

## **Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 451: Reversing The Situation - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 451: Reversing The Situation**

### **Chapter 451: Reversing The Situation**

“Oh!”

The green-clothed young lady, who had suddenly appeared beside Wu Hao in the battleground immediately caused the expressions of the spectating injured new students to be filled with a wild joy as they cheered out loudly. Xun Er had defeated her opponent at such a crucial moment and extended her hand to assist Wu Hao. This undoubtedly added a heavy weight to Xiao Yan's group that was sufficient to tip the scales of this battle.

“Are you alright?” Xun Er carelessly asked as her gaze stared intently at the ugly expression of the ‘Black Demon Group’ member.

“I'm still alright.” Wu Hao's body swayed a little. His expression was pale as he clenched his teeth and said.

“Leave him to me. You should first rest for awhile.” Xun Er was able to see the strain that the current Wu Hao was undergoing. She gently spoke these words as the golden glow in her palms grew increasingly powerful and eye-piercing.

“There's no need. He was seriously wounded after being struck by my palm earlier. Let's join hands and use the fastest speed to defeat him. Otherwise, Hu Jia and the other new students won't be able to hold out for much longer.” Wu Hao inhaled a deep breath of air and a sleek redness surfaced on his pale-white face. His words had just sounded when he maneuvered the little Dou Qi left within him and fiercely charged toward that member of the ‘Black Demon Group’ without allowing Xun Er to speak.

“Hey...” Xun Er hurriedly cried out when she saw that Wu Hao actually still dared to take the lead in attacking. Her body flashed and within a breath's time, she overtook Wu Hao. Golden light suddenly surged between her palms. Immediately, an extremely long golden-colored whip was swiftly uncoiled. Finally, the whip fully unfurled and the clear sound of a whip snapping surged through the air.

There appeared to be a faint and vaguely visible golden-colored flame surrounding the golden-colored energy whip. When the whip moved, its speed was as fast as lightning. The member of the ‘Black Demon Group’ could only feel a golden glow flash in front of him as an incinerating breeze came falling toward his head. His expression immediately changed. With a sudden movement, his body rolled backward in a miserable manner.

The golden-colored long whip carried the superheated breeze as it struck the ground not far in front. Immediately, the originally dampened ground swiftly became dry at a rate visible to the naked eye. An instant later, a half meter long scar appeared in the ground after it was grilled by the high temperature until it became as hard as rock.

That member of the 'Black Demon Group' glanced at the surface of the ground which was grilled until it became rock-like. He forcefully swallowed a mouthful of saliva. However, before he even had the time to recover, a blood-colored shadow suddenly flashed from his side. Finally, a leg heavily collided with his chest before he had time to react.

"Argh..." After being kicked, a sleek redness surfaced on the face of this member of the 'Black Demon Group.' He forcefully suppressed the fresh blood that was about to reach his mouth as his throat let out a soft groan. After undergoing repeated blows, some hostility had also flashed in his eyes. He tried his best to raise his strength as his stomach was depressed inward. Immediately, he released his breath forcefully.

As he let out his breath, the Dou Qi, which was agglomerated in his body, abruptly erupted from his chest in energy ripples. Finally, it collided with Wu Hao's leg. The latter, which had originally already run out of steam, spat out a mouthful of fresh blood under this reflected Dou Qi shockwave. His body flew back a couple of meters before he feebly fell onto some withered leaves.

"Bang!"

Before this member of the 'Black Demon Group' could rejoice after wounding Wu Hao, the lithe green-colored figure flashed in front of him like a ghost. That elegant and exquisite pretty face contained some coldness at this moment. A golden glow shone brightly from her right palm. When she was only half a foot from the former, a golden glowing palm shot out explosively and heavily smashed against his chest.

"Glug!"

The member of the 'Black Demon Group' finally could not endure any longer upon receiving a firm and heavy blow from Xun Er. A mouthful of fresh blood was spat out from his mouth while his legs slid against the ground as he continued to slide back after receiving this powerful blow from Xun Er. Finally, his body heavily collided with a thick tree trunk. The force that seeped out from his back actually shook the tree trunk until a few crack lines appeared.

Merely less than one minute had passed in this battleground from the moment Wu Hao launched a sudden attack until the end when the member of the 'Black Demon Group' was defeated. Many new students could only see Wu Hao charging in before being forced back by the opponent as well as Xun Er's exceedingly strong strike.

However, regardless of whether they had clearly seen the course of the fight, the defeat of that member of the 'Black Demon Group' was real. Hence, after confirming that the latter could no longer continue to fight, a wild joyous cry once again sounded throughout the clearing. Many new students who did not have the strength to participate in the battle were so excited at this moment that their faces flushed with joy. Following the defeat of these two people, the chance of victory for Xiao Yan's group was no longer the kind that was so low to the point that it was impossible!

At this moment, two of the five opponents were defeated. On the other hand, only Wu Hao alone in Xiao Yan's group had lost his fighting strength. From the looks of it, by relying on Xun Er's outstanding strength, they had already raised their extremely disadvantageous position to a level where they could match the strength of the 'Black Demon Group'.

This caused the new students to finally see the hope of victory.

Watching from the sidelines under a tree, Su Xiao, Leng Bai, Xiu Yan, and a group of people leaned against the tree trunk and eyed the unpredictable battle circle. Some of them could not help but have shocked expressions after seeing that Xun Er, by herself, actually managed to defeat two members of the 'Black Demon Group', whose strength were similar to their own. Only until this moment did they throw a solemn gaze toward this young lady who was so pretty that it caused people to have difficulty shifting their gaze away.

"This group of Xiao Yan's is really strong... Earlier, if the girls called Xun Er and Hu Jia chose to surround and attack us, we would have definitely suffered a quicker defeat." Su Xiao laughed bitterly and sighed.

Beside him, Leng Bai and Xiu Yan also laughed bitterly and nodded. These two girls, who appeared to be weak, actually possessed such powerful strength. A group consisting of five people with the strength of a five star Da Dou Shi... as he thought of this, Leng Bai could not resist having the impulse to roll his eyes. This kind of lineup could be considered a middle level group even when ranked among the groups from the Inner Academy.

"If that Bai Shan did not get cold feet and flee, it is difficult to say who would win or lose in their fiery battle with the 'Black Demon Group'..." Xiu Yan tightened his fist and spoke in a deep voice. When he mentioned Bai Shan's name, the disdain on his face was clearly not the least bit hidden. His character was similar to the Dou Qi which he practiced. Both of which belonged to the straightforward type. Hence, he did not hide any of his dislike for Bai Shan.

"The weakness that was created by Bai Shan leaving has already been evened out by that girl called Xun Er. As long as she is able to join hands with the few remaining new students to defeat another member of the 'Black Demon Group,' they would be able to reverse the tide." Su Xiao slowly said. After saying that, he paused for a moment as his

gaze swept toward Xiao Yan, who did not show any sign of losing despite matching up against Sha Tie as their fight was in full swing. An amazement flashed across his eyes as he softly said, "Of course, the precondition of this is that Xiao Yan is able to firmly hold Sha Tie off before she defeats the other members of the 'Black Demon Group'. Otherwise..."

"Yes..."

Leng Bai and Xiu Yan nodded slightly. Although the situation in the battlefield had already begun to lean toward the new students, once there was a problem in the battle Xiao Yan was in, the situation, which they had turned around with great difficulty, would once again be reversed without any doubt.

Although it may appear that Xun Er was currently the most important factor in the battlefield, the reality was that Xiao Yan's battle was the one which the most decisive effect!

If Xiao Yan lost, then the new students would be completely hopeless. However, if Xiao Yan was able to successfully drag it out with Sha Tie until Xun Er defeated the other members of the 'Black Demon Group' that were fighting the other new students, it was likely that Xiao Yan's group would create the first miracle in the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' since its inception so many years ago!

There had never been a batch of incoming students who were able to defeat either of the two groups which acted as the 'Black White Evil Stopper.' At this moment, however, Xiao Yan's group was slowly stepping toward this miracle that had never been seen before!

Sha Tie had clearly sensed that two members of his own group were already defeated. Immediately, his expression became a little ugly. When he struck out, his attacks were becoming increasingly sharp. The wind from his palm cut through the air and emitted a 'hu hu' sound, causing the air to emit a low and deep explosion sound.

Although Sha Tie's attacks had become increasingly stronger, Xiao Yan had his lips tightly pursed together. His body was like a small boat in a precarious storm under the shadow of those heavy blows. No matter how tyrannical the waves were, he was always able to maintain the boat such that it would not end up capsizing regardless of how dangerous the situation became.

At this moment, Xiao Yan had undoubtedly unleashed his own strength to its peak. Moreover, he was also clear that his current task was not to defeat Sha Tie but to stall for time!

The increasingly intense battle within the battleground attracted everyone's eyes and minds until they did not even make the slightest movement. They were afraid that the

moment they were distracted, they would miss a critical part which could affect the entire battle.

Everyone was sweating on the inside as they eyed the sweeping and flashing human figure on the battleground. This battle was really far too much of a stalemate.

Time quietly flowed past like water flowing from the fingertips. Just five minutes after Xun Er and Wu Hao joined hands to defeat a member of the 'Black Demon Group,' the member of the 'Black Demon Group,' who had clenched his teeth and endured until three new students were left finally had an opening. It was made by a new student who risked being seriously injured and was caught by Xun Er. Hence, as the golden light erupted, one could only hear a muffled sound while a black shadow drew a parabolic curve in midair. The black shadow smashed heavily into the ground. Fresh blood was spat out from his mouth, dyeing the withered leaves bright red.

"Go!" Xun Er once again defeated her opponent with another palm. Some perspiration surfaced on her bright and clean forehead. Without any rest, she cried out softly to the three new students by her side and immediately charged non-stop to the battle circle Hu Jia was in!

Another five minutes passed. Under the loud cheers of the surrounding new students, the last 'Black Demon Group' member, with the exception of Sha Tie, was also completely beaten up by the combination of Xun Er, Hu Jia, and the three new students until he did not have any combat strength left!

Thus far, the situation in the battlefield was such that victory seemed to lean completely one-sidedly toward Xiao Yan's group!

### **Chapter 452: Bitter and Angry Sha Tie**

In the completely destroyed clearing, Hu Jia and the three remaining new students watched as the single remaining member of the 'Black Demon Group' was defeated, and could not help but heave a long sigh of relief. Their legs immediately lost strength as they collapsed to the ground, the sound of them panting like billows echoed repeatedly from their mouths.

Following the defeat of the last member of the 'Black Demon Group,' with the exception of Sha Tie, the spectating students, whose nerves were strained, finally could no longer endure the excitement and wild joy in their hearts. They ignored the injuries on their bodies as they leaped to their feet and wildly shouted. In an instant, various wild shrieks and hollers spread through the air above the empty ground.

Xun Er's delicate hand wiped the perspiration from her forehead. The golden glow emitted from her body also began to dim. These three rescues had caused some difficulty for her. If it were not for the fact that the Qi Method that she practiced was not

a low class method, it would have been likely that she would have been like Wu Hao, whose combat strength greatly deteriorated as a result of over exhaustion of his Dou Qi.

Xun Er supported herself by leaning against a tree trunk. She took advantage of this short time frame to catch her breath before sweeping her gaze to the place where Xiao Yan's battle was happening. When she saw that Xiao Yan did not show any signs of becoming defeated despite being forced by his opponent to the point where he faced continuous danger, she heaved a sigh of relief. A smile that caused Su Xiao and the others to feel graced to be in her presence made its way onto her face.

"Xiao Yan's group has already gained the advantage in this fight."

Su Xiao sighed as he recovered from Xun Er's blooming flower-like stunning smile. The expression on his face was extremely brilliant. It was really unexpected that the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition,' which did not have any big incidents after being held for so many years, would suddenly have an unexpected turn of events that left them stunned this year when they themselves participated. This really caused Su Xiao to be speechless. Originally, he had planned to accumulate some 'Fire Energy' from the new students to enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train for a period of time. In the end, not only did he not obtain any 'Fire Energy,' rather, he ended up losing his. This was really a double whammy.

Leng Bai and Xiu Yan exchanged gazes beside him. Their hearts were a little sad and chaotic as they laughed bitterly. They were really terribly unlucky to have met this kind of situation.

"As long as these fellows devote themselves to training hard within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' for a period of time after they enter the academy, I'm afraid that they will be able to sneak their way into the 'Strong Ranking.'" Su Xiao shifted his body to let himself lean more comfortably against the tree trunk. His gaze was thrown toward Xiao Yan, who was having a heated battle with Sha Tie. These words of his had a sense of marvel that was difficult to hide.

Although he had already viewed Xiao Yan very highly, he did not expect that the latter would actually be able to rely on his own strength to endure this long at Sha Tie's hands. It should be known that Sha Tie was a seasoned veteran in fighting techniques and frequently mingled in the Fighting Arena within the Inner Academy. His fighting experience could be called shrewd and ruthless. Even the lower level Dou Lings with little battle experience would have difficulty defeating him. From this, it could be seen just how rich Sha Tie's combat experience was.

However, it was this person, whose strength was not only a few stars higher than Xiao Yan but whose combat experience was also very seasoned, who was unable to defeat the latter after such a long time. This scene could not help but cause Su Xiao and the rest to feel speechless at Xiao Yan's tenaciousness.

Of course, they naturally did not know that if it were not for the green-colored flame in Xiao Yan's hand causing Sha Tie to suffer greatly, it was likely that Xiao Yan would really have difficulty holding out for this long in Sha Tie's hands without showing any signs of defeat if he just relied on the strength of his own level.

Leng Bai and Xiu Yan quietly nodded when they heard Su Xiao's words. Thus far, the various things that Xiao Yan had displayed had already far exceeded their expectations. Reaching the level of a six star Da Dou Shi at such an age. This kind of training talent really caused some people to be utterly amazed. None of them had any doubt when it was said that he would be able to enter the 'Strong Ranking' of the Inner Academy.

Xun Er, Hu Jia, and the others rested on the sidelines for two to three minutes before they stood up once again. They exchanged glances with one another and nodded slightly. Gold and green-colored Dou Qi once again surged out of their bodies. Finally, they moved in a similar fashion toward the left and right, surrounding the battle grounds where Xiao Yan and Sha Tie were exchanging blows. Dou Qi extended out and shrunk back into their palms, ready to seize Sha Tie's opening and give him a heavy blow.

The other three new students, on the other hand, could only watch Xun Er and Hu Jia's actions since their Dou Qi was completely exhausted. Currently, they were unable to gather even the slightest bit of strength to go forward and help. Of course, with their strength, they were indeed unable to get involved in this level of battle.

"Clang!"

A fist wrapped in green-colored flame once again heavily collided with Sha Tie's fist which was covered by the dark-golden-colored Dou Qi Armor. A clear clang suddenly sounded.

Xiao Yan's shoulders quivered rapidly as he sensed the powerful force that transmitted from the point of contact between their fist. His muscles fluctuated a little like a water ripple. A green flame suddenly ignited within his black pupils as he inhaled a deep breath of air while a low cry was emitted from Xiao Yan's throat. The Dou Crystal vibrated quickly within the vortex of his body. Wisps of green-colored flame swiftly surged out from that small Acceptance Spirit space, finally moving along his Qi Paths to reach his fist.

"Huh!"

As Xiao Yan's cry sounded, the green-colored flame on his hand suddenly soared. Finally, it turned into a large cluster of flames that moved along the point of contact between the fist and instantly swept over Sha Tie's Dou Qi Armor. Immediately, the sound of ear-piercing sizzling repeatedly emitted from Sha Tie's Dou Qi Armor.

Following the explosive surge of this cluster of green-colored flames, Xiao Yan's face suddenly became much dimmer. By mobilizing such a large amount of 'Heavenly

Flame' to attack, it not only consumed a great amount of his Dou Qi, but also placed an immense burden on his Spiritual Strength.

The green-colored flame that suddenly adhered to his body caused Sha Tie's expression, hidden under the Dou Qi Armor, to change drastically. An extremely high temperature repeatedly permeated through the Dou Qi Armor from outside. At the very least, it grilled Sha Tie's skin until it was fiery red.

"Dammit! What is this flame exactly?"

Sha Tie let out a soft but furious roar in his heart. Currently Sha Tie was enraged. In the earlier exchanges, each time he was about to strike Xiao Yan's body, that green-colored flame would take the initiative to pounce toward him, forcing him to pull his hand back. Hence, he could not take advantage of any openings despite this exchange having lasted for more than ten minutes. Instead, he was suppressed by Xiao Yan to the point where he could not even move to win. A moment ago, he had gotten a chance to give a hard punch, something which was difficult to come by. However, that damn flame had coincidentally come sticking onto him. How could he not be angry at this kind of hopelessly stupid battle?

While Sha Tie was furious in his heart, his body was swiftly pulling back. As he did so, anything which he collided with would be instantly be incinerated by the green-colored flame and turned into ashes.

At this moment, Sha Tie had suddenly appeared to have become a green-colored flaming person in other people's eyes while he repeatedly randomly fell back.

Even the hard armor on Sha Tie's body, which was like a tortoise shell, was starting to be charred by that green-colored flame until it gradually became pale. Just as the Dou Qi Armor had become vaguely visible, the green-colored flame, which had left Xiao Yan's control, finally extinguished extremely suddenly with a 'xiu' sound.

The perspiration covered Sha Tie sighed in relief at the green-colored flame which had suddenly disappeared. If this flame had lasted a little longer, he did not dare say just how long he could endure with just his flesh should his armor be compromised...

At the same time Sha Tie sighed in relief, he clenched his teeth and lifted his head. He eyed Xiao Yan and involuntarily let out a cold smile when he saw the other party's somewhat dimmed face. However, before his cold laughter was completely transmitted out from his mouth, his expression suddenly stiffened.

Under Sha Tie's gaze, he saw that the originally dim-faced Xiao Yan waved his hand and a jade bottle appeared within his hand. The latter swiftly poured out three round medicinal pills before popping them into his mouth in front of Sha Tie. The initial medicinal strength immediately began to swiftly disperse and the dimness on Xiao Yan's face faded slightly compared to his earlier condition.



After consuming the medicinal pills like one would consume candy, Xiao Yan raised his head and smiled at Sha Tie. He shook both his hands slightly and the green-colored flame, which caused Sha Tie's face to stiffen, exploded out once again. This time around, however, it clearly no longer had the power it did a moment ago. Nevertheless, just this alone still caused the corner of Sha Tie's mouth to twitch.

"Even if this fellow is an alchemist, he didn't need to eat it like that, did he? Do medicinal pills not cost money?" Sha Tie's expression turned a little green. In his heart, however, he felt an incomparable bitterness and anger. It was already shameless to rely on that weird flame to fight. Yet, this fellow actually ate those medicinal pills like candy, using it to recover the Dou Qi which he had completely exhausted. How was Sha Tie going to fight against this?

"Hee hee..." Xiao Yan laughed when he saw Sha Tie's expression. His gaze swept toward Xun Er and Hu Jia by the side. A moment later, he lifted his chin and the three of them flashed forward at the same time. The powerful attacks were all headed for Sha Tie. At this moment, the hard tortoise shell like Dou Qi Armor belonging to Sha Tie had basically been cooked by Xiao Yan's 'Green Lotus Core Flame' until nothing was left. This was the perfect time to strike!

"Wait!"

The green-colored flame was swiftly overtaking Sha Tie's field of vision. As he recalled the pain from being burned by that flame earlier, Sha Tie's face contorted. His gaze swiftly swept over his four companions who had already been defeated and helplessly shook his head. He immediately inhaled a deep breath of air as his voice sounded in the empty forest like thunder, shocking everyone.

Three sharp attacks suddenly stopped just as they were half a meter from Sha Tie. The footsteps of the three of them staggered as they flashed back in an extremely agile manner. Xiao Yan raised his eyebrows and asked with a smile, "What is it?"

"We have lost..."

Sha Tie sighed as he spoke in an extremely helpless manner. With the current situation, he did not think that he had any ability to resist. Of course, if it were not for the green-colored flame in Xiao Yan's hand suppressing him in every way, he would be able to go all out and fight against three people by himself. Unfortunately...

The helpless voice emitted from Sha Tie's mouth slowly reverberated within the empty ground of the forest. Under these words, everyone fell into a silence. These sudden words from this fellow admitting his loss were indeed a little too shocking. From the looks of the situation earlier, it appeared that he was suppressing Xiao Yan as they fought. Originally, everyone thought that this battle would become even more intense. In the end, this silent atmosphere continued for a long while in the empty ground before

some of the new students finally recovered. Immediately, thunder-like cheers shook the entire forest until it rustled.

### **Chapter 453: Distributing The Spoils, Recuperation**

Xiao Yan was seated on a rock within the empty clearing. In front of him was a simple wooden table where piles of Fire Crystal Cards were placed orderly. Many of these Fire Crystal Cards had the same number on it.

“2.”

Clearly, the owners of these Fire Crystal Cards had all unluckily met older students and had their ‘Fire Energy’ stolen from them.

Dozens of new students were seated cross-legged in the empty clearing in front of the table. Although their outer appearances were extremely weary and awkward, their eyes were filled with energy. Numerous gazes that carried excitement stared at the pile of Fire Crystal Cards on the table.

On the other side of the empty ground, Sha Tie, Su Xiao, and the others rested against a tree trunk. The expressions on their faces were extremely dispirited. The gazes that they used to look at Xiao Yan on the rock were filled with a certain resentment.

Xiao Yan did not pay much attention to their gazes. His left hand lifted a pale-blue Fire Crystal Card. After which, he repeatedly grabbed a black Fire Crystal Card. He rubbed both of them together and as a light was released, the number on the black Fire Crystal Card swiftly returned to the number when they had entered the forest. Moreover, Xiao Yan added 2 more days to the balance. Finally, the number on these black cards turned from 2 to 7!

What Xiao Yan was currently doing was naturally splitting the spoils, an important matter that would hook people’s heart. Those new students’ Fire Crystal Cards, which had been depleted until there were only 2 days of ‘Fire Energy’ left, were not only replenished by Xiao Yan, but also gained an extra 2 days worth of ‘Fire Energy.’ Xiao Yan also generously gave the lucky ones, who had avoided having their Fire Crystal Cards snatched by the older student, an extra 5 days of ‘Fire Energy’. He clearly understood that if he did not have the assistance of the new students who bravely went all out, it would have been impossible for the few people in his group to complete this task of swallowing Su Xiao’s three groups as well as Sha Tie’s even stronger group.

Light repeatedly flashed on the table’s surface. A long while after this, Xiao Yan finally exhaled and placed the final black Fire Crystal Card down. He turned his head toward Xun Er and Hu Jia by the side and said, “Hand all of these back to their original owners.”

Xun Er and Hu Jia nodded their heads when they heard this. They immediately grabbed a bundle of Fire Crystal Cards each and flashed toward the new student group in an agile manner. After which, they returned the various Fire Crystal Cards, which had individual unique markings, back into the hands of those new students with excited faces.

“Ha ha, our ‘Fire Energy’ is finally back in our hands.” Some of the new students hugged their own Fire Crystal Cards with both hands. They could not help but part their mouths and laugh when they saw the number on it.

Xiao Yan smiled slightly as he watched the excitement and joy-filled faces of the new students. He turned his gaze toward Wu Hao, who was meditating with his eyes closed. After the battle was over, he had quickly consumed one more ‘Energy Recovery Pill.’ Hence, the complexion of the current Wu Hao had improved greatly. The injuries on his body were merely external wounds. Fortunately, he did not injure his Qi Paths or bones. Otherwise, he might have needed to rest for a period of time in order to fully recuperate.

Xiao Yan stood up from the rock and eyed the pale-blue-colored Fire Crystal Cards on the table. After the distribution of the spoils earlier, there was still more than 270 remaining ‘Fire Energy’ within these Fire Crystal Cards. After distributing these remaining ‘Fire Energy’ among the four of them, each person would be able to obtain around sixty days worth of it. This harvest could be considered very rich.

After temporarily transferring all the ‘Fire Energy’ remaining in the pale-blue cards into his own Crystal Card, Xiao Yan carried them and walked in the direction of the group of people, whose faces were filled with resentment.

“Ke ke, I’m sorry. It would be unjustifiable if I did not give them some sort of reward after requesting their support. Hence, I can only temporarily borrow from the few of you as payment.” Xiao Yan laughed as he spoke. Immediately, the Crystal Cards in his hands shot back to their individual owners as though they possessed a spirit.

“Ah, this time we have made losses all the way to our crotch.” Sha Tie grabbed the Fire Crystal Card with one hand and eyed the balance deposited within it. The corners of his mouth involuntarily twitched as he scolded. In the end, it used to be the result of him fighting within the Fighting Arena for the last two months. In the end, Xiao Yan had actually taken ninety percent of it. How could he not feel his heart ache?

“Ah.” Su Xiao and the others on his sides helplessly sighed. In their hearts, they blamed themselves for being greedy. If it had not wanted to snatch the ‘Fire Energy’ from the new students, how would they have ended up meeting Xiao Yan’s group, who was even more cruel than bandits?

“Ke ke, Senior Sha Tie, can I inquire about something?” Xiao Yan was unconcerned about their expressions as he asked with a smile.

Sha Tie rolled his eyes. His mood was currently extremely bad and was not in the mood to bother about Xiao Yan.

“Twenty days of ‘Fire Energy’ and you tell me the information I want to know. What do you say?” Xiao Yan played with the dark black Fire Crystal Card as he said softly, “If you are unwilling, I can go and ask Senior Su Xiao and the others.”

The corner of Sha Tie’s mouth twitched. He clenched his teeth and said fiercely, “You... just ask!”

The first word was still rather ferocious. However, after he paused for a moment, Sha Tie’s body became relaxed. Currently, to him who had become penniless, even twenty days worth of ‘Fire Energy’ was considered quite a large amount.

“Can you tell me anything regarding the final ‘White Demon Group’?”

Xiao Yan’s pupils were smiling as he said softly. Currently, their harvest was already so rich that it gave Xiao Yan a heavy feeling. If he wanted to successfully bring this rich harvest into the Inner Academy, he must defeat the final ‘White Demon Group’. Otherwise, he would definitely end up miserably, benefiting others after spending so much effort over the last few days.

“White Demon Group?” Sha Tie lifted his eyebrows. Clearly, he also understood Xiao Yan’s intent. His gaze swept across those new students on the open ground, who were so weak that they had difficulty even standing and continued with a laugh, “The strength of that ‘White Demon Group’ is a little stronger than our ‘Black Demon Group.’”

Sha Tie’s first sentence caused Xiao Yan to frown slightly. Defeating the ‘Black Demon Group’ had already greatly hurt their strength. The so called ‘White Demon Group’ was actually even stronger than them?

“Perhaps the strength of the group members are similar, but the group leader of the ‘White Demon Group’, Luo Hou is a true strong Dou Ling. Although he has only just entered the Dou Ling class less than two months ago, he is much stronger compared to me, who only has half a foot in the Dou Ling class.” Sha Tie curled his lips and said, “It is not that I want to kill your hopes of escape but by relying on this new student group, whose strength has been severely hurt, it is likely that you won’t be able to charge through even if all of you are together.”

Xiao Yan pursed his lips tightly together. A long while later, he said softly, “If these new students are all allowed to completely recover, then it should be possible, right?”

“Adding the few of you, a group of about fifty new students is something that the ‘White Demon Group’ would not be able to block regardless of how strong they are. After all, two palms will have difficulty matching four hands.” Sha Tie shrugged his shoulders. He continued, “Unfortunately, the injuries that these fellows suffer from are quite serious.

Without three to five days, it is difficult for them to fully recover. However, the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' will only last for one week. Hence, you cannot wait until they are completely recovered."

"Ke ke, it's fine as long as it is possible to break through with everyone's strength. As for their injuries..." Xiao Yan smiled slightly toward Sha Tie and continued, "Don't tell me you have forgotten about my identity? Looking from the point of an alchemist, these injuries are not very serious."

