white pill and threw it into his mouth.

Once the 'Path Protecting Pill' entered into his mouth, it began transforming into a warm and smooth current. It swiftly rolled into his throat and entered his body. Finally, under the control of Xiao Yan's mind, it swiftly covered all the veins that the flame must pass through when using 'Flame Mantra' with a layer of faint white colored energy membrane.

Although this layer of white colored energy membrane was extremely thin, the effect that it brought was very notable. Not long after he swallowed the Path Protecting Pill', Xiao Yan's tensed muscles began to gradually relax. His distorted face was also slowly becoming normal. There was still some occasional searing pain that was emitted from his Qi Paths, but this was entirely within the parameters that he could endure.

The gradual relief from the intense pain caused Xiao Yan to sigh in his heart. He could not imagine whether the Qi Paths in his body could continue to absorb and contain Dou Qi if he did not have the help from the Path Protecting Pill'. It might be that after the Purple Flame had completely passed through his Qi Paths, he would become a real cripple.

"It is indeed true that having an elder at home is like having a treasure." Xiao Yan happily mumbled in his heart. The position Yao Lao held in Xiao Yan's heart instantly sped higher.

With the help from the Path Protecting Pill', Xiao Yan was much more relaxed. Although his Dou Qi was consumed at an incredible rate under the burning of the Purple Flame, the help given from his uninterrupted swallowing of 'Energy Recovery Pills' allowed him to barely maintain an equilibrium.

Everything in his body proceeded in an orderly manner under the tense atmosphere. Until now, Xiao Yan did not find anything wrong but he continued to remain alert. As Yao Lao had said before, other than the danger of one's Qi Paths being burnt during the swallowing process, one's mind would also be slowly corrupted by the wild instincts of the Purple Flame, causing one to lose control.

Bearing in mind Yao Lao's words in his heart, Xiao Yan solemnly kept guard of his mind, not daring to allow even the slightest mistake.

After Xiao Yan slowly moved the Purple Flame encompassed by Dou Qi for half the Qi Path route of the 'Flame Mantra', Xiao Yan's expression gradually became serious. He had begun to vaguely feel that as the swallowing process became more intense while threads of faint agitation were slowly climbing into his mind.

Feeling that his mind was changing, Xiao Yan heart immediately grew fearful. He did not require Yao Lao's reminder as he retrieved the 'Icy Heart Pill' from in front of him and threw it into his mouth.

Once the 'Icy Heart Pill' entered his body, an icy bone cutting feeling slowly penetrated from his throat region. His mind felt this icy cold feeling and shivered slightly. That gradually increased agitation in his heart was like a remanent snow meeting a flame, swiftly melting away and vanishing.

With the 'Icy Heart Pill' to protect his mind, Xiao Yan was finally no longer afraid of losing guard of his mind. Immediately, he used all his strength to crazily circulate the Purple Flame encompassed in Dou Qi through his Qi Paths.

Following the Purple Flame circulating through the designated Qi Paths for 'Flame Mantra', Xiao Yan suddenly realized that a thread of Dou Qi and Purple Flame began to strangely merge together.

No, rather than say that they were merging, it was more appropriate to say that the Purple Flame was being gradually consumed by 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi.

Looking at this scene, Xiao Yan heart felt both shocked and happy. From this situation, he could confirm one thing. This 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method did indeed possess the miraculous ability to evolve.

As the pale yellow Dou Qi and the Purple Flame were about to pass through the last Qi Path for the 'Flame Mantra', the two of them had almost entirely become one. That originally pale yellow colored Dou Qi had at that moment, completely transformed into a pale, purple color. Moreover, on the surface of this pale purple Dou Qi, there was a rising faint Purple flame. However, this Purple Flame did not cause the Qi Paths any harm.

Seeing that the Dou Qi had entirely changed color, Xiao Yan's heart was filled with unrestrained happiness. He put in a greater amount of effort to direct the Dou Qi into completing the final portion of the circulation.

The circulation of the Dou Qi grew increasingly fast and finally, the Dou Qi with its color already changed, finally rushed out of the last Qi Path. Completing one perfect and complete cycle, the new Dou Qi stream returned to the lower abdomen.

After rushing out of the Qi Paths, the purple colored Dou Qi directly and unceasingly charged into the continuously spinning pale yellow vortex.