Sha Tie was slightly startled when he heard this. He immediately became silent. He had really forgotten this point. Since this fellow was able to control that extremely terrifying flame, it was likely that he was also well versed in his alchemist skills. If he had sufficient medicinal ingredients, he might really be able to heal these new students, allowing them to recover to their peak strength within a short period of time. At that time, when nearly fifty new students charged together, even if Luo Hou was an elite Dou Ling, it was likely that he would only be able to stare at the stampede with a stunned expression.

Xiao Yan clapped his hands and made a little contact between his black Fire Crystal Card and Sha Tie's Crystal Card. As the light flashed, he handed over twenty days worth of 'Fire Energy.' After which, he turned his body and returned to that simple table. He looked at those new students, who were holding their Fire Crystal Card with excited faces and smiled as he said, "Everyone, there is still one last challenge we must face before the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' comes to an end. As long as we are able to successfully charge through them, we will be able to successfully bring the 'Fire Energy' that we have obtained in our hands into the Inner Academy. If we were to fail, then... All the 'Fire Energy' we worked for would end up with the 'White Demon Group.'"

"Fight with them!"

Upon hearing Xiao Yan's words, the emotion of the new students on the empty ground immediately became somewhat agitated. They had just recovered their 'Fire Energy' and now, they knew how to treasure this precious item that was difficult to obtain.

"Ke ke." Xiao Yan laughed softly. He pressed his hands down in the empty space. Immediately, the noise became quiet. His gaze swept across the place as he smiled and continued, "Since everyone has chosen not to give up, let us pour together our strength, and charge into this final challenge together..."

"However, before this, we need to stay here for one day. After one day, I will help everyone completely recover from their injuries. At that time... it will be the last retaliation of us new students!"

"Senior Xiao Yan, we will listen to you!"

With the previous example of them defeating the 'Black Demon Group', these new students no longer had any doubt in Xiao Yan's words. Hence, as Xiao Yan words sounded, numerous cries were released. The orderly tone shook the forest until it rustled.

Off to the side, Sha Tie and the others watched that group of new students rise to action. They could not help but sigh. Although these new students were merely some young wolves who had just grown teeth, the fighting strength they displayed under the leadership of this ferocious lion, Xiao Yan, had already far exceeded everyone's expectations.

Xiao Yan once again sat cross-legged on the rock. He waved his hand and a medicinal cauldron, along with a large amount of medicinal ingredients appeared on the table in front of him. He flicked his right hand and the green-colored flame flashed into the medicinal cauldron.

The green-colored flame soared and burned in the cauldron within the quiet forest. Numerous medicinal ingredients were all incinerated in the flames and their essences were quietly gathered.

Xiao Yan spent an entire night's time refining some medicinal pills that could cure internal injuries.

Dozens of human figures, who were sitting cross-legged within the quiet forested area, abruptly opened their eyes at dusk the next day. A glow was quietly deposited. Numerous powerful Qis spread out from within their bodies before agglomerating into an integrated body that spread over the entire forest!

At this moment the new students opened their eyes, Xiao Yan, along with Xun Er, and the other two on the rock also slowly opened their eyes. After resting for an entire day, the three of them had once again recovered to their peak condition with the help of Xiao Yan's medicinal pills.

Xiao Yan stood up from the rock. He glanced at Sha Tie and the rest who were still by the side. After which, he turned around and threw his gaze over to the new students who had recovered their strength. He raised his hands slowly before throwing it down!

"Go!"

As Xiao Yan's voice sounded, dozens of human figures flashed onto the tree branches with a swish sound. With Xiao Yan and the three others leading them, they immediately rushed toward the exit of the forest one after another!

The final decisive battle was about to begin!

**Chapter 454: White Demon Group**

This empty area was covered with rocks. When the spreading forest met with this rocky region, it ceased expanding. Hence, the sunlight, that scattered down from the sky, did not encounter any obstruction as it poured over the ground. The warmth of the sunlight caused people's body to feel a warm feeling.

Not far away from this rocky region was a mountain slope which swelled up. There were some boulders of various sizes spread across the mountain slope. At this moment, there were quite a number of people either seated or standing above or beside these mountain rocks. These people were quite young, around twenty-four to twenty-five years old. Their clothes may be different, but all of them wore a tower shaped badge on their chest. Clearly, these students were older students from the Inner Academy.

On the other side of the mountain slope, there was a platform which was built upon a huge rock. Two old men were seated on this huge rock. They were actually Elder Su and Elder Qing, whom Xiao Yan and the others had met before they entered the forest. Seated around them were a couple of middle-aged men with calm auras. Clearly, they should be people in charge of various affairs within the Inner Academy.

"Hee hee, I heard that this batch of new students were extremely arrogant? They actually went and robbed the 'Fire Energy' from the older students instead?" A gaze from the top of the mountain slope eyed the slightly dimmed area at the edge of the forest as laughter was being transmitted among themselves.

"Yes. I found out from some of the older student groups who came out of the forest that this time around. There was a group of new students led by someone called Xiao Yan, who appears to be quite strong."

"Chi. They are only finding excuses for their own failures. At any rate, they have at least trained in the Inner Academy for over a year. It is really unexpected that they would lose in the hands of new students. Tsk tsk..."

"Hopefully. I heard that Sha Tie of the 'Black Demon Group' has also brought people into the forest. I wonder if they also ran into the new students?"

"Oh? Sha Tie also entered? Then these new students can be considered to be finished. Sha Tie is a strong person who is about to enter the Dou Ling class."

"That's right. Their good luck can be considered to have ended here."

As numerous private whispers were being transmitted all over the place, a few human figures in the rock piles below moved slightly. They immediately opened their eyes slowly as their indifferent gazes swept over the dark forest.

These five human figures simply sat on the messy rocks. Their breathing was long and calm. They did not move because of those private conversations that sounded beside

their ears. The five of them wore white-colored clothes, much like their indifferent, ice-cold auras.

Among the five of them, the one with the strongest aura was a young man in the middle, whose complexion was a little white. At this moment, this white-complexioned young man was the only person among the five whose eyes were still shut. He was seated cross-legged on a rock, with his body appearing similar to an ice sculpture. A hint of a cold aura shrouded and actually caused some of the green grass on the rocks to be covered by white frost.

Time slowly flowed past along with the movement of the sun above their heads. Just as these students on the mountain slope thought that they had waited in vain today, there was suddenly the sounds of footsteps coming from within the dark forest. Immediately, everyone braced their spirits. Their gazes all swept toward the forest exit without making any prior agreement. The originally noisy private conversations also completely ceased.

Elder Su and Elder Qing on the rock platform at the top of the mountain slope also slowly raised their heads. They narrowed their eyes as they threw their gazes in the direction where the sound of footsteps originated.

As the atmosphere became quiet, the sound of footsteps being emitted from within the dark forest became increasingly depressing. A long while later, a pair of feet took a step out from the exit of the dark black forest. Quickly following this, twenty human figures slowly walked out. The one leading them was Sha Tie, Su Xiao, and the others.

“Uh? It’s Sha Tie and the others...” The gazes landed on the twenty human figures that had walked out of the forest. Everyone on the mountain slope was startled as they spoke in stunned voices.

“Don’t tell me that they have already finished off the new students?” A hint of doubt flashed across everyone’s heart, Numerous gazes were shot toward Sha Tie and the others who walked out of the forest.

Sha Tie’s twenty man group slowly walked toward the nearest pile of rubble. At this moment, the young man with a pale complexion also slowly opened his eyes. His gaze swept over Sha Tie and the others. A moment later, his face changed slightly. There was an additional seriousness in his indifferent voice.

“All of you were actually defeated?”

Although his voice was soft, it was undoubtedly like exploding thunder that had suddenly roared in the clear sky. It immediately exploded among the Inner Academy students on the mountain slope until they were stunned. Their faces were dull. Twenty strong older students was sufficient enough to sweep over all the new students in a



head on battle. However... now that they had heard what the pale-faced young man had said, they were all actually defeated in the hands of the new students?

Although their hearts were extremely shocked, the Inner Academy's students did not have much doubt over the words spoken by this pale-faced young man. With his ability and sight, it was not difficult for him to see through what happened.

Hence, at this moment, all the students could not help but feel somewhat absent-minded. The current new students were already strong to such an extent?

Sha Tie did not feel surprised that the pale-faced young man saw through everything at a glance. He waved his hand and helplessly said, "Those fellows are very strong. Their combat experience is also far from what ordinary new students can compare with."

Sha Tie's words once again caused a wave of noise, from the swallowing of saliva, to appear on the mountain slope. Some old students were unable to hide the shock in their hearts as they inhaled a deep breath of cool air. Even the 'Black Demon Group' was defeated by the new students. Was this batch of new students really this abnormally strong?

"Leave the rest of the matter to us. Let me see just how great this group of new students, who have alarmed the entire Inner Academy, are." The pale-faced young man slowly stood up from the rock and straightened his body. A faint coldness suddenly swarmed out of his body as he spoke indifferently.

Sha Tie's gaze carried a little weirdness as he looked at the cold air on the pale-faced young man. A floating arc was lifted from the corner of Sha Tie's mouth. Compared to his own close range combat, this fellow's ice affinity Dou Qi would likely suffer an even greater restraint under that fellow's terrifying green-colored flame.

"Luo Hou, the new students this year are indeed very strong. I think that perhaps this last group of yours is likely unable to stop them." Sha Tie spread his hands and said.

"Move aside. All of you have already lost the qualification to stay here." The pale-faced young man ignored him. His tone was still very calm.

"Alright. I believe that you will soon not have the qualification either."

Sha Tie did not become angry. He laughed coldly. Together with Su Xiao and the rest, he slowly withdrew toward the mountain slope. They had just ascended the mountain slope when a large group of rushing wind noises suddenly sounded from within the dark forest!

Following the appearance of this rushing wind sound, the gazes that were shot at Sha Tie and the others once again turned back to the exit of the forest.

Not long after their gazes shifted, the tree branches within the forest swiftly swayed. Immediately, numerous human figures swiftly flashed out from within the dense forest. Finally, they landed under the sunlight with one knee on the ground. There were many human figures. If one were to carefully count, there were actually no less than forty people. Seeing these numbers, not only did astonished noises sound from the surrounding mountain slope, but the face of the pale-faced young man also changed a little.

“It is really unexpected that there was actually someone who was able to gather all the new students. This is a big move... but who would this person be?” Elder Su sighed in surprise from the rock platform as he eyed the dozens of new students who had appeared. The ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition’ of the previous years did not lack people who wanted to gather all the new students together to fight as a whole. Due to each of the new students being arrogant, however, there was seldom anyone who was able to successfully achieve this.

“I think... it should be the young man called Xiao Yan. Didn’t that old fellow Hu Gan say that during the Qualifying Competition, this fellow relied on his own strength to defeat three, four, or five new students joining hands...” Elder Qing voiced his thoughts.

Elder Su nodded slightly. He voiced some praise within his heart. This Xiao Yan was indeed a good seedling.

Those new students in front of the rock piles, who had flashed out from the forest, lifted their heads as they swept their gaze across the older students on the mountain slope with eyes containing various kinds of emotion. Finally, they spread out to both sides and opened a small path in the middle.

The new students spread out and the edge of the small path remained directly linked to the exit of the dark forest. Soft footsteps sounded at that spot and four human figures immediately came walking out slowly from the darkness. Finally, they passed through the small path formed by the human crowd before appearing right at the front of the new students.

The one leading them was a black-robed young man who was carrying an enormous black ruler that was nearly as tall as him. He raised his head slightly and his gaze scanned the entire place. Finally, it stopped at the five white-clothed young men on the pile of rocks. He cupped his hands as he asked with a smile, “You seniors should be the final group of this year’s ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition,’ the ‘White Demon Group,’ right?”

“White Demon Group leader, Luo Hou.” The pale-faced young man’s gaze swept across the four of them. It paused on Xun Er and Hu Jia for a moment before it swiftly stared intently at Xiao Yan, who stood in the middle as he slowly spoke.

“New student leader, Xiao Yan.” Xiao Yan smiled as he softly spoke by following Luo Hou’s manner of speaking.

Luo Hou nodded. The cold air around his body became increasingly dense. A powerful force rose from within his body and shrouded this area filled with piles of rocks. Some of the weaker new students’ expressions changed as they could not resist the pressure of this force, which was even greater than Sha Tie’s.

Xiao Yan’s face became increasingly serious as he sensed the ice cold pressure around his body. It was just as Sha Tie had said. This fellow was a true strong Dou Ling.

As they thought of this in their hearts, Xiao Yan turned his head to exchange glances with Xun Er and the three others. He nodded slightly and the four of them took a step forward at the same time. Immediately, four powerful Dou Qis abruptly surged out of their bodies. The four forces intertwined in midair before finally combining together, blocking the ice-cold force that surrounded their bodies.

As the four of them moved, those dozens of new students also released forces of varying strength. Although their forces could not be compared with any single one in Xiao Yan’s group if they were to be looked at individually, the sum of such numbers caused the force to almost immediately become the strongest one present.

With the superimposition of all the new students, including Xiao Yan’s four men group, the permeating ice cold domineering force from Luo Hou basically broke down upon contact. Seeing that their group leader suffered defeat, the other four members of the ‘White Demon Group’ also hurriedly released their force and together, they finally managed to resist that powerful force from the other side.

In their initial exchange, Xiao Yan’s group relied on their numbers to suppress the ‘White Demon Group.’ The advantage in numbers appeared extremely vivid here.

This victory they had obtained in the clash of their aura also caused the confidence of all the new students to soar. The slight worry that was formed due to Luo Hou earlier was also immediately and totally resolved.

Xiao Yan took one step forward. His gaze stared at Lou Huo, cupped his hands together and asked in a clear voice, “Senior Lou Huo. Could you allow us pass through this final checkpoint?”

Xiao Yan’s voice reverberated mightily throughout the place scattered with rocks, causing the entire mountain slope to become quiet.

Luo Hou’s expression was indifferent. His eyes similarly stared intently at Xiao Yan. It was a long while later before his mouth moved slightly. One cold word was spat out.

“No!”

At this moment, the atmosphere suddenly solidified as if the arms of everyone were drawn!

### **Chapter 455: The Final Big Fight!**

As the ice-cold word was emitted from Luo Hou's mouth, the entire mountain slope of rocks suddenly became silent. From the ready to fight atmosphere, everyone understood clearly in their hearts that it was likely that today's matter would not end nicely. An intense big fight was inevitable.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at Luo Hou's face. A long while later, he nodded slightly. That voice of his had also become much more cold, "Since Senior Luo Hou is unwilling to let us pass, then we can only offend you."

Xiao Yan's hands slowly held the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler. He immediately and abruptly drew it. A black shadow cut through the air and an intense wind swept away some of the rock fragments in front of him. The ruler was pointed sideways toward the ground. Green-colored Dou Qi surged out from within Xiao Yan's body. Since the matter had already progressed to such a point, they had reached the stage where they could not give up because of any unforeseen change in events. Hence, they were left with no choice but to fight!

Following Xiao Yan's action, Dou Qi also began to swiftly swarm out from the bodies of Xun Er and the two others that stood beside him. Waves of powerful force repeatedly rippled out. Their forces locked on Luo Hou, who stood in the middle, from far away. In order to defeat the enemy, one must first defeat their king. The most troublesome person in this 'White Demon Group' was this Luo Hou. As long as they defeated him, they need not be worried about the others.

"I will block Xiao Yan and the three others. Ye Hao, the four of you stop those new students. Do not spread out when you fight. Although there are many new students, they don't know how to cooperate. As long as you firmly hold yourselves together, and rely on the merging of your four synergetic Dou Qis, you have quite a high chance of victory." A faint, white-colored cold air repeatedly seeped from Luo Hou's body. His gaze glanced at Xiao Yan and the three others before turning to a member of the 'White Demon Group' and spoke. His cold sharp eyes could see the weakness of the new students with a single glance.

"Yes!" Hearing this, those four members of the 'White Demon Group' replied with deep voices. The Dou Qi in their bodies surged, and threads of cold air began to be released from their bodies. From the looks of it, it appeared that all the members of this 'White Demon Group' practiced ice affinity Dou Qi.

Xiao Yan was visibly affected as he eyed the cold air around those four people. The strength that was unleashed from the collaboration of Dou Qi of the same affinity would be able to increase significantly. Viewing from this point, the overall strength of the

'White Demon Group' was significantly stronger than the 'Black Demon Group' lead by Sha Tie. No wonder they were the people who guarded the final checkpoint.

"This Luo Hou actually dares to face four opponents by himself. If this person was not wildly arrogant, then it means that he had some trump cards and hidden strength." Xiao Yan's spoke to Xun Er and the other two softly as this thoughts lingered for awhile in his heart, "We do not need to warm up in this battle. Hence, you all don't need to hold anything back. Try your best to defeat him. Don't waste even a second or there might be some unforeseen events if we delay any longer.

"Yes."

The three of them nodded slightly. The Dou Qi in their bodies was like a turbulent flood as it swiftly passed through the Qi Paths in their bodies. A feeling of being filled with strength spread over the bodies of the three of them. In that condition, all they needed was to move a little, the surging Dou Qi would follow their will, and unleash thundering attacks.

Following the Dou Qi of both parties permeating all over their bodies, the tense atmosphere faintly became even sharper.

All the older students on the mountain slope remained quiet. Currently, the 'White Demon Group' was the final hurdle in this 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition.' If even they were unable to block the attacks of the new students, Xiao Yan's group would perhaps break the curse that the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' was the most bitter period for a new student before entering the Inner Academy.

"Can Xiao Yan's group defeat the 'White Demon Group?'" From one corner of the mountain slopes, Su Xiao watched the two sides giving a tit for a tat below, and could not help but whisper to Sha Tie who sat beside him.

"No matter what happens, they do have a chance and that's it. I can't really say much about the others. After all, regardless of whether we are discussing individual strength or the strength of the group, the 'White Demon Group' is much stronger than the 'Black Demon Group'. Xiao Yan and the others were able to defeat us, but they may not gain the advantage when facing the 'White Demon Group'..." Sha Tie shook his head. He was similarly unclear about the end result and could only give Su Xiao a vague reply.

Su Xiao could only helplessly smile when faced with this vague reply. He turned his head and threw his gaze to the imposingly sharp face near the messy rock piles.

The atmosphere of the messy rocky area, where all the gazes had gathered, was becoming increasingly tense. Everyone's expressions slowly became solemn. The Dou Qi glow on the surface was extended and contracted, much like the feelings of everyone at the moment, having difficulty calming down.

“Ka...”

A gentle breeze blew past. A rock fragment from the mountain suddenly rolled down and heavily crashed into a rock on another spot. Immediately, it was crushed into pieces.

The sudden clear sound was undoubtedly like throwing a stone into the calm surface of a lake. Immediately, an enormous wave would rise and roll. The dozens of different colored Dou Qis surged out from the messy rocky ground. The hue was beautiful because of the multiple colors. The wildly flowing Dou Qi directly caused the pressure in the area to soar. Some tall and straight green grass bent their bodies from the pressure caused by these Dou Qi.

“Fight!”

As the forces surged, two simultaneous cries were emitted from Xiao Yan and Luo Hou’s mouth without any prior planning. As these two voices sounded, the tense atmosphere suddenly broke!

As the human figures flashed, the low roar, that contained a fiery fighting intent, reverberated without disappearing on the battlefield.

At the moment that the cry sounded, Xiao Yan’s hand suddenly tightened on the hilt of the ruler. His feet violently stomped against the ground and a green-colored energy exploded under his feet. The pressure caused by turbulent energy undulations directly turned Xiao Yan’s body into a black shadow as it shot into the middle of the rocky ground where Luo Hou was standing.

When Xiao Yan’s body moved, Xun Er and the other two behind him followed closely. The gap between the four of them was maintained within a one meter radius. At this distance, the four of them could join hands anytime and anywhere to handle a sharp attack that came from any direction.

“Charge!”

Behind Xiao Yan’s four man group, there was a large group of new students roaring loudly as they charged over. Although their formation was scattered, their force was the strongest one present due to them having so many people.

The expressions on the faces of the four members from the ‘White Demon Group’ were indifferent. They did not feel the slightest fear because of the large numbers and strong imposing manner of Xiao Yan’s group. Their hands shook and four white-colored metal rods, which were five feet long, flashed and appeared. A low cry was emitted as the four people borrowed the force of the metal rods touching the ground to shoot forward. They swiftly shot past Xiao Yan’s four man group. Finally, the four metal rod danced wildly,

like the rotating wind, and finally stopped all the remaining dozens of new students behind.

Xiao Yan did not turn his head around when he heard the whirring wind sound behind him. His gaze stared intently at Luo Hou, whose body was standing straight atop a piece of rock. Xiao Yan gripped the heavy ruler in his hand and immediately used his strength to hack downward. A sharp, green-colored Dou Qi glow immediately exploded out from the ruler.

Releasing Dou Qi into one's surroundings. This was an attacking method representative of a Da Dou Shi. This was similar to a long range attack by a practitioner.

After the green-colored Dou Qi glow appeared, Xun Er and the two others also released three powerful glows. Four glows cut through the obstructions of the air as they carried a violent wind and smashed toward Luo Hou.

Luo Hou's face was indifferent as he eyed the four turbulent Dou Qi projectiles being shot over. His hands trembled a little and a ten foot long cold metal rod, which appeared to be molded from cold ice, flashed and appeared. His hands held the body of the long rod tightly and the tip of the rod pierced out explosively. Immediately, one could see images of the rod repeatedly and continuously appearing in midair. Each rod image solidly smashed into the four glows. After this was repeated for a couple of times, the four glows, which contained powerful forces, were actually scattered forcefully by him. This strength was something that people really marveled at.

"He is indeed worthy of being a strong Dou Ling. What a sharp attack."

This attack of Luo Hou caused Xiao Yan's expression to change slightly. Looking just at this action of defusing these four glows, the strength of this Luo Hou was much stronger than the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect which Xiao Yan had killed back in the 'Black Corner Region.' Of course, part of the reason here was that the Qi Method which that Junior Sect Leader used to raise his strength was too much of a cheap trick. Hence, it resulted in the Dou Qi within the latter's body being superficial. If he were to really fight with someone, that fellow's strength was at the very most at the peak of the Da Dou Shi class.

This thought flashed in his heart and swiftly disappeared as Xiao Yan's expression became serious. The heavy ruler in his hand let out a 'chi' sound as it cut through the air, transforming into a black shadow that carried a depressing sound. His body moved up and down like a half leap as he viciously hacked at Luo Hou.

"Chi..."

Behind Xiao Yan, an energy palm that contained some gold-colored flames, a long green-colored whip, and a blood-colored heavy sword, also carried their own powerful force as they formed a fan like shape, completely surrounding the area around Luo Hou.

Seeing the concentrated attack of Xiao Yan's four men group below, some of the expressions of the older students on the mountain slope involuntarily changed. This was because they clearly understood in their hearts that if it were them who was receiving the attack, they would likely be defeated the moment of contact.

"These four people are indeed very strong. Especially that black-robed young man..." Some of the hearts of the older students could not resist emitting a sigh. After personally witnessing the attack of these new students, they finally understood why the older students, who had participated in this year's 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition,' had been so miserably defeated. Only at this moment did they come to a sudden understanding. It was not that the strength of the older students participating in the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' was weak, but rather the strength of this year's new students was too strong.

At the moment, this thought was swiftly spinning in the hearts of everyone on the mountain slope, Luo Hou, who had been quietly standing in the battleground without moving, finally made a move. His hands held the cold metal rod tightly. Treads of mist-like cold air spread out from the rod as a cold deep cry sounded.

"Circular Cold Spinning Rod!"

As Luo Hou's cry sounded, the cold air, in the form of a mist, shrouding the cold metal rod immediately rolled and rose. A mysterious arc was formed from the rotation. Immediately, the cold air formed a circular shaped ice shield under the quick rotations of the cold air, completely wrapping Luo Hou's body within it.

"Bang, bang!"

Four ferocious attacks suddenly landed from above on the ice shield that was formed from the fast rotating metal rod. Immediately, a deep muffled sound resounded throughout the entire messy rocky area.

Powerful forces followed the ice shield and spread downward before they were finally skillfully discharged onto a rock. The rock was immediately cracked, forming numerous crack lines before it exploded into rock fragments with a 'bang'.

"Get lost!"

Luo Hou's body was bent slightly as a cold cry was emitted from his mouth. The fast spinning cold metal rod suddenly paused. Immediately, the tip of the rod swiftly pierced forward, once again forming afterimages that filled the sky. It viciously struck the weapons of Xiao Yan's four man group. The force that suddenly erupted directly shook the four of them until they hurriedly pulled back two steps.

Fighting against four people by himself, yet not showing any signs of losing. The gap between a strong Dou Ling and a Da Dou Shi was indeed difficult to measure.



“\*Roar\*, nice. Show those arrogant new students what skill really looks like!” Seeing that the initial attack of Xiao Yan’s four men group failed, cheers immediately sounded on the mountain slope.

Xiao Yan’s body somersaulted through the air before immediately landing on a rock. He lifted his head to watch the cold and indifferent Luo Hou before slowly exhaling a breath. The other party’s strength was even stronger than he had expected. Moreover, adding this to the fact that a rod specialized in defense, it would likely be very difficult to defeat him within a short time even if the four of them were to join hands.

“What should we do?”

Xun Er and the other two had similarly withdrawn to his side with frowns on their faces. The tortoise-like defense of the other party caused them to feel like a tiger eating a hedgehog, having no place to start.

Xiao Yan glanced at the chaotic battle circle behind him. He immediately knit his eyebrows tightly together. The strength of the four members of the ‘White Demon Group’ similarly exceeded his expectations. The four metal rods danced like four metal shields. When the attack of an ordinary new student landed on it, not only was it ineffective but it would also be reflected back by the strange force contained on it.

Hence, within less than five minutes after this fight had begun, there were no less than five new students lying on the ground after their bodies had become weak from having the metal rod touching them. From the looks of it, it appeared that there would be a new student who lost their combat ability around every one minute or so.

The gap between the classes was thoroughly displayed in this battle circle. Nearly over forty Dou Shi class new students were actually unable to do anything against four Da Dou Shi class older students, This kind of great disparity caused people to be unable to help but sigh emotionally.

This fight had only just begun but the situation had already begun to shift away from expectations. This caused Xiao Yan’s expression to be a little ugly.

“Those new students are indeed a plate of scattered sand. This year, if it were not for Xiao Yan, who had an extremely great gathering ability, it is likely that they would be like the previous years, being robbed by the older students until they had nothing.” On the mountain slope, Sha Tie eyed the dozens of people fighting against four people. Not only did the former group not have any success, but they were instead repeatedly losing more students. Sha Tie could not help but shake his head and give voice to his thoughts.

“Yes.”

Su Xiao and the others beside him nodded. The overall strength of this year's new students was not much stronger than previous years. However, in the previous years, a person like Xiao Yan, who had the courage and resolution to gather all the new students, did not appear. However, even if that were the case, just an incomplete group of people did not have adequate strength to fight against the 'White Demon Group', the strongest tiger blocking their path.

"This battle cannot be dragged out for too long. The longer it is dragged, the more disadvantageous it is for Xiao Yan's group. Seeing the performance of those new students, it was clear that it was impossible for them to surround and defeat the 'White Demon Group.' Instead, if it continues like this, in at most twenty minutes or so, they will be completely finished off. At that time, once the members of the 'White Demon Group' free up their hands, Xiao Yan's group will have no opportunities to turn things around." Sha Tie helplessly said. Although he thought highly of that strange, green-colored flame that Xiao Yan used, regardless of how that flame suppressed Luo Hou ice affinity Dou Qi, the superb rod techniques the latter used was still able to block them. It appeared that it was a little too early for him to be gloating earlier.