As more and more Dou Qi which had consumed the Purple Flame rushed out of the Qi Path, the vortex color was also slowly beginning to change from a pale yellow color into a pale purple color.

When the final thread of purple colored Dou Qi came out of the vein, the vortex had almost completely changed into a pale purple color.

At Xiao Yan's lower abdomen, the rotating vortex suddenly stopped and stood quietly.

At the same time, in the cave, the closed eyed Xiao Yan suddenly opened them. A glaring purple light shot out from his eyes for about half an inch, much like a real substance. A moment later, Xiao Yan slowly tilted his head and eyed Yao Lao. Stupidly, he opened his mouth and grinned. "Did I succeed?"

"You've succeeded!"

Yao Lao sighed heavily as he smiled and nodded. He could already feel that Xiao yan contained a Dou Qi that was many times more powerful than what it had been before.

Seeing Yao Lao nodding his head in confirmation, the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth opened, releasing an untamed laughter that announced his unrestrained happiness in his heart. However, his face abruptly changed as he suddenly felt the energy from all around him unexpectedly flow uncontrollably into him.

"Teacher? What's happening?" Tilting his head, Xiao Yan asked in a frightened voice.

The unexpected change also caused Yao Lao to be a little shocked. He frowned, then moved toXiao Yan's front and touched the latter's body with his palm. A moment later, a smile surfaced on the aged face.

"Good things really don't come alone. When one comes, a second and third follows. Congratulation, the time for you to break through a Dou Zhe and become a Dou Shi has arrived!"

Chapter 159: Advancing to Dou Shi!

"About to break through?"

Xiao Yan looked at Yao Lao, stunned. It was a while before he gradually recovered his wits after the shock from these words. He proceeded to say, half in disbelief, half in happiness.

"Yes."

Feeling the energy in the surroundings rush about, Yao Lao smiled, "Prepare to break through, this is your chance. If you miss it, you'll never know how long you will have to wait until your next opportunity."

Emotionally nodding his head, Xiao Yan had no time to determine what level his Qi Method had evolved to as he hurriedly once again sat down. Both his hands came together to form a training seal before his thoughts submerged into his body.

As Xiao Yan entered into a training state, the surrounding energy that was rushing about became increasingly wild and violent. Until finally, Xiao Yan's body seemed to become a black hole as it continuously devoured the violent energy.

Xiao Yan's mind entered into his body and hastily started directing the incoming energy that was flooding in through his pores. Although there was a large quantity of this energy, there were too many impurities within it. Thus the energy needed to be refined by passing through the Qi Paths before it could be completely absorbed. If not, the Dou Qi he had so painstakingly trained might be contaminated.

However, although Xiao Yan was already doing his best to control the vast amounts of incoming energy, he was eventually unable to gain complete control of suppressing it. After all, the scope of the energy was truly too terrifying.

With no other way out, Xiao Yan could only try to control a small portion while the rest of the energy was left to freely flow around his body. Of course, Xiao Yan had already proper protection in place for the key areas, thus even though the energy was free to flow recklessly within his body, it only caused Xiao Yan some pain but was currently unable to do too much damage.

Under Xiao Yan's careful control, a portion of the natural energy that had flooded into his body circulated for a cycle in his Qi Paths before being refined into pure Dou Qi energy that he poured into the pale purple vortex.

The pouring of this forceful Dou Qi was like throwing a huge rock into a calm lake, creating huge waves.

The originally leisurely spinning vortex suddenly began spinning at an increased speed with the pouring of this wave of Dou Qi energy. As the rotation became more and more intense, a ferocious suction force exploded forth. At that moment, Xiao Yan was horrified to realize that his mind was actually unable to control the natural energy that had entered his body.

Without the suppression from Xiao Yan's mind, the natural energy that was scattered throughout Xiao Yan's body and the unceasing absorption of the natural energy from his surroundings were madly being sucked into the vortex.

Following the fast rotation of the vortex in Xiao Yan's body, the suction that his body emitted in the cave also grew increasingly frightening. In the end, the mottled natural energy formed a energy curtain around Xiao Yan's body, giving the surroundings a dazzling appearance.

Yao Lao floated in mid air and observed the situation Xiao Yan had caused. He frowned. "What is this guy doing? How does he dare to directly put such unpure energy into his vortex?"

Yao Lao slowly let out a breath as he frowned tensely. He suppressed the anxiety in him and quietly watched Xiao Yan. In his mind, he was prepared to reach out and save Xiao Yan. From the looks of the situation, Xiao Yan should not be able to hold out much longer.