During the time that Sha Tie and the others were discussing the situation that Xiao Yan's group faced, Xiao Yan had similarly discovered this point. He let out a long sigh and said, "Looks like we cannot delay any longer."

"Chi!"

Xiao Yan inserted the heavy ruler violently into the crack line of the rock. He turned his head toward Xun Er and the two others before saying in a deep voice, "Delay him. Buy me some time!"

Once he said these words, Xiao Yan flicked his finger. A purple-colored Yaowan shot into his mouth. He chewed slightly and immediately spat out a cluster of purple flames in front of everyone's gazes. The flame landed in his palm.

TL: Danwan/Yaowan - pill shape items that have no medicinal effect and can be potentially dangerous to consume.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had actually spat out a cluster of purple-colored essence flame, the mountain slope immediately went into an uproar. Sha Tie and the others, who originally felt regretful at the disadvantage Xiao Yan's group was facing also had stunned expressions. They did not expect that other than the green-colored flame, Xiao Yan actually had another purple-colored flame...

Elder Su and Elder Qing on the rock platform also raised their eyebrows in shock at this moment.

Xiao Yan ignored the noise from the entire place. He tightly held the purple-colored flame with his left hand while he slowly raised his right hand. His finger twisted a little

and the elegant green-colored flame once again let out a throbbing sound, and turned into a cluster of green flames, which stopped above his right hand.

Following the appearance of the green-colored flame, the temperature of this region suddenly rose.

The two colored flames, that were soaring shined onto those stunned faces, causing the scene to appear especially comical.

“This... This is...”

The expressions of Elder Su and Elder Qing, who were leisurely leaning against the backs of their chairs on the rock platform, suddenly changed the instant that the green-colored flame appeared. Their bodies suddenly straightened and their eyes stared intently at the elegant green flame. A moment later, they exchanged glances with one another and saw shock in each other’s gazes. “Heavenly Flame?”

Their knowledge was naturally far from what Sha Tie and the rest could compare with. Hence, the moment that the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ appeared, the two of them were able to recognize the exact details of it.

“This damned Hu Jia. He actually did not even tell us about such important information. What a muddle-headed old man...” The shock in their eyes still remained as Elder Su and Elder Qing muttered to each other.

Luo Hou eyes stared intently at the two colored flames in Xiao Yan’s hands. His usual cold and indifferent expression finally became extremely solemn. As he practiced ice affinity Dou Qi, he was extremely sensitive to the change in temperature. The moment the green-colored flame appeared, he was basically shocked to discover that the ice-cold Dou Qi in his body had actually become sluggish!

“What is that flame? It can actually affect the flow of the Dou Qi in my body?”

On top of the solemnness on Luo Hou’s face, there was an additional astonishment. His hands held the cold metal rod tightly as he used great effort to force his Dou Qi to flow, trying his best to get rid of that clogged feeling.

Seeing the two different colored flames in Xiao Yan’s hands, Xun Er and the other two understood his intentions. They nodded and the three of them immediately formed a triangle-shaped formation and explosively shot toward Luo Hou. Their Dou Qi surged wildly and they actually unleashed the Dou Qi in their bodies to the limit.

Luo Hou did not dare to slight the sharp attack of Xun Er’s three man team. Although he was extremely fearful of Xiao Yan behind them, he could only wave the cold metal rod in his hand at this moment and receive all of the attacks from the three of them. After which, he performed his fiercest counter attack, hoping to defeat the three of them in the

shortest amount of time. At that time, the fighting strength of Xiao Yan, who had lost his companions, would be severely reduced.

Of course, his idea was good but Xun Er's three man team was not like those ordinary new students. After a few days of collaborating against their enemies, they had already trained until there was an understanding in their cooperation. Although the three of them were unable to break through Luo Hou's metal rod defense, even after working together, they were at least able to cause him to be unable to move his body to disturb Xiao Yan.

With Xun Er's group delaying Luo Hou, Xiao Yan's palms had already began to gradually make contact in front of everyone's gazes. Seeing this action of his, the older students of the Inner Academy might not have felt anything, but the expressions of Elder Su and Elder Qing on the rock platform changed drastically. With their experience, they naturally clearly understood just what kind of immense force would be formed when such flames merged...

"This crazy fellow... should we act to stop him?" Elder Qing muttered. He immediately turned his head and asked Elder Su by his side.

Elder Su knit his brows tightly together. His eyes did not blink as he stared at Xiao Yan's calm and quiet face. A moment later, he shook his head and said, "He seems to have some confidence..."

"How can this be? Even if one was an elite Dou Huang, one would not dare to do such a thing. Once he loses control and an explosion occurs, the destructive force released is more than frightening..." Elder Qing said in a deep voice.

"Let's watch..." Elder Su's gaze did not make the slightest movement. All he did was merely speak in a soft voice.

"You... ah..." Seeing this, Elder Qing could only helplessly sigh. The boundless Dou Qi in his body also began to circulate, ready to handle any sudden and unexpected situations. After all, there were many students here observing the fight.

Under the focus of all the gazes, the green-colored flame in Xiao Yan's hand finally made contact with the purple-colored flame. Immediately, wisps of green and purple flame seedlings began to swiftly spread out from the point of contact. At the spot where the two made contact, the space seemed to be torn apart by the powerful strength until it began to fluctuate.

Xiao Yan's expression was indifferent as he eyed the two different colored flames, which were intertwined with one another. He heavily clapped his hands together, appearing as though he had done this hundreds of times. Following a clear muffled sound, the two flames were forcefully merged into a cluster of a green and purple flame. Spiritual Strength swarmed out from his brow, maintaining it at a mysterious equilibrium.

The green-purple flame repeatedly appeared distorted and immediately began to swiftly shrink in Elder Su's and Elder Qing's shocked gazes. It finally came to a slow stop after it had shrunk to around the size of a fist. The flame moved slightly before finally slowly broke apart. An extremely beautiful green-purple fire lotus drifted in front of Xiao Yan.

"Xun Er, all of you move aside."

The green-purple flame was suspended half an inch above Xiao Yan's palm. His expression was a little pale as he commanded them softly.

As Xiao Yan's words sounded. Xun Er and the two others, who were bitterly engaged in a stalemate with Luo Hou, immediately flashed and pull back. In a few leaps, they appeared behind Xiao Yan.

"It's over..."

Xiao Yan lifted his head slowly and watched the horrified face of Luo Hou. A cold smile appeared on his pale face as he gently flicked the Fire Lotus out of his palm. The Fire Lotus immediately drew past the long empty air like a falling star. Under the focus of everyone's eyes, it carried a beautiful green-purple trail as it shot explosively toward Luo Hou.

### **Chapter 456: Triumph!**

The green-purple fire lotus swiftly expanded in Luo Hou's eyes. The terrifyingly hot energy, which penetrated the air and swept over him, caused the cold sweat appearing on his forehead to be vaporized in an instant.

On the ground, the dark green grass quickly withered anywhere the fire lotus swept past. Finally, the grass turned into black-colored ashes that scattered with the wind.

A horror of being helpless to fight the destructive force quietly rose in Luo Hou's heart as he sensed it shooting explosively toward him. This kind of energy was really too large. He even had a faint intuition that if he were to be struck head on by that beautiful fire lotus, it was likely that he would be turned into nothing more than dust, just like the green grass.

Luo Hou's teeth firmly bit his lips. Blood traces flowed down from his mouth. The pain caused Luo Hou to recover from that helpless state and become a little more alert. His hands held the cold metal rod tightly while his eyes stared intently at the fire lotus, which was coming increasingly closer to him. The latter's nearly lightning-like speed caused him to have nowhere to hide.

Cold air swiftly seeped out from the cold metal rod. However, when the cold air appeared, it was incinerated by the high temperature that moved forward it until it let out

a 'chi chi' sound. Finally, it resulted in a white, misty fog that shrouded the messy rock area, causing everyone's sight to be somewhat obstructed.

Luo Hou inhaled a deep breath of air. A crunching sound emitted from the cold metal rod that he held tightly in his hand due to the great strength he used. A drop of cold sweat moved along his forehead and dripped into his eyes. The astringent-like feeling caused a fury to suddenly swarm into Luo Hou's heart. A dignified strong Dou Ling had actually nearly given up defending because of the attack of a mere Da Dou Shi? This kind of situation caused the him, who had a haughty character, to feel ashamed.

"Come! I want to see just how strong you, Xiao Yan, can be?!" A low, deep roar reverberated in his heart. Luo Hou's hands shook. Immediately, his ten foot long cold metal rod shook and formed a couple of afterimages. Dou Qi in his body flowed wildly as it was unceasingly poured into the cold metal rod.

As the Dou Qi was swiftly poured in, one could see that layers of thick frost had begun appearing on the ice-like metal rod. Moreover, the temperature surrounding the rod's body had also begun to swiftly decline at this moment. Finally, it barely managed to isolate the heat from the fire lotus.

The Dou Qi in his body was swiftly flowing until it was exhausted. The frost on the cold metal rod became increasingly rich. In a few blinks of an eye, the cold metal rod, which was originally only as thick as an arm, suddenly gained nearly half a foot of thickness. It was now like an enormous ice pillar.

Luo Hou's arms hugged the cold metal rod which had turned into an ice pillar. a sleek redness swarmed onto Luo Hou's face. He let out a low, deep violent roar from his mouth and raised the enormous ice pillar high up before immediately smashing it down angrily!

The force that was contained within the ice pillar was extremely powerful. In the short distance, there was a continuous stream low explosive sounds that were emitted in the air wherever the ice pillar passed through. In fact, when the ice pillar was still a few meters from the ground, the attack which had gathered all of Luo Hou's strength managed to even pass through the air and shook the rocks on the ground until quite a number of crack lines were formed. From this, it could be seen that Luo Hou's desperate attack was also not ordinary.

The green-purple fire lotus cut through the air and struck toward Luo Hou. When it was less than two to three meters away, an enormous dark shadow that contained a cold wind descended from the sky. Finally, it heavily struck the fire lotus. Immediately, the space solidified for an instant. Soon after, a loud thunderclap, like an explosive thunder, resounded throughout the battlefield. Some of the people who were unable to prepare in time were even shaken by this loud sound until their ears were pressed tightly.

After this thunderclap, the energy ripple that everyone had expected to form from the energy collision did not appear. The fire and ice appeared to be quietly neutralized within that rubble-filled region covered by a faint white mist. Not the slightest ripple that contained any destructive force was emitted. This somewhat bizarre scene caused many people to be a little stunned. They faced one another with faces that were at loss.

At this moment, Luo Hou's face was flushed within the white fog that people's gazes could not reach. His palms desperately held the cold metal rod, which was shaking repeatedly. At this moment, the thick frost on the body of the rod was melting at a rate visible to the naked eye. Since his palm was in contact with the rod, Luo Hou could sense an extremely frightening hot force was continuously invading through the cold metal rod from that obscure white fog. Luo Hou was able to imagine that once the icy frost that had been agglomerated from his Dou Qi was completely exhausted, that frightening hot force would completely erupt!

Although Luo Hou understood this in his heart, he did not have the slightest solution. Hence, he could only watch with his own eyes as the enormous ice pillar, which was agglomerated from the cold metal rod, melted swiftly. The heat that was transmitted from the tip of the rod was also becoming increasingly warmer.

The icy frost on the cold metal rod lasted for merely ten seconds before it was completely melted. Following the disappearance of all the icy frost, one could see that the cold metal rod, with an entire body like ice, turned from snow white into fiery red at an extremely swift rate.

“Chi...”

The spot where Luo Hou's hands held the cold metal rod suddenly revealed a white-colored fog and many strange sound. Quickly following this, one could hear a muffled groan that contained pain from Luo Hou. He swiftly released his hands and threw away the cold metal rod, which had nearly become burning charcoal.

As the cold metal rod landed on the ground, it heavily smashed on top of a rock. In an instant, the rock burst apart. The fiery red rod's temperature was swiftly reduced. Immediately, it turned into an ordinary metal rod. Additionally, there were crack lines that were repeatedly spreading throughout the metal rod. Clearly, this cold metal rod, which seemed to cost quite a lot, had been completely turned into a lump of scrap metal.

At this moment, Luo Hou did not have the time to feel any heartache about his weapon being turned into scrap metal. This was because at the instant when that the metal rod left his hand, he could clearly see a wisp of purple-green fire glow suddenly shooting toward him from within the white fog. The hot aura incinerated the white fog around it into nothingness.

As some of the white fog was being incinerated, Luo Hou could clearly see the true face of that purple-green object. Shock involuntarily flashed across his eyes. He had discovered that the attack, which he had went all out to unleash earlier, had merely cause the appearance of this beautiful fire lotus to become a little dimmer. Its original body actually did not show the slightest signs of wavering!

“Just what class is this Dou Technique in? It is actually strong to such an extent?” On top of being shocked within his heart, Luo Hou, who did not have the time to dodge, could only clench his teeth and hurriedly maneuver the little Dou Qi within his body. After which, he agglomerated and formed a simple, thin Dou Qi Armor on his body. From the looks of it, it appeared that he was prepared to receive it head on.

Xiao Yan’s expression was similarly pale as he stood in the messy rock area. His gaze coldly eyed the area which was covered by the white fog. He raised his hands, paused slightly before suddenly clenching it. Immediately, his originally pale face became as white as sheet. His body also involuntarily quivered.

The instant that Xiao Yan clenched his fist, the expressions of Elder Su and Elder Qing on the rock platform finally changed drastically. Elder Su suddenly stood up. His body paused before immediately disappearing in a bizarre manner from the rock platform.

“Bang!”

A deep, low explosion sounded from the messy rocky region. Immediately, a circular terrifying energy ripple began spreading out in a wave-like manner. Rocks were completely obliterated into dust anywhere it passed. This frightening destructive strength caused the older students on the mountain slope to become dull for a moment. Immediately, under a panicked loud cry, they began to leap over the other side of the mountain slope one after another in an extremely embarrassing fashion, just like rolling gourds. In an instant, the entire place had turned totally chaotic.

The energy ripple had arrived quickly and left just as quickly. When it came into contact with the mountain slope, it left half inch long crack lines before it gradually disappeared. After this continued for a while, the people behind the mountain slope finally carefully exposed their heads one at a time when they ceased hearing any activity. They eyed the area which had already turned into an extreme mess and involuntarily inhaled a breath of cold air in a quiet fashion.

Currently, the messy rocky area or, perhaps, it should no longer be called a messy rocky area. This was because there was no longer a single rock existing in this place. The only thing it had now was rock ashes that covered the ground. The large rocks from earlier appeared to have disintegrated due to the energy ripple with immense destructive strength.

“This... this was created by Xiao Yan?” Everyone’s eyes carried a little dullness as they stared at the messy rock area, which appearance to have changed drastically. Sha Tie,



whose head had been exposed from behind a mountain slope, could not help but swallow his saliva and mutter.

Su Xiao and the two other beside him stiffened their faces and nodded. Their gazes swept toward the skinny black-robed young man. In their hearts, they could not resist thinking that if this fellow were to have thrown the purple-green fire lotus when they were fighting within the forest, how many people in their groups would have survived?

When they thought of this, cold sweat began to appear all over their bodies. The gazes they used to look at Xiao Yan were like they were looking at a monster. Was that fellow really only a Da Dou Shi?

“Is this fellow really a Da Dou Shi? This kind of destructive strength is sufficient to catch up with some six or seven star elite Dou Lings...” Sha Tie recovered from his shock. He laughed bitterly as he slowly gave voice to what Su Xiao and the two others were thinking.

Hearing this, Su Xiao and the other two nodded their heads, sharing the same feelings.

“That’s right... What happened to Luo Hou?”

A voice suddenly sounded from the mountain slope. Immediately all the gazes suddenly turned toward the area in middle of the messy rocky area still covered by white mist.

As everyone turned their gazes, most of the white-colored fog in that region began to dissipate. Finally, Luo Hou’s figure was the first to appear in everyone’s gazes... At this moment, Luo Hou was basically sitting with his butt down on the ground. That cold and indifferent face was currently in a kind of stiffened condition. However, looking at his appearance, it seemed that he was not injured?

Seeing Luo Hou unharmed, a wave of shocked private conversations sounded from the mountain slope. From the looks of the destructive strength of the energy ripple that had spread out, Luo Hou’s strength should not have been enough to leave him totally unaffected.

However, just as everyone’s hearts were filled with doubt, the white-colored fog finally completely disappeared. Following the disappearance of the fog, one could see Elder Su’s body standing in front of Luo Hou...

“Elder Su?” The people on the mountain slope immediately let out numerous gasps as they eyed Elder Su’s figure.

The old figure of the one called Elder Su had his hand maintained in an extended stance. From the looks of the huge pit in front of him, it appeared that the fire lotus attack earlier was blocked by him. No wonder Luo Hou was not the least bit injured...

Elder Su stood in a straight manner on the spot, like a tree stump. A long while later, he slowly withdrew his hand with an indifferent face. After his hand had returned to his sleeves, it could not resist trembling a little. A solemnness flashed across his turbid eyes.

Elder Su lifted his head under everyone's gazes and swept his gaze toward the pale-faced Xiao Yan. He was quiet for a moment before his soft voice resonated from this battlefield which had undergone a great battle.

"Little fellow, you new students can be considered the victors for this year's 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition.'"

### **Chapter 457: Reward**

Elder Su's somewhat old voice slowly reverberated, causing all the fights to pause at this moment. Those older students of the Inner Academy on the mountain slope opened their mouths slightly. They wanted to say something, but they were unable to say anything.

"Oh!"

The silence outside the forest continued for a while before those unmoving students could no longer resist the wild joy in their hearts. They let out a loud cheer. In their excitement, some of the new students did not even care about gender as they hugged the companions who stood beside them. Their five to six days of difficult struggles had finally paid off. How could they not rejoice?

A smile also surfaced on Xiao Yan's pale-white face as he heard the happy cries that sounded from behind him. He held his chest and softly coughed a couple of times. He turned his head and eyed Xun Er and the other two, whose faces were also filled with joy. With a smile, he said, "Looks like we do not need to hand over the things that we worked hard to come by,"

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, are you alright?" Xun Er hurriedly took two steps forward when she saw Xiao Yan's expression. She supported him and asked with heartache.

"It's nothing. I am just out of strength." Xiao Yan waved his hand. The power of the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' was not small, and its consumption of Spiritual Strength and Dou Qi was really too great. With Xiao Yan's current strength, he could only use it once in his prime condition. If he tried to forcefully use it a second time, he might descend into an unconscious state due to the exhaustion of his strength.

"It is really unexpected that you really have some tricks. No wonder Xun Er constantly bore you in mind. It really is a pity..." Hu Jia carelessly patted Xiao Yan's shoulders. Fighting side by side was usually the best way to improve the relationship between people. After these few days of living together, her heavy grudge that was formed because of Xiao Yan's tough attack during the Qualifying Competition had completely

disappeared. From the bottom of her heart, the various things that Xiao Yan had shown these few days had really let her admire him.

“Xun Er’s sight is indeed not bad. However... I will work hard to catch up to you in terms of training.” Wu Hao raised his head and his mouth pulled a somewhat stiff arc toward Xiao Yan. Clearly, this battle crazy person, who had a withdrawn character and was excessively obsessive in training, had seldom given anyone else a smile.

Xiao Yan smiled. He laughed and said, “Don’t push all the credit onto me. I know my own strength. Without your help, I would not be able to make it this far regardless of how strong I am. A lonely hero would not be able to walk far here and is also not suitable to be here.”

Hu Jia and Wu Hao quietly nodded when they heard this. Not being proud because of success. The insolence and wild arrogance that a young person usually possessed seemed to be unrelated to this precocious young fellow. This trait really caused them to marvel.

“Elder Su, we have not lost!”

Just as Xiao Yan was speaking, a dissatisfied voice suddenly sounded out. Everyone’s gaze swept around. It was actually emitted from Luo Hou, who was seated with his butt on the ground. At this moment, the latter’s face was still flushed red. Clearly, his pride could not accept being defeated by the hands of a Da Dou Shi.

“That’s right. We have not lost. We can still fight!”

The other four members of the ‘White Demon Group’ also cried out together, echoing their leader after hearing him speak. From the appearance of the earlier fight, as long as they were given enough time, the new students would be completely defeated. Therefore, they were naturally unwilling to end up receiving a situation where they had lost.

“All of you shut up!” Elder Su’s expression was solemn as he cried out coldly.

Seeing that Elder Su had become angry, everyone hurriedly and wisely shut their mouths. They dared not say anything, including Luo Hou.

“If I had not intervened earlier, would you still have a life to be sitting here?” Elder Su turned his head around, and asked Luo Hou sternly, whose face was filled with dissatisfaction.

Luo Hou’s expression turned white. He clenched his teeth, but became dispirited a moment later. He clearly knew that if Elder Su had not intervened, it was likely that the Inner Academy would no longer have a student called Luo Hou.

“A loss is a loss. What excuse do you need to find?” Elder Su snorted coldly. His gaze looked all around him as he said in a deep voice, “I have already said that the ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition’ this time around is already over. If you are still not satisfied, you can directly issue a challenge to the new students one month after they enter the Inner Academy. As long as they agree, the Fighting Arena of the Inner Academy is open anytime. However, for now, all of you should shut your mouths.”

“Hmph.”

Elder Su glanced once at Luo Hou before sweeping his gaze over at Xiao Yan’s group once again. Only then did his expression become softer as he said, “As the victors of this year’s ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition,’ all the new students present will each obtain twenty days of ‘Fire Energy.’ Xiao Yan, Xiao Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao will each obtain an additional ‘Green Fire Crystal Card’ and thirty days of ‘Fire Energy.’”

“Green Fire Crystal Card?”

There was some noise from the mountain slope upon hearing the words that had popped out of Elder Su’s mouth. Numerous envious gazes swept over Xiao Yan’s four man group.

“‘Green Fire Crystal Card?’ What is that?” Xiao Yan’s four man group, however, were somewhat at a loss with regards to this so-called ‘Green Fire Crystal Card.’ They exchanged glances with one another, feeling a little uncertain.

“Ke ke. Within the Inner Academy, the Fire Crystal Cards, from the bottom to the top, are divided into black, blue, green, red, and purple colors. The black-colored Crystal Card in your hands is the lowest grade Crystal Card. This kind of Crystal Card can only give you the qualification to train in the first and second levels of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ The blue card has the qualification to enter the third and fourth level and it continues on like this.”

“If one wanted to raise the Crystal Card grade, one would need to exchange for it with ‘Fire Energy’ within the Inner Academy. Usually, one would need to pay a hundred days worth of ‘Fire Energy’ to exchange the black-colored Crystal Card to a blue-colored Crystal Card. In order to change a blue-colored Crystal Card to a green-colored Crystal Card, one would need two hundred days of ‘Fire Energy’... Now that you have obtained the ‘Green Fire Crystal Card’ as a reward, it is equivalent to you saving three hundred days of ‘Fire Energy’. This is not a small sum. Among the older students of the Inner Academy present, most of them are currently holding a blue-colored Crystal Card, with the exception of Luo Hou, who coincidentally changed his blue-colored Crystal Card to a green-colored Crystal Card last week.” Elder Su smiled and explained after seeing the doubt of Xiao Yan and the others.

“Three hundred days worth of ‘Fire Energy?’ Only after hearing this number did Xiao Yan and the others understand why the gazes of those around them were filled with

envy. They had snatched from all of the older students in the forest until the latter were left with nothing. Adding that to this reward, each of their Crystal Cards had only just exceeded a hundred. From this, it could be seen that there should be some difficulty obtaining 'Fire Energy' within the Inner Academy.

Once Elder Su had finished explaining, he shook his hand and four green-colored Crystal Cards appeared in his hand. He flicked his finger and the cards shot toward Xiao Yan's four man group, finally coming to a suspended stop in front of them.

"The reward is already in there. Draw all the 'Fire Energy' in your Black Crystal Cards over. After that, hand the Black Crystal Cards back to me."

Xiao Yan and the others quickly did as they were told when they heard what he said. A moment later, they handed over their Black Crystal Cards, which had become empty, over to Elder Su.

Elder Su nodded slightly when he received the black-colored 'Fire Crystal Cards.' He smiled and said, "Alright. Since you have already successfully completed the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition,' follow me into the Inner Academy." Once he finished speaking, he took the lead to turn around, and slowly walked toward a stairs made of rock fragments that led up the mountain slope.

"We can finally enter the Inner Academy... it truly wasn't easy. Ah." Xiao Yan let out a long sigh when he saw Elder Su's back. He did not know just how much effort they had used in order to enter the Inner Academy. First, there was the Qualifying Competition, then there was the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition.' This Inner Academy... was indeed not as easy to enter as he had thought.

"Let's go."

Under everyone's gazes, Xiao Yan waved to Xun Er and the others and lead the way, following behind Elder Su as he climbed up the stairs.

The fragmented rock stairs could not be considered to be very high. Xiao Yan's group managed to ascend to the last step after merely one to two minutes. After which, they raised their bodies and stood at the peak of the mountain slope. Their gazes swept around once in front of them. The scene, which appeared in front of them, caused them to slowly inhale a breath of somewhat icy-cold air.

"This is the Inner Academy?" A soft mutter was emitted from the mouths of those new students on the mountain slope.

Behind the mountain slope was an extremely big basin with a depression. The shape of this basin was like it had been smashed and formed from an enormous rock falling from the sky...

Tall buildings stood within the basin. Looking down from high above, everyone was able to see numerous, flea-like shadows flashing and jumping above the buildings. Their gazes focused in front of them, only to realize that the size of this basin was strangely large. The edge of their sight could only see the tall buildings and a lush green color but not the other side of the basin.

It was difficult to imagine that there was actually such a unique ground hidden within the endless mountains behind the Jia Nan Academy.

“Ke ke, little fellows, welcome to the place where the core of the Jia Nan Academy is located: The Inner Academy!” Elder Su smiled as he eyed the shocked faces of the new students as he clapped his hands and spoke.

“The strong people here... so many.” A fanatic enthusiasm rose on Wu Hao’s face as he whispered to himself.

Xiao Yan helplessly smiled when he heard this. This fellow was really without a doubt a fighting maniac...

Xiao Yan lifted his gaze and slowly swept it across the enormous basin. A moment later, he inhaled a deep breath of air as he muttered in his heart, “Fallen Heart Flame... is it really here? Hopefully, you will not disappoint me.”

“Alright. Since the ‘Hunting Competition’ has concluded, all the new students, follow me back to the Inner Academy. I will help you all settle in. After that, you will all truly be members of the ‘Inner Academy.’ Trust me. As long as you are able to persist here, you will feel that everything is worthwhile when you see your improvements when you finally leave this place.” Elder Su’s gaze paused on Xiao Yan’s group as he slowly said.

All the new students nodded lightly. From those older students, they were able to discover just what kind of great benefits they would obtain if they trained in this Inner Academy!

“Let’s go! Everyone, follow closely!”

Elder Su waved his hand. His body turned into a vague shadow as he swiftly rushed toward the enormous basin. Behind him, all the new students also immediately moved their bodies. Like locusts in transit, they rushed down from the mountain slope. Numerous excited bellows lingered over this place and did not disappear for a long time.

### **Chapter 458: Settling In**

“Creak.”

A wooden door was slowly pushed open. A thread of sunlight passed through the gap and spread out, finally forming a narrow and long line of light on the ground.

As the wooden door was completely pushed open, the line of light swiftly expanded. Immediately, a few human shadows, which were pulled by the sunlight until their length was no longer proportional also entered. The leader, an old man, swept over the spacious small pavilion home smiled and said, "Xiao Yan, this will be the residence of the four of you in the future."

"Four of us?"

Hearing this, Hu Jia, who was following behind, could not help but be startled. She immediately said in a stunned voice, "Elder Su, don't tell me that you want Xun Er and I, two girls, to stay with these two big men?"

"Ke ke, Hu Jia girl, this pavilion home is fairly large and there are quite a number of rooms. It is not like we are asking you to sleep in the same bed. What are you so anxious of?" Elder Su smiled and shook his head. His gaze moved over the four of them as he continued, "That's right. You all have another group member right?"

"Uh..." Xiao Yan was a little sluggish when he heard Elder Su's question. He shrugged his shoulders, not quite knowing how to answer.

"He ran... he saw the powerful strength of the 'Black Demon Group,' thus he abandoned us and fled." Hu Jia spread her hands and laughed coldly. She did not have the same concerns that Xiao Yan had. Her words did not leave any face for Bai Shan. Clearly, the actions of Bai Shan in abandoning his companions and fleeing by himself caused her to hold him in great contempt.

"Ran away? What a short-sighted person." Elder Su was also startled. He immediately shook his head and spoke with a faint smile.

"In the future, the four of you will belong to the Inner Academy. I will remind you that unless your strength is extremely strong, it is not easy to muddle along within the Inner Academy all alone. Due to what the environment encourages, all the older students in the Inner Academy are divided into factions and territories. I think that you will understand these things soon." Elder Su voiced his thoughts.

"The Inner Academy actually has such things? Why don't you all put a stop to it?" Hu Jia's knit her eyebrows together and asked.

"Ke ke, why should we put a stop to it? This kind of competition is what our Inner Academy needs and wants. If you don't want to be bullied, you need to work hard to raise your strength. Otherwise, everything is out of discussion... the strong are respected. This will forever be the tune of this world. We do not want to let the Inner

Academy become an Ivory Tower where everyone is carefree. This is because such an environment would not produce truly strong people.” Elder Su faintly replied.

Hu Jia could only curl her lips when she heard Elder Su’s explanation. Xiao Yan and Wu Hao nodded their heads in approval. They had undergone true temperament, and clearly understood just what kind of environment could create a truly strong person.

“Hence, by letting you stay together, we actually want you to form a group. In the Hunting Competition, you should all have understood just what kind of fighting strength a group can create, no?” Elder Su smilingly said, “From today on, I hope that the four of you can face all your difficulties together and become a group that does not abandon each other. If all of you are able to do this, your life in the Inner Academy will be much more relaxed. No matter the case, a person’s strength cannot be compared to a group’s strength right?”

“I am fine with it. I have no objections to Xiao Yan’s strength.” Wu Hao hesitated for a moment before nodding slightly and speaking with a faint voice.

Xun Er laughed gently. She would naturally not object to being together with Xiao Yan.

“Ah, alright. Although I don’t want to admit it, following this fellow does indeed make me feel safer.” Hu Jia spread her hands, nodded helplessly and gave voice to her reply.

“All of you are relying on me...”

Xiao Yan could not help but laugh bitterly when he saw their actions. Although the expression on his face was like this, there was a strange feeling within his heart. He was all alone during the nearly three years of training. Perhaps it was as his character dictated but he had gotten used to facing his struggles alone. However, seeing the manner in which Wu Hao and the other two handed over command of their group, it was undoubtedly a form and showing of trust and acceptance. This kind of feeling was something that Xiao Yan never had when he trained alone in the past.

“Ke ke, it is naturally for the best if all of you can act in this matter.” Elder Su nodded with satisfaction when he saw that the four people had come together to form a group without any hesitation. He waved his hand and said, “Alright. It is already quite late. You should tidy up your own rooms and rest for the night. From tomorrow on, you can all go and take a look around the Inner Academy as you please. I think that this place will not disappoint you.”

“Is there really no training curriculum or classes?” Hu Jia hurriedly asked when she heard this.

“The Inner Academy doesn’t need such a thing. As long as you have sufficient ‘Fire Energy,’ you are permitted to enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ Training in that place is more effective than any training curriculum. Oh, that’s right. I have nearly



forgotten. Each week the academy will collectively organize students to enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' once. If you want to talk about training curriculum, that can be considered as such..."

Elder Su laughed softly and said, "Additionally, the Inner Academy also has a 'Dou Technique House,' 'Qi Method Hall,' and other such places. If you want to obtain any Dou Techniques or Qi Method, you can go over there and take a look. Of course, this is on the precondition that you have sufficient 'Fire Energy' to exchange for them. Compared to the Outer Academy, there is actually much more freedom in the Inner Academy."

"If you feel that you don't have sufficient 'Fire Energy' and that your hands are itchy, you can go to the Fighting Arena to earn 'Fire Energy.' Of course, the precondition is that you must possess sufficient strength. Otherwise, you will lose until you have nothing left."

Xiao Yan and the three others nodded their heads to express that they understood.

"If you don't have any other questions, go and rest. If you have any problems, you can come and find me." Elder Su waved his hands at the four of them, turned around, and walked out. He finally disappeared from the sight of Xiao Yan's group.

As he watched Elder Su leave, Xiao Yan clapped his hands and smiled to Xun Er and the other two, "Let's tidy up the rooms. This place may perhaps be our long term home in the near future."

"Yes." Xun Er and the other two smiled and nodded. They immediately split up, each going to search for their own room.

The silver moon hung high in the sky as night fell. The faint moonlight scattered from the sky, covering the enormous basin within.

Xiao Yan was seated cross-legged on the bed within a quiet room. His hands had formed the training seal. Following his cyclic breathing, threads of energy, visible to the naked eye, began to swim out of the air. Finally, they moved along with the breathing and entered unceasingly into Xiao Yan's body.

Next to Xiao Yan, a seven colored small snake was floating mid air. Its small body was moving with a strange rhythm and as it moved, the space around it began to fluctuate. An energy that was over ten times stronger than Xiao Yan's own was that pushed into the small snake's body. What was strange was that despite the huge energy and the small body of the snake, there was no movement. It was as if a few stones had been thrown into a bottomless abyss; leaving no ripples.

The training continued for about an hour. Only then did the drifting energy gradually recede. Xiao Yan's eyelashes moved slightly. A moment later, he opened his eyes, and exhaled coarse air that had been restrained in his chest.

"I have finally recovered. The consumption from the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' is really too large... However, the nearly one week of fighting in the forest did have quite a lot of benefits for me." Xiao Yan softly muttered. At this moment, his originally pale face had once again recovered its sleek redness. His pair of pupils appeared to be covered by a layer of faint, warm jade, appearing extremely strange.

Not long after Xiao Yan's training ended, the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' also finished one night of training. It extended its snake tongue and hissed at Xiao Yan. Seeing this, the latter helplessly shook his head. He could only take out a bottle of 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' and flicked a couple of drops into its mouth. After which it shook its tail in a carefree manner, and went back into Xiao Yan's sleeves.

"This gluttonous little fellow..." Xiao Yan's hand rubbed the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' that twined around his arm. He bitterly laughed. He was just about to speak when the dark black ring on his finger suddenly trembled. Yao Lao's old illusionary figure immediately began to slowly float out.

"Teacher? How is it? Did you search for the 'Fallen Heart Flame?'" Xiao Yan braced his spirit when he saw Yao Lao appear and hurriedly asked in a soft voice.

"This, I didn't..."

Yao Lao smiled. His gaze swept all around him. Seeing Xiao Yan's disappointed expression, he laughed softly, "However, it is not that I did not acquire anything. After you entered the Inner Academy, I faintly sensed a little unusual aura. However, this Inner Academy is the core of Jia Nan Academy with many strong people. Therefore, I also didn't really dare to probe too thoroughly."

"Unusual aura?" Xiao Yan was slightly startled. He said in surprise, "Is this related to the 'Heavenly Flame?'"

"That should be correct... within this Inner Academy, there might really be the thing that you need." Yao Lao mused for a moment before nodding. He said, "According to my probing, the place that is releasing the unusual aura seems to be on the northern side of the Inner Academy. If you have time tomorrow, go and take a look around that side. We might be able to find some clues."

Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded when he heard this. It was good as long as they had a clue. He was most afraid of ending up with not the slightest news related to the 'Heavenly Flame' after putting in all his effort to enter this Inner Academy with great difficulty.

“There are many things within this Inner Academy that you need to rely on yourself for. If I were to act, I’m afraid that others might discover...” Yao Lao sighed.

“Ah. Ke ke. Didn’t teacher say that I relied too heavily on you far too much in the past. The current environment now does not pose any harm to me.” Xiao Yan replied with a smile on his face.

“It is naturally good that you can think in this manner... You need not worry about that mysterious ‘Hall of Souls’ chasing you here, within the Inner Academy. Therefore, you can be at ease and raise your strength here.” Yao Lao nodded in a gratified manner as he spoke.

Xiao Yan’s heart sunk a little when the mysterious ‘Hall of Souls’ was mentioned. This strange faction was something that even a strong person like Yao Lao feared this much. It was really difficult to imagine just how frightening its strength actually was.

“Ah. Teacher, you can rest assured.”

Only after seeing Xiao Yan nod his head did Yao Lao’s body shake. It once again turned into a shadow that disappeared into the ring.

“Looks like I can only hurry up and look for the second type of ‘Heavenly Flame.’ After which, I should help teacher refine a body that can accommodate his spirit. Otherwise, that ‘Hall of Souls’ would ultimately be a poisonous snake that is hidden within the darkness, making it very hard to defend.” Xiao Yan’s finger slowly knocked on the back of his hand as he eyed Yao Lao disappearing. A long while later, he exhaled a long breath and mused within his own heart.

### **Chapter 459: New Students Tribute Fee**

When Xiao Yan walked out from his room the next morning, he saw two human figures flashing and interlocking with one another within the hall of their new pavilion home. Powerful Dou Qi swarmed out from within the bodies of the two of them, and rippled throughout the entire hall.

On a chair in one corner of the hall, Xun Er was smiling as she watched the two figures. When she heard the sound of footsteps, she suddenly turned around and eyed Xiao Yan, who was climbing down the stairs. She could not help but hurriedly move forward to greet him. In a gentle voice, she smiled and asked, “Xiao Yan ge-ge are you awake?”

“Yes.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He faced the two people in the hall and asked with a smile, “What are those two fellows doing?”

“Perhaps it’s because of this ‘Hunting Competition.’ When they were training last night, Wu Hao and Hu Jia each advanced to a seven star Da Dou Shi one after the other.

They wanted to spar when they woke up in the morning. Hence...” Xun Er covered her mouth and explained with a laugh.

“Oh? They have advanced?”

Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrows when he heard this. He immediately sighed and shook his head. These two fellows were worthy of being the top among Jia Nan Academy’s Outer Academy. Their talent far exceeded that of an ordinary person. If one were to just discuss training talent, they would even be on the same level as Xiao Yan.

“What about Xun Er? What is your level now?” Xiao Yan turned his head over, threw his gaze toward Xun Er as he questioned with a smile. This girl had demonstrated training talent that caused even him to be amazed at. When he had left Wu Tan City, Xun Er was merely a Dou Zhe. Now, after only over two years time, she was already at the Da Dou Shi level. This kind of speed was something that he would likely have difficulty catching up to if he did not have Yao Lao’s help. Moreover, Xun Er was even younger than Xiao Yan.

“Me? I am also at the seven star Da Dou Shi level now. However, after this ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition,’ I have been feeling that I am close to advancing. I think that within three or four days, I should be able to successfully become an eight star Da Dou Shi.” Xun Er lifted the teacup beside her, sipped shallowly and smiled as she replied to Xiao Yan.

“Tsk tsk, one after another...”

Xiao Yan could not help but click his tongue. It appeared that all of the people in this small, four man group were not ordinary people. All of them had shocking talent and great potential. Moreover, Xiao Yan dared to say that all three of them had their own hidden abilities and trump cards. If they were to meet an extremely dangerous situation, the strength that would erupt from them shock people. He did not have any doubt when it came to this matter. After all, Hu Jia’s grandfather was the Outer Academy’s Deputy Headmaster with a strength that was near the peak of the Dou Huang class. Toward his only granddaughter, he would naturally not hold back when teaching her.

According to what Instructor Ruo Ling and the others had said, the person behind Wu Hao appeared to be the commander of the Law Enforcement Unit. This unit was basically the armed forces of the Jia Nan Academy. Usually, they focused on handling diabolical and fierce people who originated from the ‘Black Corner Region.’ By being able to become the commander of such a unit, it was likely that his strength was not much weaker than Deputy Headmaster Hu Gan.

There was even less need to talk about Xun Er. Even until now, Xiao Yan was still uncertain of the enormous faction behind her. Of course, from the somewhat fearsome tone of Yao Lao, he could vaguely sense the huge outline.

With the background of the three of them, Xiao Yan did not think that the trump cards that they possessed would be much weaker than his own. Since he could rely on the Secret Technique to defeat an elite Dou Ling, it was likely that they would also be able to do something similar, no?

“Bang, bang!”

Just as Xiao Yan was sighing endlessly over the strength of this small group of his, a hurried knocking sound suddenly sounded from the door in an untimely fashion.

Xiao Yan lifted his head uncertainly. His gaze swept toward the front door and Xun Er obediently stood up and swiftly walked over. Wu Hao and Hu Jia had ceased sparing when they heard the knock. They grabbed the towels beside them and wiped off their perspiration. After which, they walked over to Xiao Yan’s side, lifted the teacups on the table, and swallowed the tea in one gulp.

“What happened?” Wu Hao asked vaguely after drinking.

“We will know once we take a look.” Xiao Yan smiled, and lifted his head only to see Xun Er, who had opened the door and conversed with the person outside for awhile, swiftly walking back.

“Xun Er, what is it?” Hu Jia smiled and asked Xun Er a question as she tied a purple belt around her pretty waist, illustrating her already delicate and narrow waist, until it was even more alluring.

“There are dozens of new students outside saying that they want to meet Xiao Yan ge-ge.” Xun Er knit her eyebrows slightly as she spoke.

“New students? Is there something wrong? Forget it, let them in.” Xiao Yan was slightly startled before he immediately replied.

“Yes.”

Xun Er nodded her head when she heard this. She beckoned with her hand to the area outside the door. Immediately, more than ten figures swarmed in and came over, surrounding Xiao Yan’s group. For some unknown reason, their faces were all flushed red.

“Senior Xiao Yan. Being a fellow new student, you must definitely help us. The older students in this Inner Academy have really gone too far.” It was a young man, whose face was somewhat flushed in agitation. Xiao Yan still remembered that this young man was one of the three people who was still standing after matching up against that single ‘Black Demon Group’ member in that match with the ‘Black Demon Group’ during the ‘Hunting Competition.’ If he recalled correctly, his name was Atai.

“What happened? Tell me clearly.” Xiao Yan frowned and said.

“Starting from this morning, some older student groups entered the new students’ area, shouting all the while. They wanted to collect what they called the New Student Tribute Fee, which is 2 days’ worth of ‘Fire Energy’ per person... We also know that as a newcomer, there is no need to act too sharply. It is alright if we just endured a little. Thus, we did not say anything and handed the ‘Fire Energy’ payment to them. In the end, it is unexpected that after we dispatched that group of people, even more older student groups came one after another, repeatedly barging into our new students’ area. They blocked the exit and are now asking us to pay again. Until now, three groups have already arrived. If this continues, the little ‘Fire Energy’ that us new students have obtained after fighting desperately with Senior will have been completely taken away!” The young man named Atai clenched his teeth and spoke resentfully.

“Aren’t these people going too overboard?” Hu Jia’s pretty face sunk slightly as her delicate hand heavily slammed down on the armrest of a chair.

Xiao Yan held a teacup with both hands. His eyes narrowed, but he did not open his mouth to say anything.

“Senior Xiao Yan, we have come to look for you, not because we want you to help exempt us from such harassment. We also understand that as new students of the Inner Academy, it is unavoidable to be bullied by the older students. I have also inquired with some friends. In previous years, the new students needed to pay a little of this so-called ‘New Student Tribute Fee,’ but it was not like what is happening to us now, where one group after another came. From what that friend of mine said, the reason for things being as such this year was because the performance of the new students in the ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition’ caused some older students’ hearts to be in a bad mood. Thus, this kind of new situation has appeared.” Atai laughed bitterly and sighed.

“By saying all of these things, I am not blaming Senior Xiao Yan. You have lead us to avoid being suppressed and bullied by the older students during the ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition.’ The reputation of Senior Xiao Yan is now the highest in the hearts of this year’s new students. Hence, we can only request that you step forward now that we have met such a troublesome situation. Hopefully, this can allow us new students to conclude these layers upon layers of exploitation. Otherwise, if we do not even have enough training payment to enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’, how are we even going to discuss training in the Inner Academy then?” Atai stared intently at Xiao Yan as he continued, “If it is really not possible, we, new students, would rather hand over that so called ‘New Students Tribute Fee’ to Senior Xiao Yan instead of giving it to those bastards!”

“Give me the ‘New Students Tribute Fee?’ Won’t that mix me into a class similar to those older students?” Xiao Yan smiled faintly. His finger gently tapped on his teacup, emitting a clear sound. After musing for a while, he smiled and said to Atai, “Since those older students are blocking the exit and collecting the tribute, I think that the few of us

will not fall between the gaps. Why don't we do this? You will go and gather all the new students. We will hurry over immediately."

"In that case, Senior Xiao Yan, thank you very much. If you are in need of assistance in the future, this batch of new students will gladly listen to Senior Xiao Yan's orders!" Hearing this, Atai and the ten plus new students following him immediately rejoiced. They hurriedly bowed to Xiao Yan and quickly exited the hall of the pavilion house.

After seeing the new students leave, Xiao Yan turned his head, eyed Xun Er and the two others and asked, "How do you all see this matter?"

"You are the group leader, you make the decisions. However, we cannot just be some unresisting lamb that allows those people to bully, right?" Hu Jia frowned and said, "Moreover, if you do not bother to intervene in this situation, the reputation, that you have accumulated among these new students with great difficulty, might perhaps immediately collapse, and you would lose a great deal of people's support."

"Elder Su said yesterday that there are many scattered factions within the Inner Academy. In the future, if we want to stay here for a long time, just the four of us may perhaps be a little weak. Now... is a good chance to draw people in. By relying on your reputation among the new students, as long as you dare to lead and take the risk of being beaten, there would perhaps be around eighty or ninety percent of the new students willing to follow you." Xun Er voiced her thoughts.

"You want us to form our own faction?" Xiao Yan was a little astonished as he spoke.

"It would ultimately be better than joining someone else's faction... it is just like you said earlier. It should also be difficult for us to escape paying that so called 'Tribute Fee.' Since this is the case, why don't we gather everyone together. Although the strength of the new students is a little weak now, if we add up a few dozen of us, an ordinary small group would, at the very least, not dare to come and harass us again. No matter how one puts it, it would save us a lot of trouble." Xun Er spread her hands and smiled as she explained.

"What Xun Er said could work. Rather than letting the new students assimilate into other factions, why don't we try to gather them all together, and let them work for us." Wu Hao nodded slightly and agreed.

Xiao Yan knit his brows tightly. His hands repeatedly rubbed the teacup. Seeing his deep in thought appearance, Xun Er and the other two did not dare to speak or interrupt him. They merely quietly waited for his decision.

"Hu..."

The silence continued for a couple of minutes before Xiao Yan finally let out a long sigh. He stood up and said in a deep voice, "Alright, I will do as you guys have suggested!"

Now is the best opportunity to rope in the new students. Once we lose this opportunity, it would be ten times more difficult if we wanted to rope them in in the future!”

“Go!”

Once he said these words, Xiao Yan waved his hand and strode out the front door. Xun Er and the other two exchanged glances with each other before immediately smiling and following Xiao Yan with swift footsteps.

#### **Chapter 460: Deterrence and Politeness**

When they walked out of the pavilion house, there was a large road filled with greenery. On both sides of the large road were living quarters for the other new students. Of course, compared to the small pavilion house of Xiao Yan’s group, theirs were much simpler and more crude. From the looks of it, such treatment was not something that everyone would receive.

There was not the slightest shadow of a new student on the road at this moment. It was likely that they had all gathered at the exit. Xiao Yan’s four man group did not dare be slow. Their toes gently pressed on the ground and their bodies turned into wisps of light smoke as they swiftly rushed to the end of the large road.

Around four to five minutes later, the swiftly traveling four-man group slowed down. They lifted their heads and eyed the end of the road. They did indeed see a large group of people squeezing together there. Noisy abuses repeatedly rang out.

Xiao Yan waved his hands and lead the three others as they walked closer to the group of people. When the new students that had gathered around this place, saw Xiao Yan’s four-man group, their faces could not help but become filled with great joy. They had just cheered when they were interrupted by Xiao Yan’s hand gesture. Immediately, they hurriedly shut their mouths.

Xiao Yan’s four-man group cupped their hands toward the new students and greeted them. Their gazes passed through the gaps in the crowd and eyed the exit.

Currently, the exit of the main road was being blocked by seven or eight older students who wore tower-shaped badges on their chests. There was another large group of older students watching the fun from behind them. Clearly, they were very happy to see the new students being suppressed. This was because they had all undergone this hurdle in the past.

On the opposite side of the eight older students was Atai, who had just went to request Xiao Yan’s help earlier. At this moment, he was leading the new students. His expression was green as he faced off against the older students.



“There is no need for any more nonsense. Little brat, the ‘New Student Tribute Fee’ is a custom of the Inner Academy for so many years. We were not harsh with you at all. Therefore, just obediently hand it over. Losing wealth will help you avert disaster. Don’t tell me that you don’t know this fact?” A young man, who was around twenty-five years old, smiled as he eyed the green-faced Atai and the others opposite him. He continued with, “Everyone hand over two days worth of ‘Fire Energy’ and I guarantee that you will all be safe and secure within the Inner Academy. This transaction is actually quite a bargain.”

“Hmph. Don’t think that we, new students, don’t know the rules. It was indeed true that the new students should pay the ‘Tribute Fee’ to the older students. However, the Inner Academy also has an informal rule that the new students would at most give to two factions. After paying these two factions, the other factions would have to go after those two factions and talk with them if they still wanted to collect ‘Fire Energy’ off of us. It would no longer be our problem.” Atai coldly snorted and angrily replied, “However, today, from this morning until now, no less than five factions have come. What ‘Fire Energy’ do we have to give you all?”

“Hee hee, that is under normal circumstances but aren’t you all from this batch of new students very strong? In so many years, I have never heard of any new students defeating older student groups and stealing their ‘Fire Energy’ in the ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition.’ Since you are all so special and independent, the rules that apply to you all should naturally be special.” That young man parted his mouth and spoke with a smile.

“Moreover, currently, you are not as poor as ordinary new students. The ‘Fire Energy’ on your bodies may be much richer than most older students.”

“You are talking nonsense. We have already said that we will not give a single day more of ‘Fire Energy.’ No matter whether we still have ‘Fire Energy’ in our hands or not, all of you can forget about it!” Atai’s face was green as he scolded them furiously. Behind him, the faces of many students were also angry. This repeated exploitation had completely infuriated them.

“Hee, alright. very good... you are indeed a bunch of people with hard bones.” Hearing this, that older student could not help but laugh coldly. He spoke in a sinister manner, “Little fellows, you should not forget that this is not the Outer Academy. Other than the Fighting Arena in the Inner Academy, it may be true that one cannot take people’s life in the other parts of the Inner Academy. However, when people spar, one would usually suffer some physical pain, no?”

“If you really don’t pay up today, I will not dare to guarantee that you will not receive some unjust treatment when you all leave this place. A young person should not be swayed by his emotions and act impulsively.”

“You...” Seeing the dark smile of the young man, a fiery light once again rose within their hearts. Their eyes were spitting fire.

“There is no need to guarantee. The new students no longer need to pay you even half a day’s worth of ‘Fire Energy.’ This senior, please return to where you came from.” A faint, cold laughter suddenly sounded from within the group of new students.

“Who dares?”

The expression of that young man swiftly became dark and solemn. His gaze coldly swept over the new students and his fist twisted slightly. In a cold voice, he said, “This batch of new students is indeed just like what the others had said. Their arrogance is boundless. Looks like as a senior, it is my duty to teach you all what the Inner Academy is really about.”

“Ke ke, just as well. In that case, I will experience Senior’s teachings.” A cold laughter sounded once again. Immediately, the new student group parted and formed a path. Four human figures slowly walked out.

“It’s Senior Xiao Yan!”

Seeing the appearance of the four people, a cheer immediately sounded from the new students around. After the success of the ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition,’ the reputation of Xiao Yan, within the hearts of the new students, was already quite high.

“Xiao Yan? He is the Xiao Yan that defeated Luo Hou?” Hearing the cheers from the surroundings, some of the older students, who were watching the fun from the main road, could not help but emit surprised gasps. Their gazes carried some bizarreness as they stared at the black-robed young man.

“You are Xiao Yan?”

Seeing that the emotions of the new students had suddenly soared, the expressions of those older students blocking the entrance also changed a little. Clearly, they were quite afraid of Xiao Yan’s reputation. After all, Luo Hou could be considered among the top one hundred people within the entire Inner Academy. At the very least, Luo Hou had once squeezed his way into the ‘Strong Ranking.’ Although there was some luck involved in it and he only stayed within the ranking for three days, being able to even get ranked naturally represented his extraordinary strength. Yet, even this strong person was defeated by Xiao Yan’s hands. Hence, some of the older students in the Inner Academy feared Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan glanced at the young man, whose expression was changing repeatedly. He crossed his arms in front of his chest as said with a smile, “I am Xiao Yan. May I know what advice Senior has?”

“Do you intend to be the bird that stands out? Although you defeated Luo Hou, you should know that there are many in this Inner Academy who are much stronger than Luo Hou!” That young man was unwilling to throw his face and withdraw in public. At that moment, he could only stiffen his neck and coldly snort.

“We, the new students, do not have any intention of appearing arrogant. In the ‘Hunting Competition,’ it was merely because the actions of some older students were too extreme... We understand in our hearts that being newcomers, we should hold back our vigor. This is the best method for new people to assimilate. Therefore, we are no exceptions. We are willing to pay the ‘Tribute Fee’ that we should give according to customary rules. However, with regards to those other harsh rules, I, Xiao Yan, will clearly say this here. We will definitely not accept them. If you want to use force, the forty-six of us new students present can only go all out to take you on.” Xiao Yan gaze was slightly cold as he looked all around him and spoke with a deep voice.

“Bang!”

As Xiao Yan’s words filled the air, the expressions of the dozens of new students behind him immediately became excited. Their feet violently stomped against the ground and Dou Qi surged. In a moment, dozens of different Dou Qi forces agglomerated together. The pressure that formed caused the older students to hurriedly retreat a few paces.

“You... Xiao Yan. Don’t think that you can be arrogant just because you have more people. We are people from ‘Qingshan.’ Offending us in the Inner Academy...” The face of that young man could not help but become ugly after being startled and forced back by the force of a group of mere new students. Immediately, he let out a furious warning. However, his warning had yet to be fully delivered when he heard the sound of rushing wind abruptly charging toward him. A black shadow immediately swept past his eyes and his shoulders suddenly sank. He was shocked to realize that an enormous black ruler was already placed on his neck.

“I will say this once more. We, new students, are willing to pay those that we should pay. From now on, we will not pay even half a day’s worth of ‘Fire Energy’ to those that we do not need to pay. I don’t care which faction you belong to. If you continue speaking such nonsense here, don’t blame me, Xiao Yan, for ignoring my manners...” Xiao Yan held the ruler with his left hand. His dark, black pupils stared intently at the young man, who felt the pressure from the heavy ruler until he was sinking. His voice was cold.

As he saw the coldness in Xiao Yan’s eyes, the throat of the older student rolled slightly. A drop of cold sweat dripped down from the rest of older students foreheads. He could sense that there was a real, thick, cold killing intent contained in the voice of the young man who was much younger than him.

“Chi...”

The heavy ruler moved slightly, carrying a rushing wind sound as it was placed back on Xiao Yan's back. Xiao Yan slowly stepped backward and finally pulled back such that he stood in front of Xun Er and the two others.