As Yao Lao was feeling both uncertain and anxious in the outside world, Xiao Yan, with his eyes tightly shut, was also beginning to feel a little panicky in his heart. He realized that because the unrestrained flooding of energy from his surroundings and his mind failing to control and ease it, his Qi Paths were starting to feel a faint swelling sensation and some pain. If he continued to absorb the energy in such a crazy manner, he might face the danger of having his Qi Paths swell and explode.

"Bastard. Stop right now!"

Without any strength to stop it, Xiao Yan could only use his mind to repeatedly roar at the fast rotating purple colored vortex.

Xiao yan was uncertain if the roar was effective but the fast spinning vortex suddenly became a little sluggish. However, before Xiao Yan could express his surprise, the vortex once again madly spun with an even more ferocious speed.

"Dammit!" Seeing the action of the vortex, Xiao Yan was so angry that he immediately cursed at it. However, just as his scolding died off, he abruptly realized that following the fast rotation, the surface of the purple colored vortex was gradually starting to be shrouded by a layer of purple colored flame.

The rotation of the vortex grew increasingly fast and the Purple Flame also grew increasingly rich. At this moment, the natural energy that was scattered all around his body quickly and randomly passed through some Qi Paths and rushed into his lower abdomen. They then swarmed into the vortex from all directions.

Xiao Yan's mind blankly observed the surging natural energy as he wailed in his heart. If the energy that was filled with impurities was to rush into the interior of the vortex, all of the Dou Qi that he had taken great pains to train would instantly be destroyed.

Under Xiao Yan's forlorn observation, the surging natural energy finally began touching the vortex. However, when it touched the purple colored flame, something strange happened!

That originally mild purple colored flame appeared to have its dignity provoked at that moment. In an instant, it rose into a Purple Flame that was half a foot large. Upon touching the Purple Flame, the swarming natural energy swiftly shrunk. In the blink of an eye, groups of enormous natural energy was calcined into droplets of small liquid energy around the size of a fingernail.

After the Purple Flame burnt off all the impurities in the energy, it appeared to have an intelligence of its own as it avoided these droplets of pure liquid energy, allowing them to directly break into the vortex.

When the liquid energy shot into the fast spinning purple colored vortex, it immediately created circles of energy ripples. Under the observation of Xiao Yan's mind, he abruptly realized that following the input of the drops of liquid energy, the size of the purple colored vortex was strangely shrinking slowly.

The size of the purple colored vortex grew increasingly small, but Xiao Yan did not worry. He could feel that although the size of the vortex was shrinking, the Dou Qi that was contained within the vortex was growing increasingly richer...

Feeling the increasingly dense Dou Qi vortex, Xiao Yan began to gradually ease his frightened feeling as he quietly watched the vortex's action.

After the first wave of natural energy was refined by the Purple Flame, the remaining natural energy did not disappear because of this. Instead, the vortex ferocious suction strength caused waves of mottled natural energy to violently rush into Xiao Yan's inner body, much like water sucked into a whirlpool.

Faced with this seemingly never ending pouring of natural energy, the purple colored vortex directly widened its embrace and did not reject anything that came. However, when the energy entered the boundary of the Purple Flame, it was quickly refined by the ferocious Purple Flame into drops of pure liquid energy. Finally, like a drizzle in Xiao Yan's body, the energy would drip into the vortex.

With the support from the extremely pure liquid energy, the suction emitted from the vortex was stronger with each wave. Finally, even Yao Lao in the outside world was slightly affected by this crazy suction force.

Under the scour of this natural energy, Xiao Yan suddenly realised that the Qi Paths and bones in his body became tougher and more spacious.

With the situation progressing to this stage, Xiao Yan could no longer get involved. Everything was controlled by the purple colored vortex. Luckily, this strange thing did not really mess around indiscriminately. Otherwise, Xiao Yan may have ended up being badly wounded.

As his mind roamed about in his body, Xiao Yan could clearly feel that his body was slowly strengthening under the scouring from the continuous waves of natural energy. This kind of sublime feeling almost caused Xiao Yan to moan in comfort.

Within the cave, Yao Lao watched the comfortable smile on Xiao Yan's face and finally let out a gradual sigh. He shook his head and smiled. From the looks of the situation, something unknown and mysterious had occurred in the young boy's inner body. Otherwise, he would not display such a lewd expression.

Of course, Xiao Yan naturally did not know that his expression of comfort had become something exclusively lewd in Yao Lao's heart. This was because all of his attention was attracted to the purple colored vortex that was spinning at an increasingly fast speed.

After absorbing an unknown amount of pure liquid energy, the current purple colored vortex was no bigger than Xiao Yan palm. However, the purple colored flame on its surface grew increasingly rich, showing no sign of weakening.

Under the careful study of Xiao Yan's mind, he could vaguely discover that there seemed to be some liquid like thing within the vortex.

The greedy absorption continued for a long while until the fast spinning purple colored vortex suddenly stagnated. A moment after it came to a standstill before beginning to spin in the reverse direction.

Seeing that the vortex had suddenly spun in reverse, Xiao Yan was more than stunned. He could only pray in his heart that the vortex would not act recklessly. Perhaps the vortex heard Xiao Yan's prayer. The purple colored vortex that was spinning in reverse did not possess any destructive strength. However, the pure liquid energy that originally was flowing into the vortex was shot out in all direction with the force from the reverse spin.

The liquid energy was thrown to every part of his body by the purple colored vortex. Each time the liquid energy touched a Qi Path, bone, blood or flesh, Xiao Yan found that the liquid energy was assimilated into them.

"Hu…"

Xiao Yan mind let out a gentle breath of non-existent air; an unrestrained happiness surged within his heart. Xiao yan could feel that following the assimilation of the liquid energy, all of his bones, blood and flesh seemed to have been transformed as they felt as if they were flooded with abundant energy.

The reversed vortex continued to shoot out energy for over ten minutes before it came to a gradual stop. Following its slow stop, the ferocious suction within Xiao Yan's body was also weakened until it disappeared.

At the moment when the suction disappeared, Xiao Yan, who was seated cross-legged suddenly opened his eyes. Instantly, the black hair on his back blew back and the clothes drummed without any wind. A wave of ferocious force that was many times stronger than what it was a few hours ago was awakened in his body and was released from it.

Sensing the vigor from Xiao Yan's body, Yao Lao smiled and chuckled, "Congratulations, from today onwards, you are a true Dou Shi!"

Chapter 160: The Difference Between a Dou Shi and a Dou Zhe

The clothes on Xiao Yan body continued to bulge outward for a long time before finally returning to rest on Xiao Yan's skin. Xiao Yan released a breath foul air before standing up and turning towards the smiling Yao Lao at his side. Opening his mouth and letting out a grin, Xiao Yan could not hide the joy on his face. With a year's time, he had finally been promoted to a true Dou Shi. During this time, he had put in so much effort and perspiration in order to achieve the success that was like a butterfly breaking from his cocoon.

Becoming a Dou Shi meant that Xiao Yan had left the class that the majority of people belonged to. Although the class of Dou Shi was still considered to be on a lower level in the Dou Qi continent, it was considered to be much stronger and of a much higher class compared to a Dou Zhe which was of the lowest class. Most importantly, Xiao Yan was still young with a lot of time to strengthen himself!

Xiao Yan tightened his fist. A strength that he had never felt before was flowing in every part of his body. Only until today, when he personally stepped into the Dou Shi class, did Xiao Yan truly understand just how big the difference between Dou Zhe and Dou Shi was. Recalling the battle he had with Mu She back then, the current Xiao Yan could not help but rejoice in his heart. If Yao Lao had not taught him the Di class Dou Technique, he would have experienced great difficulty in defeating Mu She regardless of how he leapt around, much less being able to kill him.

Standing in place, Xiao Yan suddenly raised out his right hand and curled it into a fist. Immediately, a purple colored Dou Qi abruptly surfaced on his body. After the Dou Qi appeared, it suddenly withdrew a little. A moment later, it gradually accumulated just outside Xiao Yan's clothes, seemingly forming a layer of defensive Dou Qi. It was perhaps due to Xiao Yan swallowing the Purple Flame that faint rising Purple Flames could be seen on top of the defensive Dou Qi.

A Dou Qi cloak, the symbol of a Dou Shi, was one of the most practical skills of a Dou Shi. In the fight with Mu She, Xiao Yan had witnessed its immense usage. In the past, Xiao Yan might have been able to bring out a Dou Qi cloak but he could not cover all of his body with it like he did now.