"Just you wait!"

The older student's face was alternating between green and white shades after seeing Xiao Yan step back. A long while later, he finally waved his sleeves in an anger caused by shame. He turned his body and left behind some vicious words before leading his people and fleeing from this place.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had actually frightened that group of older students away, all the new students could not help but once again emit cheers. The gazes they used to look upon Xiao Yan were incomparably hot. Clearly, Xiao Yan stepping forward to speak for them this time around had completely caused all these new students to approve of his position.

"All the Seniors. We, this batch of new students, do not have some special ability and don't want any special privileges. As for the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition,' I have already said earlier that it was merely because the actions of the older students were too extreme... Now that we have entered the Inner Academy, as newcomers, we have no intention of taking this chance to be arrogant. Everyone here is our Senior. We, the new students, will not pay those that we don't need to pay. Hence, everyone need not view us, this batch of new students, differently. Xiao Yan will thank all of you here." Xiao Yan lifted his head to eye those older students, who were watching at the intersection. He cupped his hands and spoke in a clear, courteous voice.

Xiao Yan had just established his might but was now speaking in such a courteous manner. This action of Xiao Yan caused some of those older students to look at one another. A moment later, some of those with a more sensitive mind could not help but quietly nod their heads. This Xiao Yan was quite the character. He knew his limits when he did things.

Behind Xiao Yan, Xun Er and the two others also nodded slightly. No matter how strong they were, it was definitely impossible for them to make enemies of all the older students in the Inner Academy. If Xiao Yan appeared even a little proud after establishing his might, these matters might be passed into the ears of quite a number of strong people within the Inner Academy. At this time, it was difficult to avoid having people come and make things difficult for them. This time around, only some weaker older students had come. The next time around may well be truly strong people.

They were able to defeat Luo Hou, but Luo Hou's strength was only average within the Inner Academy. Hence, they were currently unable to do things in such a high profile manner. The most important thing was to quickly gain a foothold in the Inner Academy and do their utmost to train in order to raise their overall strength. This was the long term solution!

## Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 461: Pans Gate - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 461: Pans Gate

### Chapter 461: Pan's Gate

Xiao Yan sighed in relief as he watched those older students finally disperse. He turned around, eyed those repeatedly cheering new students and could not help but smile.

“Senior Xiao Yan, this time around it’s all thanks to you.” The young man called Atai smiled as he walked forward and voiced his thanks to Xiao Yan.

“All of us are new students. It is only naturally that we help each other out. It is just that I didn’t expect that merely successfully passing through the ‘Fire Energy Hunting Competition’ would actually cause us even more trouble.” Xiao Yan shook his head and said somewhat helplessly.

“Ah. That’s right. Such a thing has seldom occurred in past years. Most of the older students have suffered bad treatment back when they entered the Inner Academy. Now that they suddenly see that we, this batch of new students, actually swaggered through it, it is unavoidable that they would feel a little hatred in their hearts. I think that although we have relied on Senior Xiao Yan’s name to frighten off these fellows this time around, it is possible that there might be others who will come for us in the future.” Atai sighed.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly and softly muttered, “Looks like this is not a long term solution...”

As the distance between the two of them was close, Xiao Yan muttering naturally did not escape Atai’s ears. His eyes immediately brightened. After hesitating for a moment, he asked in a discrete manner, “Senior Xiao Yan, I wonder... are you planning to create a faction within the Inner Academy to protect us?”

“Oh?” Xiao Yan raised his brow as he closely stared at the dark skinned but highly keen youth.

“Ke ke, Senior Xiao Yan may perhaps know that the Inner Academy is scattered with various large and small factions. The number of factions is quite large. Moreover, the atmosphere of the Inner Academy does not prohibit the action of forming cliques or gangs. Instead, they have an encouraging sort of stance...” Atai voiced his thoughts.

“Normally speaking, unless a person’s strength is extremely great, one would usually have some difficulty avoiding trouble while trying to muddle along in the Inner Academy alone... let’s not talk about the other matters for now. Instead we should focus on the matter regarding entering the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to train. This is the essential point for all Inner Academy students to swiftly raise their strength. Everyone

pays great attention to this. Within that tower, every level is distributed by the Inner Academy into high, medium and low, three different grades of training areas. When training in the high grade training area, one's training speed and benefits will undoubtedly greatly surpass the other two."

"Originally, according to common sense, whoever is lucky enough to first enter the high grade area is whoever would be able to train there. Unfortunately... The Inner Academy does not prohibit private fights within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Hence... normally speaking, even if you are lucky to occupy a high grade training area, if you do not have sufficient strength to hold onto it, you will still be ousted by others. Hence... if one wants to have the best training conditions within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' one must possess a great strength and group..." Atai's gaze also paused on Xiao Yan's face as he explained in a deep voice.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His eyes flashed but no one knew what he was thinking.

"Senior Xiao Yan, your personal strength is strong. Adding Senior Hu Jia and the other two, you can be considered a group which isn't weak. However, after all... there are too few of you. It is said that two palms have difficulty fighting four hands. If other factions have ten to twenty people coming at once, Senior Xiao Yan and your group might well be a little powerless." Atai slowly said.

"You want me to rope in all the new students and create a new faction?" Xiao Yan looked at Atai in front of him and asked in a soft voice.

"With the reputation that senior Xiao Yan currently has in the hearts of the new students, it is completely possible to successfully accomplish this!" Atai nodded heavily and replied in a deep voice.

Xiao Yan interlaced his ten fingers but did not immediately reply.

"Senior Xiao Yan, if you have such an intention, you should quickly grasp this opportunity. This is because, usually speaking, there will be other factions roping the new students into their own camp each time they enter the Inner Academy. This moment is the time when Senior Xiao Yan's reputation is at its peak. If you give up and do not use it, it is likely that all the new students will be roped in by the other factions by the time you want to do it. Moreover, if we, the new students, could have a faction that belongs to us, the benefits toward us are something that need not be said. Hence, as long as Senior Xiao Yan dares to lead us, I dare to say that there will be no one among the new students who will object..." Atai said seriously.

"You seem to be extremely familiar with the Inner Academy?" Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He immediately eyed Atai somewhat strangely. All these things that this person had said so far had exceeded the knowledge of an ordinary new student.

“Hee hee, I do know some people within in the Inner Academy. Therefore, I am quite clear about this information.” Atai laughed, “So what do you think? Senior Xiao Yan? As long as you agree, I will be responsible for talking to the new students. I guarantee that there won’t be the slightest problem.”

“Just call me Xiao Yan... do you know roughly how many students there are within this Inner Academy?” Xiao Yan smiled and lowered his head to think quietly for awhile before asking a question.

“There should be nearly a thousand... The exact numbers have not been calculated before.” Atai thought for a moment before replying.

“Nearly a thousand? So many? There are but only fifty new students who enter the Inner Academy each year. Moreover, these students would not stay here forever, right?” Xiao Yan said with astonishment.

“Ke ke, the Inner Academy is a five year program. The students can train here for five years. After five years, it is time for them to go their separate ways. Of course... if one has outstanding training talent, one can apply to delay their graduation by two years. These students who remain behind are all the top strong people within the Inner Academy and the top few existences in the ‘Strong Ranking.’ Although there are only fifty students who come in after participating in the Qualification Competition, this is not all of the Inner Academy. At times, if some Elders were to meet a disciple with outstanding training talent when they go out, these people can become Inner Academy students as long as they can pass through the harsh examinations of the Inner Academy. Additionally, there are those from the Alchemist Department, Law Enforcement Unit, and other special departments. They can enter the Inner Academy through other channels. Hence, after the accumulation these years, it is not impossible for there to be nearly one thousand students in the Inner Academy.” Atai smacked his lips as he replied.

“Oh...” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He rubbed his hands together and said, “From the looks of it, our forty plus new students is not considered a very large size.”

“How can our faction be so large before it has even started? Didn’t those old factions also undergo recruitment over a long period of time in order to become larger?” Atai spread his hands and said, “Let’s use those fellows from earlier as an example. They belong to ‘Qingshan.’ That faction could barely be considered a middle level one within the Inner Academy. They seem to have over twenty people in total. However, their overall strength exceeds the strength of our new students by a lot. If we were to really fight, we won’t know who would be the winner, even if all of us were to fight.”

“However, if we, the new students were to really coagulate together, factions with strengths similar to ‘Qingshan’ would not dare to go too overboard. After all, if we were to fight, they would also suffer quite a lot.”

Xiao Yan's pursed his lips slightly, having some difficulty making a decision. He was used to being alone. Now, he was asked to manage a faction. Although there were only tens of them, it was also quite troublesome... However, if he did not round the new students up, it would be just as Atai had said. By just relying on the four of them, it would likely be quite troublesome within the Inner Academy. No matter how one put it, the more people there were, the greater their strength would be.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, there is some basis to what Atai has said. If you do not make a decision now, it is likely that these new students will be pulled away by other factions before long. At that time, it would be very difficult for us to come across such an opportunity." Xun Er took a few steps forward, came to Xiao Yan's side and spoke softly.

"If Xiao Yan ge-ge is afraid that it would be troublesome, you can hand everything to Hu Jia and I to manage. We do have some speciality in this." Xun Er covered her mouth and laughed, seeming to clearly know where Xiao Yan's troubles lay.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly when he heard this.

"Senior Xiao Yan, as long as you have the courage and resolution to lead, we, this batch of new students, will all follow you! In any case, those older students treat us as an eyesore. If we have a choice, who would willingly endure this misery?" A clear voice suddenly rang out. Immediately, a large group of echoing voices followed closely. Xiao Yan was slightly stunned as he raised his head, only to realize that the new students had surrounded him at an unknown time. At this moment, these new students were looking at him with faces filled with anticipation, awaiting his decision.

Xiao Yan's ten fingers were tightly linked together. Under the watch of numerous gazes filled with anticipation, Xiao Yan let out a deep breath a while later. He waved his hand, clenched his teeth and said fiercely, "Alright! Since everyone trusts me, I, Xiao Yan, will lead all of you to gain a foothold in this Inner Academy. For myself, for all of you, let us work together for once. Otherwise, it would not be really nice to muddle along in the Inner Academy where tigers and dragons hide!"

Upon hearing Xiao Yan's words, these new students, with anticipation filled faces, began cheering in a somewhat excited manner. Having an organization would give people a greater sense of security.

When they saw that Xiao Yan finally nodded his head, Xun Er and the others behind him exchanged glances and also quietly sighed in relief.

"Since this is the case, Chief, after forming a faction, we should give a name to our new student faction right? Otherwise, how will we declare it to those outside?" Atai also placed the large burden on his heart down as he smiled and asked Xiao Yan. The way his form of address changed was extremely smooth. However, this form of address caused Xiao Yan to feel a little awkward.



“Name... Since our intention is to survive in this Inner Academy, our name should be ‘Pan’s Gate.’ Hopefully, our new student faction will be like a rock, staying solid and firm in front of this forest of strong people in the Inner Academy.” Xiao Yan was not much of an expert on naming things. At that moment, he thought for a while and could only randomly say this.

TL, Pan - rock, steady

“Pan’s Gate... this is also possible. The name is but something to address us by.” Atai repeated it over and over in his mouth but did not object. He turned his body to the surrounding new students as he smiled and said in a clear voice, “Everyone, from today on, this new student faction of ours will be collectively called ‘Pan’s Gate!’ Senior Xiao Yan will be our leader! In the future, we will listen to his orders! Those who dare to disobey us will be cast aside!”

“Alright! Pan’s Gate!”

“Those who disobey will be cast aside!”

Hearing the name that Atai shouted from his mouth, an excited flush swarmed up onto their faces as they roared out softly. Young people were ultimately filled with hot blood!

Seeing the high emotions of the new students, an unknown feeling suddenly rose within his heart. From today on, he would lead ‘Pan’s Gate’ to forge a foothold and place their roots in the Inner Academy with numerous strong people!

“Hee, alright. Let me, Xiao Yan, take a look at just how extraordinary this Inner Academy is!”

### **Chapter 462: The Mysterious Black Tower?**

“Xiao Yan, this ‘Pan Gate’ has just been established and you have already run away. In the many years that I was part of the Law Enforcement Unit, this is the first time that I have seen such an irresponsible leader...” Wu Hao complained helplessly to Xiao Yan who was swiftly walking in front of him on this spacious road. After this fellow had confirmed the name of the faction earlier, he had thrown the matter of settling the new students to Xun Er and Hu Jia before finding an excuse to slip away.

“They will be able to get it done properly. I only created the effect of gathering people’s hearts. Now that I have already pulled people in, I can naturally rely on those two to settle the troublesome matters. It would not be too late for us to show ourselves and take responsibility if someone were to create trouble.” Xiao Yan slowed his footsteps and laughed toward Wu Hao. After which, he turned his head and eyed the spacious road around him. At this time, there would be some older students from the Inner Academy rushing past on the road. However, there were not many people who gave

much attention to Xiao Yan and Wu Hao. Clearly, not all of the older students had heard the name of the leader of this batch of new students.

Wu Hao helplessly shook his head. He then lifted it, looked at the the road, which extended in all directions, and asked, "Where are you planning to go?"

"Let's go to the north to take a look..." Xiao Yan's finger slowly rubbed the black ring as he lifted his chin to the north. After listening to what Yao Lao had said last night, he might be able to obtain some clues about the 'Heavenly Flame' if he were to search in that general area. The current Xiao Yan felt impatient when it came to searching for the 'Heavenly Flame' in order to enable himself to swiftly raise his strength. Hence, he did not want to delay for even a moment.

"North?" Wu Hao was stunned momentarily before he nodded his head indifferently. In any case, they had come out to familiarize themselves with the school grounds. It didn't matter where they went.

"Let's go." Xiao Yan waved his hand. His feet abruptly stomped on the ground. Following an energy explosion, his entire body emitted a 'xiu' sound as he shot away. The speed of his body caused some of the older students coming and going to display surprise in their eyes.

"This fellow..." Wu Hao shook his head. Some blood-colored Dou Qi suddenly surfaced on his legs. As the Dou Qi fluctuated slightly, Wu Hao's body also became slightly illusory. Immediately, his body quivered and actually bizarrely disappeared from that spot. When he next appeared, he was already ten meters away. In a few flashes, he swiftly gave chase after Xiao Yan.

From the Agility Dou Qi that both Xiao Yan and Wu Hao displayed, it was undoubtedly that the latter appeared a little more ethereal. If he were to fight with others, this kind of agility would cause his opponent to have a headache.

"What a strange Agility Dou Technique..." The older students coming and going watched a bloody shadow, which disappeared from their sight, and could not help but voice their praises.

The size of the Inner Academy was so large that it was a little beyond Xiao Yan's and Wu Hao's expectations. The two of them expended their energy and ran wildly for nearly half an hour. However, they still did not reached the boundaries of the Inner Academy. Along the way, they were frequently able to see some battle circles where people sparred and had heated fights. There were quite a number of people watching around them. Some people, who were more talkative, would shout out the openings that were exposed by the two fighters as they watched. In the end, it caused the two people fighting to feel more alarmed the more they fought. In the end, they could only withdraw their hands and pull back with faces filled with melancholy.

“Those who can enter the Inner Academy of the Jia Nan Academy are indeed not ordinary people. This kind of in depth sight is sufficient to cause those Outer Academy students to be unable to match.” Xiao Yan sighed when he withdrew his gaze from a certain battle circle.

“Most of the students here have undergone various refining. If any random one of them were placed in an empire within the continent, it is likely that they would be treated as a genius. The eyesight of these people is not surprising.” Wu Hao smiled and continued, “However, the atmosphere here is indeed quite fierce. They would immediately start a fight on the spot to settle any disagreements.”

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His gaze swept around and was a little stunned to discover that for some unknown reason, there was an increasing number of people clustering over on this road headed north. Each of them unleashed their speed to the maximum. Hence, Xiao Yan and Wu Hao only saw human figures repeatedly rushing past the trees by the sides of the road as well as the ‘hu hu’ rushing wind sound.

“It looks like they are all hurrying north? What exactly is over there?” Wu Hao had similarly realized the increase in the number of students as he asked in surprise.

“Hei, We will know once we go over and take a look.” Xiao Yan smiled. His feet stepped off the ground as his body once again shot out. Finally, Wu Hao followed closely, like the maggots in a bone.

The quick traveling this time around lasted for another twenty plus minutes before Xiao Yan’s and Wu Hao’s speed gradually slowed. A large black mass, consisting of many students who had come to a stop, appeared in front of them at this moment.

“Why are there so many people?” Xiao Yan could not help but be stunned as he watched this black mass of people that were like ants.

“I don’t know...” Wu Hao was also unfamiliar with this place. Hence, he could only helplessly shake his head.

Xiao Yan fondled his chin with his hand. He took one look at the surroundings before swiftly arriving under a huge tree. He spoke to Wu Hao, “Let’s go up and take a look...” Once he said this, Xiao Yan leaped onto a tree branch without waiting for Wu Hao’s reply. His body was like an agile monkey as he climbed up the tree in an extremely agile manner. In merely dozens of seconds, his body appeared on top of a large tree with a single leap.

Xiao Yan watched the scene below from a high vantage point as he stood on the top of the tree. His gaze floated past the black mass of the human crowd and directly swept over to the front. Immediately, his face was startled. His mouth also slightly opened, “This is...?”

A depressed area appeared within Xiao Yan's sight. Within that depression was an extremely large black tower deeply buried underground, revealing only the tip of the tower and a dark entrance.

The tower was buried in the ground?

This kind of extremely strange scene caused the astonishment on Xiao Yan's face to become increasingly dense. It was a long while later before he gradually recovered and muttered, "Don't tell me that this is the so-called 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower?' It is really unexpected... is it actually buried underground. Can one go in and train in there?"

Xiao Yan's gaze swept in the details across the single layer of the tower that was above the ground. He suddenly knit his eyebrows as he discovered that the space surrounding the body of the tower appeared to be faintly twisted and had some wrinkles. He had seen this kind of defense at the Outer Academy's 'Book Collection Hall'...

"Good lord, they actually specially placed this level of defense..."

According to what Deputy Headmaster Hu Gan had explained last time, Xiao Yan clearly knew that in order to set up this kind of defense that twisted space, one would need to have at least the strength of a Dou Zun...

"Dou Zun..." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and shook his head. A strong person of this class was really too frightening. They were actually able to use space, something which was ethereal and invisible, to do whatever they pleased. Just what kind of terrifying realm was Dou Sheng, or even Dou Di which was above both of them?

"Chi..."

Just as Xiao Yan was repeatedly marveling the frightening strength of an elite Dou Zun, a large rushing wind sound appeared not far behind him. He turned his head and was a little shocked to realize that dozens of human figures flashed over from far away. The speed of these people was extremely fast. In less than ten seconds, the human figures steadily and orderly appeared on the branches of a few large trees beside Xiao Yan.

"These people are quite strong..." Upon inspecting these human figures at close proximity, Xiao Yan realized that these dozens of human figures all wore a badge, similar to a leaf, on their chests. It appeared that these people all belonged to the same faction.

"Ah, there are indeed many factions within the Inner Academy. Our 'Pan Gate' has only just been created..." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and shook his head. His gaze stared at those human figures only to realize that they had already rushed down by themselves after observing the scene below. The large group of people dived down from high up in the air before they directly charged to the front of the large group of black mass in an extremely rude and unreasonable manner.

This action of forcefully cutting queue clearly caused everyone to be angry. However, when people saw the leaf-shaped badge on their chests, they could only angrily swallow the words that reached their mouths.

“I think that this faction should have quite a great amount of strength within the Inner Academy...” Xiao Yan watched everyone’s reaction with his eyes as he softly muttered. Immediately, he moved along the tree trunk and swiftly leaped down.

When his legs landed on the ground, Wu Hao, who had not stood beside him, hurriedly met up with him. He asked, “Have you checked it out clearly?”

“This place seems to be the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’” Xiao Yan patted his hands and immediately squeezed toward the crowd. He smiled and said, “Let’s go, let us see just what use this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ has. It can actually allow people to train with such great speed.”

“This is the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower?’” Wu Hao’s expression was slightly joyful when he heard this. He hurriedly followed Xiao Yan and did his best to squeeze into the human crowd. Clearly, he was also very interested in this thing.

When Xiao Yan and Wu Hao reached the limit of the human flow after some difficult squeezing, they could no longer squeeze forward. The reason was not that the people in front had been squeezed until it was packed. On the contrary, there was an extremely spacious empty ground in front of them. A couple of dozens of meters, on the opposite side of the empty ground, was that mysterious black tower deeply buried in the ground.

At this moment, the spacious ground was divided into a couple of areas in an extremely orderly manner. There were a large group of people seated with their eyes shut within each area. Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over these human figures. He realized that the people he had seen on the treetops were among them.

“These people should belong to some of the stronger factions within the Inner Academy. They are rather overbearing. They need not to wait in line and can directly occupy the best positions. Tsk tsk, no wonder Atai said that in the Inner Academy, one must build or join some strong factions in order to obtain the best training conditions.” Wu Hao said in a soft voice.

“It is indeed a little over-bearing...” Xiao Yan nodded a little. He deeply observed the various factions, whose members were seated cross-legged with their eyes closed. He did not come into the limelight and walk into that circle. He understood that currently, ‘Pan Gate’ did not possess that kind of qualifications. Once he advanced to the ‘Dou Ling’ class, he might perhaps be able to stand among them. However, for now, it was better to keep a low profile.

“Dong!”

Just as Xiao Yan and Wu Hao were softly discussing, an ancient gong sounded mightily in this area. Following the sounding of the gong, the noisiness came to an abrupt halt.

“Open the tower!”

As the gong sounded, an old voice appeared to be transmitted out from within the tower.

Not long after the old voice sounded, one could see that the dark, black door, which was tightly shut, began to slowly creak open. A faint hot aura seeped out from it, causing the temperature of this area to be raised slightly.

Xiao Yan’s eyes suddenly shrunk as he sensed the temperature difference. His hand had also tightened at this moment.

“Enter the tower!”

The old voice sounded once again. Immediately, all of the people in the empty ground with their eyes closed suddenly opened them. They abruptly stood up. One could only hear the sound of rushing wind as the numerous human figures shot explosively toward the tower entrance from all directions.

“Go, let’s go in as well.”

Xiao Yan restrained his heart, which had suddenly become agitated. He waved his hand at Wu Hao and led the way into the empty ground. After which, they swiftly walked toward the mysterious black tower buried deep underground.

As they narrowed the distance between them and the tower, Xiao Yan finally truly sensed the enormous size of this black tower. This was merely just a level that was exposed above the surface. Yet, it was actually equivalent to a two or three story building. The corner of an iceberg was like this. It was difficult to imagine just how majestic the body of the tower, that was hidden underground, was.

Xiao Yan’s footsteps paused a couple of meters in front of the black tower. He gave way to others and stood off to the side, weighing this black tower, which appeared a little ancient, in great detail. He did not know what material was used to build the tower, but it faintly emitted a heaviness and... icy-coldness?

“What a strange place. The interior of the tower is clearly filled with a fiery heat, but they used a material that contains coldness to build the body of the tower? This... how strange.” Xiao Yan shook his head slightly. He had some doubts. Completely opposite effects were coexisting in the same place. This kind of implementation usually only existed when suppressing something.

“Let’s go, Xiao Yan.” Wu Hao urged as he pulled Xiao Yan, whose eyes was staring intently at the black tower.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He turned his head and eyed the black front door. For some unknown reason something within his body moved slightly.

As they moved closer and closer to the main entrance of the black tower, the pounding of Xiao Yan’s heart became increasingly intense. A moment later, as he stood in front of the main entrance, his palms were actually filled with perspiration.

Xiao Yan stood in front of the main door and inhaled a deep breath of air. He suppressed the emotions in his heart and clenched his teeth. His heart was unruly as he lifted his feet and immediately stepped heavily into the darkness behind the main entrance.

The light in front of him suddenly darkened. An instant later, Xiao Yan sensed that his feet were stepping on the surface of a tough rock. However, his heart did not have the time to relax after his feet stepped on firm ground when his expression suddenly changed drastically. A delicate and handsome face suddenly became as red as burning charcoal. This scene... was extremely strange!

### **Chapter 463: Training Accelerator**

Just as Xiao Yan’s feet landed inside the tower’s entrance, his entire body suddenly solidified. His delicate and handsome face was like burning charcoal and waves of faint, white-colored fog, that carried a ‘chi chi’ sound of meat being grilled, emitted from within his body.

Beside Xiao Yan, Wu Hao, who had similarly entered the tower at the same time, had a face that was similarly flushed red at this moment. White-colored fog also began to be emitted from his body like a rut.

The two of them stood at the door of the tower without moving. Some of the older students, who were entering from behind, originally rebuked them. However, when they saw Xiao Yan’s and Wu Hao’s situation, they immediately stopped the scolding and laughingly said in a gloating manner, “Looks like these two should be new students who just entered the Inner Academy. They actually dared to have no defense when they entered the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ for the first time. Serves them right...”

“Quickly go and inform the Elder in the tower. If they don’t have an Elder supporting them when they enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ for the first time, it is likely that they will be disintegrated from the inside out.”

Of course, the current Xiao Yan and Wu Hao were naturally unable to hear the words of these older students. They were now feeling shocked and were busy because of the sudden strange situation that had appeared within their bodies.

“Dammit. What exactly is happening?”

Xiao Yan’s mind carried some alarm as he eyed a cluster of some strange fire which had absurdly appeared within his body. His heart could not help but become a little flustered. This cluster of flame was so strange that it was a little beyond common sense. There was no other reason except that this cluster of flame was actually formless and invisible. If it were not because of the fact that Xiao Yan was well versed in controlling flames and knew about fire, it was likely that he would not treat this cluster of somewhat twisted and invisible mysterious thing as a kind of flame.

This cluster of invisible fire seedling was not considered to be overly strong. However, the interior of one’s body was ultimately the weakest point of a person’s body. In here, even if one was a strong Dou Huang, one would not dare to randomly allow some unknown energy to charge in. As long as a tiny bit of injury occurred in here, the loss that resulted would be difficult to estimate. It might even be permanent.

Ever since this cluster of invisible flame seedling appeared, the high temperature emitted from it began to cause the veins, bones, muscles, and other various organs in his body to feel piercing pain. Xiao Yan, who frequently played with fire, knew that this was the omen of being incinerated by high temperatures. If he were to continue in this manner, it was likely that not long later, the Qi Paths and other vital parts within his body would lose function under this damn flame. Once his Qi Paths lost their circulatory function, to a practitioner, he would be reduced to a useless person!

“Calm down, calm down!”

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath within his heart. He did his best to suppress his somewhat flustered heart that was a result of this sudden situation. A moment later, his mind moved. One could see the green-colored flame was swiftly swarming out from the space of the small Acceptance Spirit in the middle of the vortex. Finally, following Xiao Yan’s command, it swiftly passed through one vein after another as it came in all directions in an encirclement manner as it surrounded the invisible flame of unknown origins within it.

As the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ showed itself, the high temperature, that was seeping out from the invisible flame, was finally completely isolated. At this point, Xiao Yan signed in relief. Fortunately, he had the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ to protect his body.

“This damn thing. How did it enter my body?” Xiao Yan began to have doubts after the danger being removed. He did not touch anything after he entered the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. Moreover, there was still Dou Qi that was continuously circulating within his Qi Paths to act as a defense. It was impossible for this wisp of flame to enter into his body without any noise...

However, seeing the manner in which this strange flame had appeared, it was as though the flame was already in his body rather than barging in from the outside.



“How could it already be present within my body? The ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ within my body acts as protection. It should be impossible for ordinary flames to enter!” Xiao Yan shook his head and swiftly killed off the thought that flashed in his heart.