Moreover, the Dou Qi cloaks that Xiao Yan had summoned out in the past did not have any effect on his speed, defence, attack etc. Only after becoming a Dou Shi would the cloak that was summoned out be equipped with these ability to aid in battle, something that all Dou Zhes coveted.

Seeing the mighty looking and beautiful purple colored fire cloak, Xiao Yan's face filled with joy as he threw a few quick punches that created a fierce wind. After the cleansing and strengthening of the natural energy from before, the current him could actually cause his fist to carry a sharp piercing sound with just his own strength.

Eyeing the excited Xiao Yan who was continuously testing the strength of a Dou Shi, Yao Lao shook his head with a smile. He waited for Xiao Yan to calm down before asking, "See if the 'Flame Mantra' had evolved. What level is it? Middle or High Level?"

Yao Lao's question prompted Xiao Yan to stop his rapid punches. He nodded his head and once again slowly closed his eyes, allowing his mind to descend into his body.

After Xiao Yan's mind descended into his body, it quickly came to the lower abdomen where his 'Dan Tian' was at. At this moment, the originally large pale yellow vortex here was completely transformed into a purple colored vortex that was smaller than Xiao Yan's palm. His mind swept across the small purple colored vortex and abruptly realized that there were over ten drops of purple colored liquid slowly flowing within that vortex. These drops of purple colored liquid followed the spiraling of the vortex, like small fish in a lake. Xiao Yan's mind curiously entered the purple colored vortex and stealthily encompassed a small drop of purple colored liquid. After feeling it for a moment, an unrestrained happiness surfaced in Xiao Yan's heart; he realized that within these small drops of purple colored liquid was an extremely forceful energy.

Realizing the secret of the purple colored liquid, Xiao Yan's heart was once again able to better understand the huge difference between a Dou Shi and a Dou Zhe. He instantly let out an emotional sigh.

The vortex of a Dou Zhe was like a balloon while the Dou Qi was like the air that was contained within the balloon. This balloon had a critical point that belonged to it and once the Dou Qi it contained reached the point where it was full, it would no longer be able to contain any excess Dou Qi. If one wanted to forcefully push more in, the vortex would pop like a balloon and explode with a bang.

When promoting from a Dou Zhe to a Dou Shi, the biggest benefit was that the filled Dou Qi in the balloon would undergo a transformation, changing into droplets of liquid energy with far denser, more complex, and purer energy than just simple Dou Qi.

Once the Dou Qi underwent the transformation, the quality and quantity of Dou Qi contained within the balloon would instantly expand tremendously.

Hence, by having this enormous Dou Qi storage, a Dou Shi was naturally far superior; a Dou Zhe could just not compare. In addition, with regards to the class and purity of their Dou Qi, they were entirely different.

Xiao Yan's mind slowly exited the vortex. After the the earlier probe, Xiao Yan could understand that despite these liquid drops appearing to be only the size of a fingernail, a third of his pale yellow Dou Qi before becoming a Dou Shi would be needed in order to create one of these tiny drops of liquid energy. From this, it was obvious just what kind of energy was contained in this one tiny drop.

As he watched the slowly spinning vortex, Xiao Yan's mind moved slightly. Threads of purple colored Dou Qi promptly flowed out and began to rush through the Qi Paths determined by the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method.

Following the flow of the Dou Qi in the predetermined Qi Paths, Xiao Yan could feel numerous threads of fire type energy seeping in from the surrounding air in the outside world, penetrating Xiao Yan's skin and entering his Qi Paths. The purple colored Dou Qi would then carry them and complete a perfect cycle of the Qi Method.

After completing a cycle of the Qi Method, Xiao Yan could feel that the threads of Dou Qi that were released from the vortex were much more powerful and much richer than they were a few minutes before.

Upon completion of a cycle, the Dou Qi which had become more powerful once again entered the vortex. At the moment it did, Xiao Yan's body trembled slightly. Finally, he opened his eyes slowly and watched Yao Lao's face that was filled with anticipation. He involuntarily shrugged his shoulders and helplessly said, "Huang Class Middle Level! It only evolved by one level."

"Huang Class Middle Level? Ha ha, it was expected."