“Huh? Invisible flames?” Just as Xiao Yan was puzzled despite much pondering, an old surprised voice was suddenly emitted from within his heart.

“Teacher?” Xiao Yan was immediately filled with great joy when he heard this voice.

“Invisible and colorless, borrowing the heart to appear, no traces found. This, this... this?” Yao Lao muttered to himself. A moment later a wild joy surfaced in his shocked voice.

“This is the Fallen Heart Flame?”

“Fallen Heart Flame?” Xiao Yan’s mind suddenly trembled. At this instant, he seemed to have an excitement that caused him to be unable to control his emotions. The green-colored flame, which was wrapping around the invisible flame also soared intensely and even nearly caused it to disappear.

“Don’t get so excited. Don’t get so excited... huh?”

Yao Lao hurriedly said in a pacifying manner as he sensed Xiao Yan’s agitated heart. He waited until he saw that the green-colored flame had gradually calmed down before he once again placed his attention on that cluster of invisible flame. A moment later, he suddenly emitted a doubtful ‘huh’ sound.

“What is it? Teacher?” Xiao Yan’s mind was staring intently at the invisible flame. He hurriedly asked when he heard Yao Lao’s surprised ‘huh’ sound.

“That’s not right...” Yao Lao doubtfully muttered, “This kind of form is indeed something displayed by the ‘Fallen Heart Flame,’ but it should not be so weak... yes, yes... this wisp of flame... does not seem to be from the original body of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame.’ Instead, it is a split body that was shot into the heart because of one being close to the actual body.”

“What do you mean?” Xiao Yan was at a greater loss when he heard Yao Lao’s words.

“This wisp of invisible flame seedling is not the true ‘Fallen Heart Flame,’ but merely a split body flame that was shot into your heart by the ‘Fallen Heart Flame.’ It would not be possible to achieve the effect of evolving the ‘Flame Mantra’ by swallowing this split body.” Yao Lao said in a deep voice.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan started to understand a little and was immediately very disappointed.

“What is there to be disappointed about? Since the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ is able to throw a split body flame into your heart, it means that its distance isn’t very far away... Moreover, I can also clearly tell you now that the ‘Fallen Heart Flame,’ which you are pursuing should be within this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower!’ It is really unexpected that the Jia Nan Academy has actually hidden the ‘Heavenly Flame’ in such a place. No wonder it was so difficult to find.” Yao Lao laughed out loud. There was a joy that was difficult to hide within his laughter.

“The ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ is within this tower?” When he heard these words, Xiao Yan, who was a little disappointed moments before, once again became alert.

“This is the only way one can explain why the students of the Inner Academy would be able to train at such rapid speed within this tower.” Yao Lao smiled as he explained.

“This is also related to the ‘Fallen Heart Flame?’” Xiao Yan asked in a startled manner.

“It is naturally related... you, remove the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame.’ Circulate your Dou Qi and pass it through that wisp of invisible flame. Try and see what reaction there will be.” Yao Lao instructed.

Xiao Yan hesitated a little when he heard this. He immediately clenched his teeth and moved his mind. That green-colored flame, which was heavily covering that invisible flame seedling, made a ‘whoosh’ sound as it swiftly withdrew back into the ‘Acceptance Spirit.’

As the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ left, the high temperature once again spread out from the invisible flame seedling causing a faint piercing pain to be emitted from his Qi Paths and bones.

Xiao Yan forcefully endured the piercing pain as his mind moved a little. The thumb-sized rhombus shaped Dou Crystal within the vortex trembled slightly. Waves of green-colored Dou Qi swarmed out. Finally, under his control, it passed through a few veins and came to the place where the invisible flame was.

“Pass through it.”

Xiao Yan fiercely gave the order. One could see Dou Qi being abruptly spewed out and immediately rushed through that wisp of invisible flame under the focus of Xiao Yan’s mind.

The size of the invisible flame was extremely small. Hence, it did not even take one second for the green-colored Dou Qi charging into the flame to pass through it and come out from the other side.

“This...”

Xiao Yan's mind tightly controlled that green-colored Dou Qi that passed through the invisible flame. He was stunned to realize that the originally strong Dou Qi had actually shrunk to nearly half its size after passing through the interior of the invisible flame!

While it may have shrunk to half its size, the green-colored Dou Qi, which had become much smaller, gave Xiao Yan a somewhat condensed and real feeling. This kind of feeling was as though the invisible flame had twisted the somewhat scattered Dou Qi tightly together after the Dou Qi passed through it. With this, the energy that the Dou Qi, whose size had become smaller, could emit was definitely even greater than that turbulent Dou Qi from earlier!

Xiao Yan could not help but rejoice as he clearly sensed this kind of change within his Dou Qi. He hurriedly controlled his Dou Qi as it continuously passed through that wisp of invisible flame. However, just as the fifth strand of Dou Qi passed through it, the wisp of invisible flame began to quiver a little. Quickly following this, the flame became even more illusionary. Its temperature became increasingly lower. A moment later, it finally completely disappeared silently, in a manner similar to when it appeared.

"It disappeared?"

Xiao Yan could not help but feel stunned as the Dou Qi passed through empty space. He could sense that the hot feeling in his body had already begun to swiftly become faint.

"This is a cluster of extremely weak split body that was thrown into you. The purification energy that it created is very small. Hence, it can only support you purifying Dou Qi." Yao Lao smiled as he replied, removing the doubt that Xiao Yan had.

Xiao Yan finally came to a sudden understanding as he heard this. He shook his head somewhat pitifully. His mind moved and he once again poured the few strands of Dou Qi, which had been purified, into the Dou Crystal within the vortex.

As his mind looked at the rhombus shaped Dou Crystal, Xiao Yan realized that after the bit of purified Dou Qi was poured into the Dou Crystal, the thumb-sized Dou Crystal appeared to have become slightly larger...

"This 'Fallen Heart Flame' actually has such a mysterious effect. Just a mere cluster of weak split body flame that was thrown out was able to slightly enhance my Dou Qi. If I can swallow the original body then..." Xiao Yan swallowed a mouthful of saliva when he thought of this. His heart could not resist leaping intensely. This 'Fallen Heart Flame' was an accelerator that could increase the speed of one's training. The training speed of whoever was able to obtain it would likely enter a kind of extremely frightening stage!

"Why? Little fellow, are you interested?" Yao Lao teasing voice sounded.

Xiao Yan smiled and did not even hide the slightest bit of yearning in his heart.

“Teacher, the benefits that ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ can bring me might well be even greater than the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame.’ Hence... no matter what happens, I must definitely obtain it!”

#### Chapter 464: Shock

In the ancient tower, where the light was mild, a group of people had gathered around Xiao Yan and Wu Hao, whose eyes were tightly shut. Among them, they emitted soft laughter and had numerous private conversations.

“Make way, make way. Elder Liu is coming through.” A cry suddenly sounded from outside the crowd. Immediately, the crowd hurriedly split and formed a small path. Within this tower the position of an Elder was the greatest. Whoever dared to offend them would not come to a good end. By just randomly borrowing some of the power of the position to obstruct you, he could cause you to have no tears left to cry, even if you wanted to.

As the human crowd parted, an old man in simple and rough clothes slowly walked in. That smiling gaze of his swept across Xiao Yan’s and Wu Hao’s stiffened and unmoving bodies. He laughed and said, “There are really two little fellows who didn’t know the might of the heavens and the earth (overestimate their abilities). They actually did not even bother to first report their initial attempt at entering the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ This hardship is something that they will suffer unduly.”

“Hee hee, there are always reckless new students every year who impatiently enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ They deserve to suffer this hardship...” A gloating laughter erupted from the human crowd. Although the training speed within the tower was rather fast, it was, after all, still a little boring. These older students were naturally happy to see the situation in front of them, new students entering and providing them some entertainment.

“The new students have just entered the Inner Academy. It is only natural that they were unaware of the rules here. What is there to laugh about?”

A faint, clear voice suddenly rang out. Everyone’s gaze immediately followed the voice and took a look, only to see a young lady wearing a silver-colored dress. The young lady was tall. Her face may have appeared skinny, but it was that of a rare beauty. Her skin was white as snow and her eyebrows were like a painting. The thing that caused people the greatest surprise was that this lady’s long hair, which gathered at her waist, was actually a rare silver color. The silver-colored hair matched her silver-colored dress, causing her entire body to release a faint, cold disposition that repelled people such that they were thousands of kilometers away from her. It caused others to have a feeling of being able to see from afar, but unable to touch.

Everyone's gazes swept across this silver dressed woman while maintaining their silence. Their eyes initially flashed with adoration that a man would have for a woman. However, there was also fear mixed in with that adoration.

After this silver-dressed lady opened her mouth, the gloating laughter nearly disappeared immediately. From this, it could be seen that this lady should belong to a powerful faction. Otherwise, in this place where strength was honored, just her pretty appearance was insufficient to cause people around to be afraid.

"Ke ke, it is actually Yue girl. This old me actually did not see you earlier. This is a group of people who are so free that they are in need of a beating. What is there to talk to them about?" That Elder Liu also turned his gaze toward the silver-dressed lady when he heard the voice. He was slightly startled before he immediately laughed.

"Elder Liu."

That silver-dressed lady did not maintain her cold indifferentness when faced with Elder Liu. A faint epiphyllum-like smile appeared on her face, causing the surrounding students to be a little absent-minded when they saw this smile.

"Yue girl, which level do you intend to enter during this visit?" Elder Liu glanced at the stiffened bodies of Xiao Yan and Wu Hao before he immediately smiled and asked the silver-dressed lady. His attitude was clearly much friendlier than when treating other students.

"The sixth level." The lady in the silver dress hesitated a little before replying.

"The sixth level? That is a level that one must have the strength of a six star Dou Ling before entering. Don't tell me that Senior Han Yue has already reached such a level?" The lady's words immediately caused waves of surprised wows to be emitted from the surrounding crowd.

"Uh?" That Elder Liu was also somewhat surprised at the reply of the silver-dressed lady. His eyes, which had a hidden glint, slowly swept over the latter's body. A moment later, he sighed, "Looks like within a few years, you, girl, will have the qualification to run for the rank of an Elder in the Inner Academy. This kind of training talent and speed really cause people to be amazed."

"It is all thanks to the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' If I were to train by myself, it is likely that I would, at the very most, have just entered the Dou Ling class." The silver-dressed lady shook her head. She immediately turned her gaze toward Xiao Yan and Wu Hao in the crowd. She parted her red lips slightly, "Elder Liu, why don't you first remove these people from being grilled by the Heart Flame. Otherwise, there may be quite a lot of damage to their bodies if you're too late."

Elder Liu shook his head when he heard this. He smiled and said, "Let's wait awhile. Girl, how long did you endure being grilled by the Heart Flame when you first entered the 'Blazing Flame Qi Refining Tower' back then?"

Han Yue's eyebrows were knit slightly. She mused for a moment before saying, "Seventeen minutes. Moreover, that was because there was someone who warned me beforehand when I was entering the tower."

"When one first enters the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' it is actually possible to judge one's potential. Since all the new students don't know how to cause the Heart Flame to disappear when they are first burned by it, therefore, those who can endure longer meant that their resistance to the Heart Flame is stronger. This is a great benefit toward them when they enter and train within the tower in the future. Of course, nothing is absolute. This cannot be considered to be absolutely accurate. However, it can be considered a vague test..."

Elder Liu smiled and replied, "Currently these two people appeared to have endured for eight minutes already, right? Ah. This can already be considered not bad."

"Elder Su wants to test their limits."

"Ah, let's try... if I guess correctly, this black-robed young man should be that Xiao Yan, the little fellow who led this year's new students in this 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' and defeated all the older students, including both 'Black White Evil Stopper' groups. Recently, he is also frequently mentioned among us Elders." Elder Liu glanced at the enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler behind Xiao Yan's back and smiled as he spoke.

"He is that Xiao Yan?" Hearing Elder Liu's words, not only the surrounding older students emitted numerous exclamations, but a surprise also flashed across the pupils of the cold and indifferent Han Yue.

Elder Liu nodded with a smile. His gaze paused on Xiao Yan and Wu Hao. Both of his hands were inserted in his sleeves as he waited for the arrival of their limit.

"Yue girl, if you have something to do, then please descend the tower. It is alright with just me here." As Elder Liu waited, he was afraid of delaying Han Yue's training time. Thus, he smiled and encouraged her to go.

"It's fine. I also want to see just how long this new student, who has quite a great reputation even before he entered the Inner Academy, can endure." Han Yue shook her head slightly. A pair of cool eyes swept over Xiao Yan and Wu Hao. During these few days, she had also heard quite a lot of news regarding this batch of new students. They were able to defeat all the older students group in the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' while something like this never seemed to have appeared during these recent years.

Hence, she had some interest in the leader of the new students, whom she had heard of but never met.

Of course, she was not the only one who had such interests. After hearing Elder Liu revealing Xiao Yan's identity, the surrounding older students, who originally wanted to leave, similarly paused their footsteps. Each of them threw gazes, which contained various emotions, toward the two people present. They also wanted to see whether these fellows the strength they were rumored to have.

Due to some people spreading Xiao Yan's identity, there were older students who repeatedly came over during the waiting time. Hence, the circle grew increasingly larger. If it were not for the space within this tower being extremely spacious, it was likely that congestion would really be formed.

As time slowly flowed by, the shock in the eyes of these observers around also grew increasingly rich. This was because until this moment, both of them had actually endured for fourteen minutes. Moreover, their faces looked like burning charcoal but they did not appear to have reached their limit.

"Not bad indeed..." Elder Liu pulled at his beard and nodded with a smile. His eyes also contained some admiration.

Time continued to flow. However, at the sixteen minute mark, Wu Hao's body suddenly trembled slightly. Seeing this scene, the surrounding students knew clearly that it was likely that Wu Hao had reached his limit.

Seeing his reaction, Elder Liu extended his eagle-claw like, shriveled right hand. He aimed at Wu Hao's body, which had just begun to tremble, across the empty air. On the tip of his finger was a wisp of creamy white flames which slowly surfaced. The flames agglomerated at the tip of his finger to finally form a repeatedly rotating spinning fire.

Elder Liu's finger gently flicked the spinning fire. He saw the spinning fire swiftly leave his hand and suspended a foot away from Wu Hao's heart.

"Come out!"

Elder Liu's palm rotated slightly as he let out a soft cry. One could only see the cream-colored flame swiftly spinning and waves of suction force spread out. Finally, under the pulling force of this flame, a wisp of somewhat twisted invisible flames were forcefully pulled from Wu Hao's heart. Finally, it was sucked into the spinning flame and forcefully crushed into nothingness.

As that wisp of invisible flame left his body, Wu Hao's trembling body immediately stilled. His feet became weak, and his butt sank to the ground. The burning charcoal expression also swiftly disappeared. He was panting coarsely, like a wild bull, emitting a

'hu hu' sound. At this moment, his body and spirit were in an extremely exhausted condition and he did not have the slightest mood to look at the crowd around him.

"Ke ke, sixteen minutes. Moreover this is after being eroded by the Heart Flame without any precautions. This result is not bad." Elder Liu smiled and praised as he eyed Wu Hao, who was seated on the ground, "This batch of new students seems to really be a little stronger than previous batches."

Han Yue who stood nearby also nodded. The endurance of this new student for the Heart Flame might have exceeded hers by one head. After all, although she had endured for seventeen minutes, there was someone who had told her what she should do when she first entered the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' This was why she could endure for so long. Hence, she could have been considered to have cheated.

"That Xiao Yan... is actually able to continue enduring? This kind of fire resistance could even be comparable to that fellow..." Han Yue's pupils once again shifted toward Xiao Yan, whose eyes were still shut, as she muttered in a soft shocked manner.

"No wonder he was able to lead the new students to defeat the older student groups. This little fellow does indeed have some ability."

Elder Su smiled as he eyed Xiao Yan, who was still enduring without displaying any signs of having reached his limit. His hands were once again inserted into his sleeves as he said, "Good. Today, the old me wants to see just how long you can actually endure."

However, these words of Elder Liu had just sounded when everyone saw Xiao Yan's body suddenly tremble. Only then did they sigh in relief within their hearts. Fortunately, this fellow did not do anything as shockingly similar as when he led the new students to defeat the older students. Otherwise, it would be too much of a blow to those who had endured for less than ten minutes back then.

"Ugh..."

Elder Liu was startled when he saw this. He immediately shook his head in disappointment as he laughed bitterly, "My expectations were indeed a little too high..."

"Elder Liu, it has been nearly eighteen minutes. This kind of resistance toward the Heart Flame is already considered great. One can hardly find anyone like this within the Inner Academy." Seeing Elder Liu's eyes, Han Yue could not help but speak in a helpless manner. Did the words he say not cause the other students to feel ashamed in their hearts?

"Hee hee, it is indeed very good..." Elder Liu laughed in an embarrassed manner. He waved his hand and a cream white-colored spinning fire surfaced. He flicked his finger and the spinning fire once again stopped in front of Xiao Yan's heart.



The faint, cream white fire shone on Xiao Yan's ember red face until he appeared a little strange.

"Come out!"

Another soft cry sounded. The spinning fire suddenly spun wildly. However, at this moment, something that caused people to be stunned appeared extremely abruptly!

As the spinning fire spun, the invisible flames, similar to what everyone expected to see did not appear. Instead, after being dull for an instant, a large cluster of green-colored flames suddenly came surging out of Xiao Yan's body without any forewarning. Finally, it formed a green-colored wave. In one gulp, it swallowed the cream white-colored flames belonging to Elder Liu.

Not only did the white-colored flame fail to successfully forcefully crush the Green Flame like it did earlier, but was instead swallowed without being able to resist. This strange scene caused the surrounding students to be stunned.

After the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' swallowed the cream-colored flame, it did not immediately disappear. When no one controlled it, it appeared to have the function to automatically protect its owner. Hence, after it swallowed the cream-colored flame, which posed as a threat toward Xiao Yan, it moved in the direction of the attacking breath, and directly swept toward Elder Liu. The energy, which instantly erupted not only caused the surrounding students to become pale from the shock, but also caused Elder Liu's face to move a little.

"Move aside!"

The green-colored flame came sweeping over. When Elder Liu felt its indiscriminate attack, he hurriedly cried out loudly.

Hearing Elder Liu's cry, the surrounding students hurriedly pulled back. In an instant, the inner region of the tower became chaotic. One by one, numerous human figures hurriedly pulled back. They were afraid that the green-colored flame of unknown source would sweep them up.

Elder Liu's face became solemn when he saw the green-colored flame sweeping toward him. He waved both his hands and a cream-colored flame was spat out from his hand. Finally, it swiftly formed a fire barrier. He flung his hand and covered Xiao Yan and the green-colored flame, which had come sweeping over, within it.

The green-colored flame still came chasing over endlessly. Finally, under everyone's gaze, it collided with that cream-colored flame barrier.

"Bang!"

The moment they came into contact, a wild, violent energy wave surged out, shaking the fire barrier until it trembled swiftly. The enormous, explosive sound carried a turbulent heat wave as it shook the entire 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' until it began to quiver a little!

Before Han Yue's body pulled back, Dou Qi had swiftly agglomerated into an energy barrier of light on her body. Ripples were repeatedly formed on the energy barrier when she received the residual wave of the energy attack. It was fortunate that it did not cause her body any harm...

Han Yue's body swiftly pulled back dozens of steps. Only when she heard the loud sound gradually fading did she hurriedly throw her gaze over to where the explosion occurred. She was slightly startled after seeing that clear scene. She immediately opened her mouth slightly. Her heart was filled with astonishment.

### **Chapter 465: Meeting For The First Time**

One could only see a faint, white fog shrouding the spacious interior of the ancient tower. At the edge of the white fog stood the figure of an old man who was breathing quite heavily.

At this moment, Elder Liu's face was swiftly changing between different colors. At times, he was shocked, at times he was alarmed, appearing extremely wonderful to look at. More than half of the robe he was wearing had also been incinerated. The smell of burned skin came from his hair. From his overall appearance, this Elder, who possessed quite a high position in the Inner Academy, was currently reduced to a miserable state.

At this moment, the other older students, who had moved aside to dodge the fire within the hall, finally recovered from their earlier panic. However, by the time they recovered and threw their gazes toward the area where the explosion had erupted from, they coincidentally saw the miserable looking Elder Liu. Immediately, their hearts, which had just recovered, were once again reclaimed by a dullness.

There was an extremely strict requirement on one's strength to be able to become a tower guardian Elder in the Inner Academy. Hence, all the the Elders within the tower were, without exception, people with extremely great strength.

Although there was some shocking and exciting geniuses in the Inner Academy who were able to stand shoulder to shoulder with some Elders after undergoing tough training, these people were definitely an extremely rare existence. Moreover, each and every one of them had reached such achievement after training in the Inner Academy for four to five years. However, at this moment, Elder Liu had ended up in such a miserable state at the hands of a new student, who had just entered the Inner Academy less than three days ago. This scene was basically more shocking and difficult to believe compared to Xiao Yan leading the new students to rob the older students.

The shock on Han Yue's face continued for a minute before it was finally gradually withdrawn. Her pupils swept toward the place shrouded by white fog. There was an additional bizarreness in her originally cold and indifferent gaze. This new student was indeed very interesting.

“\*Cough\*...”

The silence in the ancient tower was suddenly broken by a coughing sound. Elder Liu's gaze stared intently at the cluster of permeating white fog. He immediately lowered his head and dusted off his clothes, which were burned until they were in tatters and smiled as he said, “What a great Xiao Yan. No wonder the geezers were also so secretive when they mentioned you. It is actually because of that. You are really a fellow blessed by the heavens. There is not a single Elder in this tower who would not want to obtain this thing...”

It was natural that the older students in the tower would not understand Elder Liu's words. However, they were able to grasp something. This Xiao Yan seemed to have something mysterious that even the Elders desired to have.

Elder Liu waved his sleeves gently. He had just scattered the white-colored fog that spread in front of him when two soft footsteps were transmitted out from within the fog. This caused him to stop his hand movement and stare intently at the fog.

The sound of footsteps reverberated within the ancient tower. Everyone scrambled to turn their gazes toward the fog covered area, where the sound of footsteps originated. No matter how one put it, the powerful force that Xiao Yan had displayed earlier was sufficient to cause them to forget his identity as a new student. They did not know that this strength was not controlled by Xiao Yan and it was instead energy erupting from the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ in an act to protect its owner. If they were to let Xiao Yan control the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ by himself, and once again unleash a strength that could force Elder Liu into this manner, the chances of him failing would be more than ninety-five percent.

As the sound of footsteps within the white fog become increasingly audible, a vague human figure slowly surfaced. Finally, the figure stepped out of the white fog and appeared under everyone's gazes.

A young man in black robes was carrying a huge black ruler that was as tall as him. His left hand was carrying Wu Hao, who appeared to have already fainted. He frowned slightly as his gaze slowly swept over the surrounding crowd. With the exception of a few who were not weak, those older students, whose gazes collided with his, mostly became evasive due to the shock and awe they felt from the earlier explosion.

“Tsk tsk, to actually be able to rely on your own strength to wake up from the first grilling of the Heart Flame. Xiao Yan, you are the first person in many years to do so.” Seeing

Xiao Yan, who had already returned to his normal condition, Elder Liu was startled and immediately sighed.

“And you are?” Xiao Yan opened his mouth and asked somewhat uncertainly as he eyed the old man, who appeared in an extremely miserable state in front of him.

“Ke ke, I am the Elder for the first level of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ You can directly call me Elder Liu.” Elder Liu laughed. The kind of stern berating that he used on the other older students was actually completely absent from his words. Just this treatment which Xiao Yan had received caused the surrounding students to mutter to themselves. Within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,’ and even the entire Inner Academy, the position of an Elder was extremely high. In this place, no student would dare to go against what an Elder said. Of course, this was with the exception of some outstanding people. This was because it was very possible for these outstanding people to take on the position of Elder, and become the same level as them. Within the Inner Academy, even the Elders also had to rope in strong people into their camps in consideration of their future.

After all, the Elders in the Inner Academy were not completely of the same faction. In any place, fighting was unavoidable. Perhaps it was because of power, perhaps it was because of profits or perhaps it was because of other things...

“Oh, Elder Liu, what happened?” Xiao Yan nodded his head as he came to a sudden understanding. He eyed Elder Liu’s appearance, and could not help but feel a little strange as he asked.

“Uh... nothing. An accident happened while carelessly controlling a flame.” Elder Liu’s eyebrows could not help but twitch a couple of times when he was asked this question by the instigator. Immediately, he laughed dryly and shook his head. He did not suspect that Xiao Yan was pretending to be stupid. The terrifying flame which had erupted from Xiao Yan earlier may have been extremely terrifying, but in the eyes of Elder Liu, who had played with fire for his entire life, he understood that it was merely an autonomous counter attack of ‘that thing.’ It was not really Xiao Yan’s fault.

“Then this friend of mine?” Xiao Yan pointed at Wu Hao, whom he was carrying. At this moment, the latter was in an unconscious state.

“He’s fine. It is just that he is a little exhausted because he was grilled by the Heart Flame. He will be fine after resting for a night.” Elder Liu smiled and explained.

“Grilled by the Heart Flame?” The foreign words caused Xiao Yan to knit his eyebrows together once again.

“Ke ke, you are new to the Inner Academy. Hence you don’t know some of the rules of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ If you have the time, would you like me to tell you about them?” Elder Liu smiled and asked.

“In that case... Elder Liu, thank you very much.” Xiao Yan hesitated a little when he heard this, but agreed nonetheless. Being a newcomer, he should indeed gain some understanding about the most mysterious place within the Inner Academy. This would be in order to facilitate those new students from ‘Pan Gate’ to get in touch with opportunities as soon as possible, swiftly raise their overall strength and enabling them to have sufficient qualifications to survive in the Inner Academy, where the strong gathered.

“It’s fine. This is also where my duty lies.” Elder Liu waved his hands. His gaze turned toward the students observing from around him and his smiling face could not help but sink. He cried out, “Why are all of you still around here? Are you not going to go train as soon as possible? If you feel that you have sufficient training time, I can help all of you shift from your position.”

Hearing Elder Liu’s cry, the surrounding students hurriedly shook their heads. After which, they swiftly rushed toward various spots within the ancient tower. They were afraid that if they were late, they might really end up having their position, which they had obtained with difficulty, swapped away by the former.

Seeing these older students, who acted proudly in front of the new students, being as obedient as lambs in Elder Liu’s hands, Xiao Yan could not help but feel that it was a little funny. However, on top of him feeling that it was funny, the weight of this Elder Liu in his heart had increased a lot. If it was not because he held actual authority within the Inner Academy, those arrogant older students would definitely not be so tame.

“Ke ke, these bastards are all very haughty. If you are not a little more stern, no one will listen to you.” Elder Liu smiled and said to Xiao Yan after sending off the surrounding crowd.

Xiao Yan smiled but did not voice any opinions regarding this.

“Come, come, Xiao Yan. I will introduce a person to you.” Elder Liu’s gaze swept once across this level of the ancient tower before he pulled Xiao Yan toward a lady in a silver-colored dress. From her appearance, she was that Han Yue who had the qualification to enter the sixth level of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to train.

“This is Han Yue. She has already entered the Inner Academy for three years and can be considered your senior. Ke ke, her strength is also not ordinary. Moreover, she formed the ‘Moon Spirit’ faction within the Inner Academy. Her strength is not weak. There are few factions that dare to provoke her in the Inner Academy.” Elder Liu smiled as he introduced her after arriving in front of the silver-dressed lady.

“Oh?”

Surprise flashed across Xiao Yan’s face as he heard Elder Liu’s introduction. His gaze sized-up this lady called Han Yue. During their first encounter, the latter’s icy mountain

snow lotus like cold and indifferent disposition left him with a somewhat deep impression. The most shocking thing was this lady's strength. Although he could not see the other party's strength with his naked eye, due to his strong Spiritual Strength, Xiao Yan was able to vaguely sense that this silver-haired woman was much stronger than Luo Hou!