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, Yao Lao did not feel any disappointment. He eyed the depressed face in front of him and could not help but laugh, "The evolution of this Qi Method requires the enormous energy of the 'Heavenly Flame'. From the start, this Purple Flame did not meet the requirement. It is already quite good that it caused the Qi Method to barely evolve by one level. Moreover, by relying on the uniqueness of 'Flame Mantra', the Qi Method of only Middle Huang level does not lose to other High Huang Qi Methods. You should be satisfied."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan could only nod his head with a bitter smile. Although he knew it was impossible, his heart continued to wait for a miracle to happen; maybe the Qi Method could directly jump to a Xuan class Qi Method. However, from the looks of it, this miracle was a little imaginary.

"Ugh, Heavenly Flame... swallowing the 'Purple Flame' has already given me tremendous suffering, but the effect isn't very notable. If I really met a Heavenly Flame, it would be difficult to know who would swallow who." Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly. Although Xiao Yan had never personally experienced the strength of a Heavenly Flame, he could faintly feel just how frightening that ghastly white colored flame of Yao Lao's was when the latter was refining medicine.

Shaking his head with all his might, Xiao Yan threw aside the little listlessness in his heart. No matter what was said, his Qi Method had evolved. Moreover, he still had plenty of time. By taking things a step at a time, Xiao Yan believed that one day, he would be able to swallow a real 'Heavenly Flame' and evolve the 'Flame Mantra' into the Tian class Qi Method that only existed in legends.

Seeing that Xiao Yan was gradually recovering from his depressed state, Yao Lao smiled. "Since you have already become a Dou Shi, our training in the Magic Beast Mountain Range will be over soon!"

"Then let's go. I am a little irritated looking at these broken mountains."

"Yes, tomorrow we'll leave." Yao Lao nodded his head as he mused out loud, "If we count the time we spent here, there is only eight more months of time before we need to go to the Misty Cloud Sect for the three year agreement."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan's body trembled and his gaze swept across the space outside the cave. A long while later, he frowned and said, "I wonder what level she is at now..."

"Hehe. You can relax. In the remaining time, I may not be able to help you become a Da Dou Shi, but being promoted by a few stars within the Dou Shi level should not be too difficult." Yao Lao said blandly. When his words reached this point, there was a slight pause before he continued with a smile, "Moreover, even if there was some unexpected reason that caused her strength to rise so much that it far exceeds you, you should believe that this old body of mine would not brag. Within this Jia Ma Empire, there hasn't been many people whom I hold in regard... even if it was that Misty Cloud Sect Leader Yun Yun whose strength is ranked among the top three in the Jia Ma Empire."

"Haha, I've never doubted Teacher's strength. If you say it is possible, then I'll naturally believe it." Being given a reassurance to calm him, Xiao Yan felt much more relaxed as he curried favor with Yao Lao.

Giving the fawning smile on Xiao Yan's face a supercilious look, Yao Lao waved his hand and said, "Tomorrow, we will leave the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Our next stop is the vast Tager Desert at the border of the Jia Ma Empire. I'll warn you first, the training there will be much tougher and more dangerous than in the Magic Beast Mountain Range. You should prepare yourself for it."

"Tager Desert... My two elder brothers seem to be around that area. If I get the time, I can take a look on my way."

Opening his mouth and grinning, Xiao Yan patted his chest and said to Yao Lao, "As long as I can swiftly strengthen myself without any adverse side effect, you can just throw any difficult training at me."

"Ha ha. what a strong will!" Yao Lao laughed as the corner of his eyes harbored ill intentions as they glanced at Xiao Yan. "I hope that you will not beat a retreat when that time comes. But by that time, even if you wanted to, I would forcefully kick you back."

Smiling awkwardly, Xiao Yan smartly remained silent.

"Alright. Go back and rest. Tomorrow morning we will leave." Just as Yao Lao was about to return into the ring, his body suddenly shook. After musing for a while, he suddenly said, "Back then, I had visited the Tager Desert because I heard that a type of 'Heavenly Flame' was hidden in the vast desert. Unfortunately, I did not manage to find it. If you are lucky, you might have the chance to..."

After saying to this point, Yao Lao did not bother to look at the brightened eyes of Xiao Yan. His body swayed and entered into the ring.

"Heavenly Flame..."

With his fist tightened in a somewhat agitated manner, Xiao Yan turned around and walked out of the cave. After testing the strength of the Purple Flame, his hunger for the even more ferocious and frightening 'Heavenly Flame' had also increased.

"I must have it!"

The young man's firm soft voice that carried a little greed reverberated throughout the interior of the cave.