"This inner academy does indeed have hidden dragons and tigers. It is really unexpected that the other party, being a female, would have this kind of strength. Looks like this place... is indeed not an easy place to muddle along." Xiao Yan bitterly laughed in his heart. However, Xiao Yan did not reveal anything on his appearance. He placed Wu Hao, whom he was carrying, onto the ground before extending his hand and smiled as he said, "Nice to meet you, Senior Han Yue."

Seeing Xiao Yan extending his hand toward Han Yue, Elder Liu could not help but be stilled. Knowing the latter's character, he naturally understood that this lady, who had always had an extreme obsession for cleanliness, had some resistance to coming into contact with a man's skin. Even when fighting with others, she would use Dou Qi to firmly wrap herself. Having an obsession of cleanliness to such an extent really caused people to be quite speechless.

However, without waiting for Elder Liu to voice an obstruction, the lady called Han Yue hesitated for a moment before rolling out a white, jade-like wrist from the silver-colored sleeves. After which, she gently held Xiao Yan's hand under Elder Liu's stunned gaze. As they touched lightly and parted, a cool voice, like a spring flowing down a snowy mountain, was clearly emitted.

"Nice to meet you..."

When these few gazes from the ancient tower were shot over from all directions and saw their hands make contact, they were all startled. Immediately, boiling and jealous gazes focused on that black-robed young man, who caused them to gnash their teeth.

### **Chapter 466: Black Hole**

Eyeing Han Yue, who had actually temporarily placed aside her obsession for cleanliness and shook Xiao Yan's hand, Elder Liu also felt a little stunned. He recovered a moment later and shot a glance at Han Yue with a gaze that had a deeper meaning. He laughed, "Xiao Yan ah, you should be privileged to be one of the few male students in the Inner Academy who has ever shaken Yue girl's hand."

"Then I am really honored." Xiao Yan smiled slightly. Although holding that delicate jade-like hand was very comfortable, he merely held it in a courteous manner before releasing it and spoke with a smile.

"Junior Xiao Yan, under your leadership, this year's new students could be considered to have truly stolen the limelight." Han Yue also withdrew her hand as she softly replied.

“If I had known beforehand that there was going to be such trouble in the future, this limelight... it would have been fine even if we didn't have it.” Xiao Yan sighed and spoke with a bitter smile.

“Looks like there are already older students who have gone to find trouble?” Han Yue could not help but be a little surprised when she heard this. She immediately came to an abrupt understanding as she nodded her head. A faint, smiling arc appeared at the corner of her mouth.

Xiao Yan helplessly nodded.

“Junior Xiao Yan should know a little about the matters within the Inner Academy, right? You should also know the benefits of having the protection of a faction right? May I know if you have any intention of joining a faction?” Han Yue's bright pupils stared intently at Xiao Yan, as if randomly asking.

“Uh...”

Xiao Yan could not help but spread his hands when he heard this. He smiled bitterly and said, “I'm afraid I cannot enter any. This is because this batch of new students have a heavy reliance on me, and got me to form a new faction called 'Pan's Gate.' Hence, I can only accept Senior Han Yue's good intentions in my heart.”

“You have formed your own faction? And the members are actually all new students?” Han Yue's face could not help but be stunned as Xiao Yan's words sounded. Even Elder Liu threw an extremely shocked gaze toward Xiao Yan.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan laughed dryly and nodded when he saw their expressions.

“Junior Xiao Yan. This matter.... might attract a lot of trouble.” Han Yue's eyebrows were tightly knit together. She finally spoke in a deep voice a while later.

“Uh? The Inner Academy doesn't seem to have a rule that one cannot form a faction that is made up of new students, right?” Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He could not help but furrow his brows a little when he saw the serious expression on Han Yue's face.

“Ah... there is indeed no such rule. However... the new students who enter the Inner Academy each year occupy sixty percent of all the new blood in the Inner Academy each year. Hence, many factions in the Inner Academy absorb these new students each year, using this method to increase their strength. It has been so all these years and has nearly become a tradition.”

“However, now you have roped together all of the new students this year. This results in the other factions being unable to get new recruits this year. This action would definitely invite the dissatisfaction of a lot of factions. After quietly offending so many factions, this

'Pan's Gate' of yours might be marginalized. This is why I say that you will invite a lot of trouble..." Han Yue helplessly shook her head and helped explain the situation to Xiao Yan.

Elder Liu also nodded his head slightly, signaling that what Han Yue said was true.

Hearing Han Yue's explanation, Xiao Yan's face had also gradually become a lot more solemn. Since he was not familiar with the Inner Academy's customs and traditions, it had resulted in him actually forgetting this stubble. Now that 'Pan's Gate' had just formally been formed, it was really unexpected that it had offended nearly half of the factions in the Inner Academy. With the strength of the current 'Pan's Gate', it was insufficient to handle so many potential enemies.

"Ah. I have been reckless..." Xiao Yan sighed gently. He mused for awhile before he smiled and continued speaking to Han Yue, "However, matters have already developed to this point. I, too, have no solution. We can only block the soldiers that come with generals and pile the soil to block the water that arrives. If there really is a faction that wants to destroy 'Pan's Gate,' I, Xiao Yan, would not just wait to die, that's all I can say."

TL: block the soldiers that come with generals and pile the soil to block the water that arrives - to react to the situation when it happens.

Han Yue sighed and nodded. She did not expect that Xiao Yan would actually form his own faction so quickly. This caused her to swallow her thought of roping him in. Even though Xiao Yan's potential may be quite good, he had just entered the Inner Academy. His current strength was only at the Da Dou Shi level. Acting in this manner would undoubtedly create many enemies. However, this 'Pan's Gate' faction of theirs was insufficient to handle this many opponents.

"If there is anything that you need help with in the future, you can come and find me. I will do my best to be of assistance." Han Yue was quiet for a moment before she lifted her eyes and slowly spoke to Xiao Yan.

"Ke ke, in that case, thank you very much, Senior Han Yue." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded when he heard this. No matter how one put it, being able to say such words when their 'Pan's Gate' was in this kind of isolated situation, she was at the very least a person that he could befriend superficially speaking, even though he did not know if these words were simply just perfunctory or not.

"Don't be in a hurry to thank me. There may be not much that I can do. Moreover, this is all on the account of your potential." Han Yue shook her head and said in a cool voice.

"I understand. If I were just an ordinary new student of the Inner Academy, I'm afraid that I would not be treated this courteously by the two of you." Xiao Yan smiled faintly. He was not a fool. There are some things that he saw clearer than anyone else. If it were not because of his talent and potential, Elder Liu, who had the position of Elder



and Han Yue, who possessed quite a great amount of strength within the Inner Academy, would definitely not give him special respect. This was the Inner Academy. The rule of strength being supreme penetrated through everyone and everything!

Although Xiao Yan's words were direct, Han Yue and Elder Liu both nodded slightly. Everyone was sensible. It would be inferior if they were to still speak in a secretive manner.

"Alright, Junior Xiao Yan, you should first wander around the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' with Elder Liu. I still need to go to the sixth level, and shall not linger about much longer. We can chat if we have the opportunity to do so in the future." Han Yue bowed slightly toward Xiao Yan before she immediately turned around and slowly walked to a certain spot of the ancient tower.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His gaze sent Han Yue off. Only after her back disappeared at the edge of the warm light did he withdraw his gaze.

"Hee hee, Xiao Yan, what do you think of that Yue girl?" From the side, Elder Liu smiled as he watched Xiao Yan withdraw his gaze and asked.

"Not bad. I think that those pursuing Senior Han Yue in the Inner Academy are in large number." Xiao Yan smiled as he replied. With Han Yue's appearance and disposition, she definitely did not lack suitors.

"There are indeed quite a number of suitors. However, there are extremely few that her eyes fancy. Her attitude toward you seems to be quite a good start. With your training talent and adding the training in the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' I'm afraid that in one year's time, you will be able to enter the Dou Ling class. At that time, you might be able to become the best suited suitor." Elder Liu teased.

"Ke ke, Senior Han Yue is indeed not bad, but I don't have that kind of intention..." Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He eyed Elder Liu's strange expression and did not continue to be entangled on this problem. With a smile, he pulled away from the question, "Elder Liu has yet to introduce this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to this student."

"Oh. I nearly forgot about that. Ke ke... fellow me." Elder Liu hurriedly patted his head after being reminded by Xiao Yan. He smiled apologetically and immediately turned around to lead the way. Xiao Yan followed close behind.

This 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was buried underground, revealing only the peak of the tower. The interior of the tower was so spacious, that it was beyond Xiao Yan's expectations. As he walked along the way, Xiao Yan realized that it was likely that the space in this first level of the tower was sufficient for five hundred people to train simultaneously.

Training rooms of varying sizes were built within the rounded space of the interior of the tower. However, most of the training rooms were occupied at the moment. Moreover, there were some small red tags hanging above the doors of these rooms. However, the words written on the tags were actually not all the same. Xiao Yan came to a stop and took a look. The words High Grade, Middle Grade, and Low Grade were actually written on these red tags. These were probably the distinction between the grades of the training rooms within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' that Atai had mentioned.

As he walked from the east to the west, Xiao Yan realized that it seemed that all the high grade training rooms were close to the middle of the tower. Distributed around them was the middle grade training rooms and the low grade training rooms were the furthest from the center.

"In the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' these High, Middle, and Low grade training rooms are usually fought for with one's strength. Those who are strong will be able to obtain the best training conditions. Those whose strengths are weaker can only go to the low grade training room at the outermost regions to train." Elder Liu pointed at a training room where a High Grade tag was hung as he spoke with a faint smile.

"At the same level, no matter what grade the training room is, their training fee is all the same. For example, in the first level, a low grade training room requires a 'Fire Energy' to train for one day and this is also the same for a high grade training room..."

"The fee that one must spend is the same but the effects that one obtains are worlds apart. Won't this result in a situation the strong becoming stronger and the weak having difficulty catching up?" Xiao Yan asked doubtfully.

"Without facing adversity, it is very hard for someone's potential to be completely unleashed. What we need is this kind of different oppression. As long as they are oppressed to the limit, there would be some students who would completely erupt and swiftly catch up with the strong people they would have had difficulty reaching in the past. Until now, this kind of matter has basically appeared every year in the Inner Academy..." Elder Liu shook his head and spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His advancing footsteps suddenly paused. If one followed his gaze and looked over, one would realize that they had already walked to the middle of the tower.

"This is...?"

Xiao Yan was slightly startled to watch the bottomless black hole that had appeared in front of him. He slowly took two steps forward and came to the edge of the black hole to carefully glance at the bottom. The darkness continued to extend all the way to the edge of one's sight. That strange darkness that did not even have the slightest bit of light caused Xiao Yan to have a sort of giddy feeling in his head.

This black hole appeared to penetrate the entire 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' If it was not because of the top of the tower covering it, one might be able to clearly see this dark black, deep hole with a glance from the sky.

If one was to carefully sense this black hole, one would seemingly be able to feel that the air coming from this place was much hotter than other places. That feeling... it appeared that there was something at the bottom of the deep hole that was continuously emitting and supplying a hot energy to the entire 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.'

Xiao Yan extended his palm and grabbed at the illusionary hot air. There was something within his body which suddenly leaped once.

Xiao Yan's throat rolled slightly. He extended his head slightly forward as his eyes stared intently at the deep darkness. A long while later, green-colored flame from within his body suddenly swarmed up into his pupils. In an instant, his dark, black eyes turned into green-flaming eyes.

As the green flame swarmed into his eyes, that bottomless darkness below began to become fainter in an extremely strange manner.

However, just as the darkness was becoming increasingly faint, all the hairs on Xiao Yan's body suddenly stood erect.

Under the focus of that pair of green flamed eyes, some slight distortion began to form in the space of the endless darkness. Quickly following this, the distorted space was like an invisible python as it began to climb toward the entrance of the hole at an extremely frightening speed.

"Xiao Yan, move aside!"

Just as the distorted space was about to climb up, a cry suddenly sounded next to Xiao Yan's ear. Immediately, a shriveled hand grabbed his shoulders and pulled strongly, bringing him far away from this dark hole.

Not long after Xiao Yan was pulled away from the hole, he suddenly felt the temperature swiftly rising around him. After which, he heard an extremely sharp hissing sound that came spreading out from the deep hole. He hurriedly raised his head and took a look. However, his face suddenly solidified. His mouth shivered as a hoarse voice spilled out from the gap between his teeth with great difficulty.

"This... this... what is this... thing?"

### **Chapter 467: The Mysterious Invisible Fire Python**

"Hiss hss..."

The unusual sound was like flashing lightning that repeatedly spread and resounded within the black hole. An instant later, the somewhat dark environment suddenly brightened. The temperature in the air also rose swiftly. An extremely frightening and ancient aura slowly surfaced from within the black hole. Finally, it appeared to be like the lightning which tore open the dark night, erupting from the nearly endless profound darkness.

Xiao Yan's face stiffened as he eyed that exit of the hole. His throat involuntarily rolled once.

At this moment, the area that was two meters above the hole had become extremely distorted. Although the space had become extremely distorted, one could not see anything using the naked eye. Other than that distorted space and the repeated hissing sound, the entire area turned slightly strange because of this scene.

Elder Liu's face was also extremely solemn. He repeatedly pulled Xiao Yan and stepped back. When his eyes looked at the distorted space, fear flashed across them. Although he could not see what exactly was there, he had also heard some things after being an Elder in the tower for so many years. Hence, he also knew just how terrifying the thing within the deep darkness was...

The naked eyes could not see anything, but Xiao Yan's pair of pupils, which was covered by the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' was able to clearly see the frightening thing that sprang from within the dark hole. Immediately, his body, which was being dragged back by Elder Liu, suddenly stiffened.

With those pupils that contained the green-colored flames, Xiao Yan clearly saw that the thing that had violently surfaced from the endless darkness was actually an enormous fire python, which was shockingly over ten meters thick and had an unknown length...

The body of the fire python was covered by twisted flames. It widened its large mouth. Fangs, that were as large as Xiao Yan's thigh, carried a distorted ripple. A pair of enormous triangular eyes had invisible flames being repeatedly spit out of them. These flames were no stranger to Xiao Yan. This was because he had tasted the bitterness of this flame earlier. Of course, the thing that appeared in his heart had been just a wisp of shapeless flame. Compared to this enormous python, which appeared to be completely agglomerated from fire, what he felt before was undoubtedly the difference between a firefly and a bright moon. As he felt the strength of the fire python, Xiao Yan did not doubt that even an elite Dou Huang would likely be instantly turned into ashes should his body come into contact with it!

The fire python carried a ferocious roar as it shot out from the darkness. However, just as it was about to reach a spot, five meters above the entrance of the black hole, the surrounding space abruptly began to fluctuate. With the help of the green flame, Xiao Yan could vaguely see that the space surrounding the black hole appeared to become extremely distorted as it formed a spatial cage at this very moment. The invisible fire

python may have massive strength, but when it collided with its spatial restraints, it merely caused the cage to ripple a little. There was no other effect.

Realizing that it was hopeless to attempt to break free, the fire python could not help but become a little crazed. Invisible flames were spat out from its enormous mouth in all directions and it repeatedly incinerated the spatial cage. Unfortunately, no matter how it burned, that space cage still stood very firmly!

After wildly struggling for a while, the invisible fire python was finally exhausted. It faced the sky, and let out a hissing sound that contained its furious rage. After which, one could only see that the space repeatedly distorted as the fire python once again became meek and drilled back into the deep dark hole.

As the fire python disappeared, the space cage finally became thinner and eventually disappeared.

Elder Liu heaved a sigh of relief when he sensed the surrounding temperature falling. He muttered, "That was close, but why did this thing suddenly awaken?"

Beside him, Xiao Yan also gradually recovered from the shock. The green-colored flame in his eyes swiftly withdrew as he asked in a hoarse voice, "Elder Liu. That... what is that thing?"

Recovering from Xiao Yan's question, Elder Liu's face became solemn as he watched the former. He said in a deep voice, "Do not tell anyone else about what you saw today. Originally, students are not allowed to come this close to the middle region of the tower. Today, I have neglected my duty. Fortunately, it was my turn to be on duty today. Otherwise, there would definitely be some unavoidable trouble."

Xiao Yan nodded when he saw Elder Liu's solemn face. He spread his hand innocently, "I did not see anything. It is just that I suddenly felt the temperature rise a lot. Additionally, there was some noise coming from the black hole."

"It is naturally for the best if you did not see anything. There are some things which you are better being ignorant about. It is best that you do not come here in the future. Otherwise, if you are discovered, you will be punished along with the Elders on duty." Elder Liu sighed in relief. He did not doubt Xiao Yan's words. After all, even he himself, could not see that frightening thing. He could merely rely on his perception of the distortion and curvature of space in order to judge just what form this invisible being had.

Hearing the sternness in Elder Liu's voice, Xiao Yan's expression also involuntarily changed. Immediately, he hurriedly nodded.

“Alright, let’s go...” Elder Liu’s expression became a little warmer when he saw Xiao Yan nod his head. He once again glanced at the bottomless deep pit with a lingering fear before turning his body and walking away.

Xiao Yan once again nodded. After which, he followed him. When he was about to turn the corner, he tilted his head and looked at the bottomless black hole, which had once again descended into silence. His heart carried a faint shock as he muttered softly, “What exactly is that thing? That aura... it’s too strong. That space cage is also too overwhelming. It actually did not have the slightest reaction under the destruction caused by this frightening thing. This ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ is indeed filled completely with mysteries...”

After exiting the middle region, Elder Liu also recovered his earlier calm. He once again brought Xiao Yan to carefully stroll along the first level within the tower. Wherever he passed, he would repeatedly speak about some of the rules within the tower and other things which he needed to watch out for. Many things were trivial, causing him to appear like an ordinary old man.

As they walked, they would occasionally meet some students. When they saw Xiao Yan, who was having an enjoyable talk with Elder Liu, they were all a little shocked. Due to the status and identity of these tower guardian Elders, they were usually very stern toward the students. Hence, many students were respectful and afraid of them. Other than some older students, who had quite great strength, seldom did they see any Elders treating a new student this politely.

All of these shocked gazes along the way also caused Xiao Yan to understand the deterrence that this Elder Liu had here. As the saying goes, one would be able to work better if one had someone in the imperial court. Now that he had just arrived, it would naturally be for the best for him to be able to form some connections. No matter how great his potential was, at the very least, he was merely a Da Dou Shi. This kind of strength really did not have anything commendable in the eyes of Elder Liu, who had already reached the Dou Wang class.

“Xiao Yan, your ‘Pan’s Gate’ faction has just been formed. I recommend that when you all enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,’ for now you should not attempt to snatch any high grade training rooms...” Elder Liu suddenly said with a faint smile when they walked to a spot and saw that there were much less people.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this, but immediately nodded his head. He also had such thoughts. During this little time that he had entered the Inner Academy, it would undoubtedly cause even more people to be dissatisfied with this ‘Pan’s Gate’ of theirs if they wanted to occupy the best training areas. It was likely that when the group of them entered the place, there would be some factions who would come and expel them. Compared to those older factions, other than Xiao Yan and a few Da Dou Shi, most of the others did not have the strength to contend with older factions. Moreover, in

this kind of fight between factions, just relying on the few of them would undoubtedly fail to obtain the effect of turning things around.

“As the Academy has some rules, us, these tower guardian Elders cannot interfere in the fight between students for training rooms. Hence, as long as no fatalities occur, we will not intervene most of the time.” Elder Liu mused for awhile before he smiled and said, “However, as long as one Dou Ling can swiftly appear in that ‘Pan’s Gate’ of yours, you would have the qualification to be ranked among the second tier factions of the Inner Academy. At that time, you can go and participate in the fight for training rooms. I think that this should be very soon, given your potential.”

“Having a strong Dou Ling is only a second tier faction? Then does that not mean that there must be an elite Dou Wang present in order to be considered a top tier faction?” Xiao Yan asked in a stunned manner.

“Ke ke, that is not really the case. Normally, if three or four strong Dou Ling appear within a single faction, it can be considered a top tier faction...” Elder Liu shook his head as he replied.

Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief after hearing this. With Xun Er’s and the other two’s talent, it was likely that they would similarly not need much time. It appeared that the future ‘Pan’s Gate’ needed to keep a low profile for a short while. As long as they waited until the four of them advanced to the Dou Ling class, everything would improve. Before this, however, they could only quietly huddle up.

As they conversed and walked, Xiao Yan and Elder Liu arrived at the entrance. Wu Hao, who was still at this spot, had also woken up from his unconscious state. He was standing at a loss in the spot, and only sighed in relief when he saw Xiao Yan’s figure.

Seeing Wu Hao walking over swiftly, Xiao Yan smiled to Elder Liu, cupped his hands and said, “Elder Liu, thank you very much for your lessons. Let’s stop here for today. If I have time in the future, I will come again to seek your advice.”

“Ke ke, weren’t you planning on training here for awhile today?” Elder Liu smiled and asked.

“‘Pan’s Gate’ has just been established. I need to go back and help manage it.” Xiao Yan smiled as he rejected Elder Liu’s good intention.

“Yes, that’s true. A new faction is very weak. You are indeed going to be busy.” Elder Liu smiled and nodded without insisting. His gaze swept around him as he spoke with soft laughter, “The next time you bring people to the first level to train, I will help you find the best place among the Middle Grade Training Rooms. Training at that place will not be much worse than training in a High Grade Training Room.”

“There is also good and bad training rooms of the same grade?” Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised when he heard this.

“Ke ke. That is only natural. However, an ordinary student would have great difficulty discovering these things. Only us, the Tower Guardian Elders, understand the difference...” Elder Liu laughed in a proud manner.

“In that case, thank you very much, Elder Liu...” Xiao Yan nodded his head in surprise. He once again cupped his hands toward Elder Liu before turning around, and stepping toward Wu Hao before he walked out, supporting the latter.

Elder Liu fondled his beard as he eyed the two backs that had disappeared from the entrance of the tower. He muttered, “‘Heavenly Flame’... it is really unexpected. The rise of the Inner Academy relies on that kind of thing... but now, a little fellow, who isn’t even twenty years old, already possesses this kind of mysterious object for himself. Ah, he really is a fellow who is so lucky that it causes one to be unable to help but be jealous.”

#### **Chapter 468: Troublesome Matter**

Xiao Yan stood just outside the door after exiting the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ He lifted his head and eyed this mysterious black tower, where only the top of it was exposed. He was unable to resist letting out a long breath. For some unknown reason, he constantly felt that this black tower was not that simple...

“Hu, it is really unexpected... it actually agglomerated a ‘Fire Spirit’ with emotions and intelligence. Tsk tsk. No wonder the Inner Academy is so strict. They even created a ‘Space Lock,’ which even an elite Dou Zun would have to use all his might in order to cast...” Just as Xiao Yan was sighing, Yao Lao’s surprised voice suddenly sounded in his heart.

Xiao Yan was slightly startled when he heard Yao Lao’s words. His expression did not change as he looked all around him. After which, he waved his hand toward Wu Hao, who still appeared slightly giddy. After which, he turned his body and walked on the path which they had used to travel here earlier.

“What is the ‘Fire Spirit’ that teacher just mentioned?” Xiao Yan walked at a steady pace, that was neither fast nor slow, along this road lined with trees. Only then did he inquire about this in his heart.

“An alternate life form that is created from pure flames... that invisible flame serpent that you saw earlier should be the intelligence that was created from within the ‘Fallen Heart Flame.’ It can even be said that the fire python is the original body of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ within this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower!’” Yao Lao slowly explained.



“What? That fire python is the ‘Fallen Heart Flame?’” Xiao Yan’s footsteps suddenly paused. His expression involuntarily changed a little as he could not help but let out a startled cry.

“Yes, I should not have sensed wrongly... Those strange flames between the Heavens and Earth would grow into various different unique forms after being accumulated over time. An example is the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ which you met in the lava underground. That plant form that is similar to a lotus is only formed after the core flame has undergone thousands of years of suppression...” Yao Lao said in a deep voice.

“Of course, the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ which we found last time may possess a plant form but it had not formed an emotion or intelligence that belonged to it. However, earlier... I truly felt that fire python. This kind of flame body, which possesses intelligence that belongs to itself, is what we call a ‘Fire Spirit.’ Its intelligence should be comparable with some ultimate Magical Beasts that can possess a human form.”

“Then... how do we refine this kind of ‘Fire Spirit’ even if we obtain it? Earlier, I also sensed the frightening aura of that thing. I’m afraid that even a strong Dou Huang might not be its match. How can we swallow it?” Yao Lao’s words caused Xiao Yan to feel shocked. He did not expect that even a flame was able to form its own consciousness. However, now that this flame already had its own consciousness, it would definitely not be willing to be swallowed and refined by other people. Seeing the frightening aura that it displayed earlier, Xiao Yan immediately became dispirited.

“It is indeed very difficult... however there is no other choice. Of course, it does not matter if you are willing to give up this ‘Fallen Heart Flame,’ and go and search for other ‘Heavenly Flames.’” Yao Lao laughed faintly.

“What joke are you cracking... are ‘Heavenly Flames’ so easy to find?”

Xiao Yan immediately cried out within his heart when he heard this. After spending a couple of years, he had obtained the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ by relying solely on luck. Now that he had found the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ after much difficulty, how would he be willing to give it up?

“In that case we can only wait and see... actually let’s not mention how we are going to handle it after we get the ‘Fallen Heart Flame.’ Just how do we obtain it is already filled with numerous problems.” Yao Lao’s voice contained a tone as if he had a headache, “The strong people in this Inner Academy are as numerous as the clouds. In the tower earlier, I could vaguely sense that there exists extremely faint but powerful auras a few levels below. The strength of these auras is such that in my current spiritual form, it is impossible for me to gain much advantage when fighting with them.”

Xiao Yan’s knit his brows as his ten fingers were tightly hooked together.

“Moreover, at this moment, I can confirm that the reason the Inner Academy is able to increase the training speed of the students is basically due to the existence of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’... They sealed the ‘Fallen Heart Flame,’ which had formed a spirit, into the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,’ borrowing its effect of letting the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ form a split body at the invocation of a person’s heart when he is close to it. This allows the students to use it to strengthen their Qi Paths and refine Dou Qi...”

“They... are... rearing the ‘Fallen Heart Flame!” Yao Lao slowly exhaled a breath of cool air as he faintly exclaimed.

Xiao Yan’s hands, which were held together, abruptly trembled. He wiped the cold sweat on his forehead without leaving a trace. In his heart, he continued to feel shock at these crazy and bold actions of the Inner Academy. These fellows were really too frightening. They actually had the courage to try to tame a thing that had the greatest destructive forces between the Heavens and Earth.

Only after Yao Lao’s explanation did Xiao Yan understand that the Inner Academy had reared the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ like one would rear a dairy cow. After which, they repeatedly obtained an unending amount of ‘milk’ from it; the split bodies of ‘Fallen Heart Flame’... this kind of action could indeed be called insane.

“An expert is indeed bold. This Inner Academy is really frightening...” Xiao Yan swallowed a mouthful of saliva and muttered in his heart.

“Hmph, bold? I think they are playing with fire and will end up getting burned.” Yao Lao coldly snorted.

“Why? From what I saw, there seems to be no problem?” Xiao Yan said in surprise.

“Hei, currently, they are relying on the lock of the ‘Space Cage’, so there is indeed no problem. However, this is merely an expedient measure. By relying on that ‘Space Cage,’ it is impossible to continue keeping the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ sealed within the tower.”

Yao Lao laughed, “A fire can be scattered, but cannot be blocked. This ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ is a unique flame that is formed from the Heavens and the Earth. It possesses true destructive strength... by sealing and blocking it in this manner, it is like the Inner Academy is building a barrier on the mouth of a volcano. Have you seen anyone who can block a volcano? Its current oppressed manner is merely because it is storing strength. At the time when it erupts, this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ will immediately be destroyed!”

“Even though the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ is frightening, those old fellows from the Inner Academy are also not some useless lot. Before the eruption, one will charge and one will block. Both parties will have some losses. At that time, it might perhaps be our chance...”

“Teacher, you mean that we should wait for the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ to erupt by itself?” Xiao Yan was startled as he said in a stunned manner.

“Ah, we can only do this. We are small in number and weak in strength. There is no use if we openly do it...” Yao Lao nodded and replied.

“Then when do we need to wait until?” Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and laughed bitterly.

“Based on the counterattack of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ earlier, there might be a turn of events soon. At the very most, it will take two years and at the very least it will take one.” Yao Lao mused for a long while before he lowered his voice as he revealed information softly in Xiao Yan’s heart.

Xiao Yan’s pupils swiftly flashed. A long while later, he carefully watched his surroundings. Other than Wu Hao, who was repeatedly knocked his giddy head, there was no other movement. The words Yao Lao had spoken concerned the matter of the life and death of the Inner Academy.

“In the days that follow, you must make the most of the time and train in the tower. It would be best if you can raise your strength to the Dou Ling class in half a year’s time. At that time, with the inclusion of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ and the ‘Flame Splitting Tsunami,’ I think that you can run wild without fear within the Dou Ling class. If you use the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ that is formed from the combination of the Purple and the Green Flame, it is likely that even the Elder Su, from outside the forest back then, would not have the courage to receive it head on with one hand...”

“It would be best that you try your best not to use the large-scale ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ that combines the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ and the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame.’ That thing may have a frightening strength, but its backlash is simply too great. At times, you will lose more than what you gain.”

“Additionally, you should go and begin practicing that Di class Agility Dou Technique, ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement.’ As long as you successfully practice that thing, you should be able to be in an unshakable position when you face ordinary Dou Lings. Even if you meet a strong Dou Wang, you should have the ability to flee even if you are unable to beat him. We must now agglomerate our strength in preparation for the eruption of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame.’”

Yao Lao’s voice was like shooting a bullet. His great amount of words caused Xiao Yan to continue smiling bitterly. It was only a long while later before he completely digested those words.

“It seems that there are still the various ingredients for the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ right?” After slowly swallowing all of the various reminders from Yao Lao, Xiao Yan mused for a moment only to realize that there was something that Yao Lao missed. Immediately, he spoke with a smile. This thing was also a necessary item. Otherwise, even if he were to

obtain the 'Fallen Heart Flame' in the future, it was likely that he would not dare to touch it.

"Uh... indeed. However, those ingredients are all extremely rare items. You need to pay careful attention." Yao Lao was startled before he immediately nodded and responded.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and nodded. He raised his head and eyed the blue sky before he involuntarily exhaled. Were there not so many troublesome matters...

"Why are you sighing? Is it because of the problems of 'Pan Gate?'"

A voice suddenly sounded behind him. Xiao Yan turned around and took a look. It was actually Wu Hao. The current him seemed to have recovered from his unconscious state after being grilled by the Heart Flame.

"Ke ke, it's nothing." Xiao Yan laughed softly before saying, "Let's go. We should return and take a look first." Once he said that, he took the lead to quicken his footsteps, and flew through the road that he had come from earlier. Wu Hao followed close behind.

After nearly forty to fifty minutes, Xiao Yan and Wu Hao gradually moved closer to the residence area of the new students. As he slowly walked into the residence area, the empty road caused the two of them to be startled.

Just as the both of them were somewhat stunned, a human figure suddenly came running out from within the residence area while panting. When he saw Xiao Yan and Wu Hao, joy immediately swarmed onto his face. He rolled and crawled as he rushed over while shouting, "Head, something happened!"

"What is it?" Xiao Yan hurriedly moved forward and asked when he heard the loud cry of this new student.

"There is someone who wants to pull some new students away, but no one agreed in the end. As a result, those fellows wanted to create trouble. Now, they are forcing Senior Xun Er and Hu Jia to fight!"

"Who has come?" Xiao Yan's expression sunk. He hurriedly walked toward the interior. As he walked, he voiced his question.

When he heard Xiao Yan's question, that new student involuntarily became a little hesitant. This scene caused Xiao Yan's footsteps to pause as he said in a deep voice, "Speak!"

"The person leading them... is Bai Shan." The new student could only reply with a bitter smile after he was reprimanded.

"This bastard repays kindness by stabbing people in the back!"

After hearing this, Xiao Yan and Wu Hao's expression instantly became dark.

### **Chapter 469: Wager**

There was a large group of people surrounding a certain part of the interior region of the new student residences. Among this crowd, there were two groups of people who were facing off as they looked at each other in a covetous manner. One group had more people, while the other only had a little more than ten people. However, the situation in the place appeared to be one where the smaller group held the advantage.

"Xun Er, Hu Jia, don't be stubborn. I have already said that this 'Pan Gate' of yours would definitely not be able to rise within the Inner Academy. The new students are essential new blood of the numerous factions in the Inner Academy each year. It is impossible for the factions to sit and watch you hold all the new blood in your hands." The one leading the smaller group was a young man wearing white clothes. His handsome appearance was such that it was extremely easy for him to attract a favorable impression from women. However, Xun Er and Hu Jia on the opposite side did not display the slightest favorable impression because of it. Instead, they did not hide their expressions of disgust and disdain.

"This is our matter, there is no need for you, a person who abandons his companions, to worry about it." Hu Jia laughed coldly.

"If you don't have any other matters to deal with, please leave. Our new students' residency does not welcome you here." Xun Er glanced at Bai Shan before she spoke indifferently.

The attitude of these two people caused the corner of Bai Shan's mouth to twitch involuntarily. His face, which was originally filled with smiles, had also become a lot darker and colder.

"Bai Shan, why do you need to say such nonsense. Directly attack and crush their haughtiness. At that time, there will naturally be people who would choose to follow us and leave." Laughter was suddenly emitted from a young man with a strong build by Bai Shan's side. When this man spoke, his eyes would occasionally sweep over the graceful curves of Xun Er's and Hu Jia's lovely body.

"Ke ke, Brother Fu Ao is right. However, the opposite side are girls. If we were to fight just after we come, it is unavoidable that others would say that we don't have magnanimity, no?" Bai Shan did not dare ignore that young man. The latter was one of the three strong Dou Lings within his gang, other than his cousin brother. Therefore, he hurriedly replied with a smile.

"Hee hee, you are right." Fu Ao laughed when he heard Bai Shan speak in this manner. His gaze once again turned toward Xun Er and he smiled as he said, "Junior Xun Er, that Xiao Yan may be powerful enough to be able to lead you all to victory in the 'Fire

Energy Hunting Competition.' Unfortunately, he does not have the qualifications within the Inner Academy. You can also stop having delusional thoughts about his courage and resolution. Maybe in a day or two, after he has suffered greatly, he himself will disband this 'Pan Gate' of yours."

"There is no need to worry about that. As long as Xiao Yan ge-ge has not opened his mouth, this 'Pan Gate' will not be afraid of any faction. You can try if you want to forcefully disband us!" Xun Er looked at him while speaking in a cold voice.

Seeing Xun Er, whose elegant and exquisite face covered with frost, the smile on Fu Ao's face became even richer. He clicked his tongue and said, "What a stubborn girl. However, it is really to my liking... what about this, on account of your face, as long as you hand over five new students today, my 'White Gang' will not come and find trouble with you in the future. What do you say?"

"Big Brother Fu, five..." Hearing this, the expression of Bai Shan at the side changed and he hurriedly opened his mouth. The purpose of him bringing people here was not merely to have five new students.

Fu Ao waved his hand and interrupted Bai Shan's words. He smiled as he eyed Xun Er and said, "Of course, Junior Xun Er must be one of these five people."

Bai Shan's face could not help but sink when these words of Fu Ao fell. He was currently able to hear that this fellow actually had some intentions toward Xun Er. A fleeting coldness flashed across his eyes.

As Fu Ao's gaze was staring intently at Xun Er, he did not see Bai Shan's expression.

"'Pan Gate' will not hand over a single person to any faction!"

Xun Er had naturally heard how Fu Ao had taken liberties within his herds. Her intelligent pupils stared at the former. A long while later, the frostiness on her face suddenly disappeared completely as she said in a calm voice.

Seeing Xun Er, who had once again become indifferent, Fu Ao frowned a little. He did not like women displaying such an expression. Immediately, the smile on his face was also gradually withdrawn. He said coldly, "Since that is the case, looks like I can only use force. I want to see just what credibility you have to retain them after I defeat the strong people in this 'Pan Gate' of yours."

"Then you want to try?" Hu Jia's pretty face was ice-cold. Emerald Dou Qi surged from within her body. A strong force spread over this empty ground.

As Hu Jia's force erupted, the dozens of new students behind her also roared angrily. Numerous different colored Dou Qis swarmed out at the same time. All of a sudden, the leaves on the ground were shaken by the Dou Qi until they were lifted into the air.

“Oh? This batch of new students is indeed as the rumors said. They are boundlessly arrogant...” Fu Ao could not help but give a smile of ridicule when he saw the numerous Dou Qi surfacing. He stomped his footsteps heavily. One could only hear a deep banging sound when a blue-colored Dou Qi instantly covered his body. As the Dou Qi rolled, it appeared as viscous as seawater while it rolled all over his body.

As Fu Ao’s Dou Qi swarmed out, a powerful force that was more than a few times stronger than anyone else present began to spread out over the empty ground. He actually relied on just his strength to suppress the force of numerous new students.

“Today, I want to let you see the difference between the older students and the younger ones!” Fu Ao stuck out his loin and laughed coldly, “Bai Shan, bring the people and let these new students understand that merely having tough bones will not help them to survive!”

Bai Shan nodded slightly. His eyes watched Xun Er on the opposite side in a complicated manner. After which, he waved his hand and commanded in a deep voice, “Attack!”

Hearing Bai Shan’s cry, the nearly ten older students behind him immediately let out a soft cry. Their bodies turned into shadows as they shot explosively toward the large group in a lightning-like manner.

“I will block Bai Shan. Xun Er, you lead the others to stop those remaining.” Hu Jia shook her delicate hand. A long, green-colored whip appeared. The whip lashed slightly and a thunderclap sound was emitted in the air. It also faintly carried an unusual fragrance.

“Yes.” Xun Er nodded slightly. Her pupils were icy-cold as she watched the human figures shooting over explosively. A dazzling golden glow surfaced on her small jade-like hands.

“Chi!”

Just as the fight was about to begin, and Bai Shan’s group was about to clash with Xun Er’s group, a black shadow suddenly cut through the sky, immediately carrying the sharp sound of tearing the air. The shadow suddenly shot to a spot between both parties. Immediately, an explosion accompanied by spreading dust isolated both sides.

Fu Ao’s brows furrowed slightly as he eyed the dust-filled region. He waved his sleeves and a breeze that carried some moisture suddenly appeared. It blew over immediately, wetting the dust and causing it to fall.

As the dust fell to the ground, an enormous black-colored ruler, that was inserted into the hard rocky ground, appeared in the eyes of Fu Ao and the others...

After their gazes paused for a moment on the black ruler, everyone turned toward the two people who stood behind it.

“Xiao Yan, Wu Hao, I thought that both of you had run away after hearing some news. It is really unexpected that you dare to return.” Bai Shan’s expression changed slightly as he coldly spoke after seeing the two human figures who had appeared.

Xiao Yan’s gaze coldly glanced at him. After which, it jumped passed him and stopped on Fu Ao’s body. He could sense that this fellow was the strongest person present.

Seeing Xiao Yan and Wu Hao appearance, the new students of ‘Pan Gate’ immediately cheered. After all the things that had happened during this period of time, Xiao Yan had already become the true backbone in their hearts. As long as he was around, they would have the fighting spirit necessary to fight with anyone.

“The two of you have finally returned...” Hu Jia quietly sighed in relief when she saw that skinny back in front of her. No matter how sturdy her heart was, it was ultimately the best for a man to stand in front when it came to such matters.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge. They...” Xun Er’s gaze paused on Xiao Yan’s back as she spoke softly.

Xiao Yan waved his hand and interrupted Xun Er’s words. He said with a faint smile, “Yes, I know. Leave the remaining matters to me.”

Xun Er nodded in a gentle and soft manner as she gazed at that skinny back. She liked his manner of being filled with confidence no matter what he did, just like when he was young.

“You are Xiao Yan?” Fu Ao stared at Xiao Yan, then glanced at Xun Er’s gentleness which was completely different from her coldness earlier. He could not help but knit his eyebrows together and speak with a cold smile.

“He is Xiao Yan. The current leader of these new students.” Bai Shan interrupted and informed him.

“Bai Shan, it really is unexpected that the skin on that face of yours is actually thick to such a degree. My eyes were really dull in the past.” Xiao Yan glanced at Bai Shan and laughed as he spoke. There was a ridicule that he could not hide in his laughter.

Being mocked in such a matter, a greenness involuntarily surfaced on Bai Shan’s face. He gloomily glanced at Xiao Yan and coldly said, “You can be arrogant. I have already said that in the Inner Academy, I have many ways of dealing with you.”

“Other than relying on other people’s power, what else can you do?” Xiao Yan laughed indifferently.



“You...”

“Alright stop arguing.” Fu Ao waved his hands and interrupted the two of them as they mocked one another. He raised his head, eyed Xiao Yan and said calmly, “I shall not argue with you. Hand over fifteen new students to us, the ‘White Gang’ and we will immediately leave this place.”

“And if I don’t hand any over?” Xiao Yan’s hand was placed on the hilt of the ruler in front of him as he asked with a cold laugh.

“Then I will beat you up until your prestige is completely lost in front of these new students!” Fu Ao parted his mouth and laughed. His dense white teeth emitted a coldness.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He twisted his neck and had just taken a step forward when Wu Hao, who stood beside him suddenly extended his hand to stop him. The latter asked, “Let me?”

“This fellow is a Dou Ling. It may be a little difficult for you to handle now.” Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He pushed Wu Hao’s hand away and slowly took a step forward. His gaze paused on Fu Ao’s body and laughed softly, “One on one. If you win, we will do as you say. If you lose, your ‘White Gang’ is not allowed to find trouble with our ‘Pan Gate’ within three months. How about it? Do you dare to accept?”

Fu Ao’s eyes immediately narrowed when he heard this.

“Big Brother Fu. Don’t agree with him. That fellow possesses some powerful trump cards. When he uses them, it is sufficient to easily contend with a Dou Ling. The last time, even Luo Hou was defeated by his hands.” Bai Shan to the side hurriedly continued, “All of us can attack together. Although there are many new students, they will definitely not be able to block us all!”

“There is no need. That Luo Hou is but someone who just entered the Dou Ling class. Defeating him is nothing.”

Fu Ao waved his hands. His gaze stared intently at Xiao Yan. Immediately, it turned toward Xun Er behind as he parted his mouth and laughed, “Why don’t we change the stakes. If I win, hand over fifteen people to the ‘White Gang’ with her among them. If I lose, the ‘White Gang’ will not find trouble with all of you for half a year? What do you say?”

The smile on Xiao Yan’s face gradually withdrew until his dark and solemn appearance a moment later had some ferocity hidden within it. A dragon had scales which could not be touched. Those who did so would incur its wrath. Xiao Yan’s untouchable scale was undoubtedly this girl who had placed all her thoughts on him from when they were young...

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, compete!”

A gentle voice suddenly sounded from behind Xiao Yan. Immediately, a soft seemingly boneless delicate hand gently held Xiao Yan tightly clenched fist.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air. He turned his head and eyed the green-clothed young lady who was smiling elegantly. Tilting his body slightly, he moved closer to the young lady’s ears under her slightly reddened face. Using a voice that only the two of them could hear, he slowly said, “Girl, I will get rid of the ‘White Gang’ half a year later!”

“Yes.” The young lady suddenly smiled. Her smile was beautiful, gentle and moving, causing the hearts of those by the side to be moved. She had never doubted him ever since she was young.

### **Chapter 470: Fighting Fu Ao**

Xiao Yan gently patted Xun Er’s head before he slowly turned around. The darkness on his face had swiftly disappeared as he indifferently looked at Fu Ao on the opposite side. He softly asked, “Shall we begin?”

“Hei, you have courage...”

Seeing that Xiao Yan really dared to fight, Fu Ao could not help but shout in a somewhat astonished manner. He immediately laughed, “Alright. Today, let me see whether this leader of the new students, whose name has caused an uproar within the Inner Academy, is really as strong as rumored.”

Seeing the big battle that was about to begin, all the surrounding observing students hurriedly took a few steps back. They had also heard quite a lot of rumors about Xiao Yan. They were naturally extremely happy now that they could judge him with their own eyes.

“I wonder if that Xiao Yan can contend with Fu Ao. If he cannot, I’m afraid that he will really lose a great amount of face.”

“Hee hee, it is rumored that Fu Ao has already advanced into the three star Dou Ling level one month ago. This Xiao Yan may be able to defeat Luo Hou, but it is still very difficult and dangerous to fight against Fu Ao.”

“If he is careless and loses to Fu Ao, he would not only lose face but also lose his own woman... it would be really funny.”

Xiao Yan ignored the numerous private conversations around him. He slowly took a step forward, and his hands swiftly formed some strange seals. As the seals were formed in his hands, wisps of green-colored flame suddenly surged out from the vortex in his body. Finally, it followed a somewhat strange route as it began to swiftly circulate.

When the green-colored flame completed circulating through this strange route once, the green flame could not help but began to seethe a little. Waves of wild, violent energy spread out and finally spread to each and every corner of Xiao Yan's body!

"The First Change of the Sky Fire Three Mysterious Changes, Green Lotus Change!"

"Bang!"

The hand seal suddenly stilled. Powerful green-colored flames surged violently from within Xiao Yan's body, wrapping him and causing him to become a green-colored fire person.

The fire soared for a moment before it swiftly shrunk back into Xiao Yan's body. When it shrunk back, everyone could sense that Xiao Yan's breath was climbing higher and higher. It was actually about to reach the stage of a strong Dou Ling!

"He actually forcefully raised his strength. No wonder he was able to defeat Luo Hou. However, this kind of Secret Technique is ultimately a disadvantage. It cannot last for long and will instead cause enormous damage to his body. Xiao Yan, is this your trump card?" Fu Ao was initially startled when he saw Xiao Yan's aura becoming stronger all of a sudden. He immediately came to an abrupt understanding as he coldly laughed.

Xiao Yan was still blissfully silent when faced with Fu Ao's cold laughter. His hand held the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler beside him, tilted his head toward Wu Hao and said faintly, "Keep an eye on Bai Shan's group."

"You can rest assured. Hand that offal to me." Wu Hao nodded. He hesitated slightly before whispering, "Be careful. This Fu Ao is stronger than Luo Hou."

"Yes."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He turned his gaze toward Fu Ao who was smiling coldly opposite of him. Xiao Yan's feet slowly lifted. After which it fell suddenly, and an energy explosion immediately sounded from his feet. Xiao Yan's body turned into a black shadow and directly charged at the latter.

"Hmph, today, I will let you get a taste of what it means to be a true elite Dou Ling! Unorthodox means cannot be considered the right path!" The black shadow swiftly grew in Fu Ao's eyes. He let out a cold snort and clenched his fist. Blue light flashed. A blue-colored trident, that was nearly five feet long flashed and appeared.

Holding the trident in his hand, Fu Ao pierced toward the black shadow in front of him. A faint blue glow was flashing on the tines. There was even some blue-colored light, which appeared in the space which it passed through.

"Clang!"

The black shadow suddenly paused. The huge black ruler on his hands came whirling over. It collided heavily with the trident. Immediately, the sound of metal colliding carried some sparks as it flashed and appeared on the battleground.

“Your strength is quite great.”

Fu Ao’s body shook slightly. He took half a step back as he let out a surprised laugh compared to Xiao Yan who had taken a step back. Immediately, he once again charged into close proximity. Under the cover of the blue-colored Dou Qi in the trident on his hand, it was like an evil shark in the sea, rolling and rising. The force was thick and cold as it carried a faint fierce force.

Xiao Yan’s face tensed as he eyed the trident attack that swiftly followed. He shook his hand gently as he directly waved the ruler and went forward to meet Fu Ao without even retreating a little.

Blue-colored Dou Qi and the green-colored flame each occupied half of the sky above the battleground. A faint white-colored fog repeatedly rose. Two ghost-like human figures were flashing and shooting about within the fog. The speed caused even the surrounding crowd watching the fight to be only able to hear the sound of the heavy ruler and the trident colliding and see some sparks bursting forth.

Powerful Dou Qi collided in the battleground, bursting with loud energy sounds. Those energy ripples that repeatedly expanded caused the surrounding crowd to have no choice but to repeatedly step back.

“Can Xiao Yan beat that fellow?” Hu Jia’s eyes stared intently at the human figures flashing in the faint white fog. She could not resist clenching her fists tightly as she asked Xun Er and Wu Hao beside her softly.

“I don’t know.. I cannot see anything now.” Wu Hao shook his head and replied in a deep voice.

“Bang!”

The instant when Wu Hao’s words sounded, an explosion that shook the ears of everyone until they felt pain was suddenly emitted from the white fog. Immediately, two human figures shot out of the white fog. Their legs were dragged along the ground for over ten meters before they finally came to a stop.

“Hee hee. Good. You do indeed have some ability. No wonder you dare to be so arrogant.” Fu Ao placed the trident in his hand heavily onto the ground as he panted intensely, and spoke with a cold smile.

Xiao Yan’s heavy ruler was inserted into the crack line on the ground. His breathing was similarly a little hurried. After using the ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change’ to forcefully

strengthen himself, he was able to contend with Fu Ao head on without losing, and was even able to beat the latter by a little in terms of strength. However... all of these had a short time limit. Once the effect of the increased strength of the green lotus change faded away, he would have difficulty continuing to fight with Fu Ao.

Fu Ao had also clearly saw Xiao Yan's weakness. He laughed sinisterly as the trident in his hands suddenly shook. Immediately, the blue-colored Dou Qi on it suddenly soared. Following the increase in the density of the Dou Qi on the tridents, Fu Ao's face also became a strange blue color.

Sensing the swiftly agglomerating Dou Qi energy on Fu Ao's trident, Xiao Yan's expression changed slightly. He could sense the degree of strength of this attack of Fu Ao.

"Let's settle this with one blow!"

The trident in Fu Ao's hand abruptly rotated before it was immediately pointed at Xiao Yan. The former parted his mouth and smiled. His feet stepped on the ground and his body turned into a blue-colored shadow that shot out explosively. As his body did so, the blue-colored Dou Qi on the trident swiftly rolled. Finally, it actually faintly formed an energy shark that was completely agglomerated from Dou Qi.

The blue energy shark widened its mouth and its sharp teeth were set off by the blue-colored Dou Qi such that it reflected a dark, thick, cold glow. It resulted in people having not the slightest doubt that they would definitely receive a fatal blow if they were bitten by it.

Dou Qi agglomerating into objects, the mark of a Dou Ling. It was a specialized ability of a strong person at the Dou Ling class or above, just like the Dou Qi cloak of a Dou Shi, and the Dou Qi Armor of a Da Dou Shi. The lethality of this kind of Dou Qi agglomerated item would undoubtedly have an extremely powerful effect when used in combination with Dou Techniques.

A Dou Qi shark, over ten feet long, shot explosively toward Xiao Yan. His gaze passed through the somewhat transparent Dou Qi shark, and was able to see the incomparably sharp trident hidden within its stomach.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the shark which was swiftly being enlarged in his eyes. The bloody wind that was pouncing at him caused Xiao Yan's face to become increasingly solemn. His arm shook a little. Green-colored flames passed through his Qi Paths and surged out, finally covering the entire dark black ruler within it. After finishing this action, he held the ruler's hilt with both hands and slowly raised it above his head. The Dou Qi within his body was being circulated until its limit at this moment!

"Break!"

Xiao Yan's eyes abruptly shrunk. A deafening cry was shouted out from Xiao Yan's throat. Immediately, the heavy ruler, which was wrapped in the dense green-colored flames, was abruptly hacked downward, just like it was splitting a mountain.

As the heavy ruler was hacked downward, one could see that the surrounding air had become a little distorted. The high temperature evaporated all the water that had been lodged in the ground around him.

Under the observations of everyone around, the heavy ruler that was wrapped by the green-colored flame heavily collided with the Dou Qi shark.

"Bang!"

The moment the two came into contact, a muffled explosion sounded. Fog that permeated the air began to surge out with a hissing sound from the point of contact. A water wave that contained some fluctuations of the green-colored flame seedling formed a ripple shape as it spread out in all directions. It rinsed all of the things above the ground wherever it passed.

Fu Ao's expression was a little ugly within the fog. He eyed the trident that was locked by the heavy ruler. The green-colored flame that was rising on the latter was not only not extinguished by the energy water shark, but rather had instead caused the energy water shark, that was agglomerated by Dou Qi, to instantly boil into vapor that permeated the sky the moment that they came into contact. This sudden situation was something that Fu Ao had never expected.

Fu Ao's hands held the handle of the trident tightly. His arms shook as he felt a little fear from the great strength that was transmitted from the heavy ruler.

Xiao Yan's face also became completely flushed. This was an appearance caused by having displayed his strength to its limits. His eyes stared intently at Fu Ao who was only two feet from him. A dense arc was suddenly lifted from the corner of his mouth.

Xiao Yan's throat rolled slightly. A strange voice repeatedly brewed within his throat. Following the brewing of the voice, Xiao Yan's mouth also bulged. A moment later, he lifted his hand and opened his tightly shut mouth.

"Roar!"

As Xiao Yan opened his mouth, the thunderclap-like sound of a lion roar mightily surged forth, causing those people observing from the surrounding to hurriedly do their best to cover their ears, which were shaken until they felt pain.

Since even the ears of the surrounding observers were still in the throes of pain, it was an even heavier blow for Fu Ao, who was less than two feet from Xiao Yan.

While Fu Ao had felt that something was amiss before the sonic wave was emitted, he did not immediately pull back. Hence, he completely received this 'Lion Tiger Gold Shattering Roar' from Xiao Yan head on.

Fu Ao's hands trembled rapidly. Under this roar from Xiao Yan, which was like thunder from the clear sky, some blood traces seeped out from Fu Ao's ears. It appeared like bells and gongs were ringing in his head, turning into a complete mess.

The moment Fu Ao was shaken by the 'Lion Tiger Gold Shattering Roar,' Xiao Yan released his heavy ruler. His body turned and appeared on Fu Ao's left side in a ghost-like manner. His face was dark and solemn as his tightened fist carried a sharp wind sound from having cut through the air and ruthlessly smashed into Fu Ao's face under the watch of numerous shocked gazes around him.

"Boom!"

The fist collided with flesh. A soft and low sound caused the hearts of all those observers around to leap. Immediately, they saw Fu Ao fly like a kite with a broken string as his body rolled a couple of times in midair before it heavily smashed and landed on the ground dozens of meters away. No one knew if he was still alive...

The instant that Fu Ao's body smashed onto the ground, the surrounding audience became deathly quiet!

## **Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 471: The Strength of The White Gang - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 471: The Strength of The White Gang**

### **Chapter 471: The Strength of The White Gang**

The atmosphere was solidified and quiet in this spacious, empty ground. One by one, numerous gazes stared at the unmoving Fu Ao who lay dozens of meters away. There was a shock that was difficult to hide within their gazes.

This was a three star elite Dou Ling. With Fu Ao's strength, he could enter the top seventy, even if placed within the entire Inner Academy. Now, however, he was defeated by a new student who had just arrived in the Inner Academy no more than five days ago. Moreover, this defeat... was actually miserable to such an extent. They thought of how Fu Ao was still acting triumphantly just ten minutes ago only to end up currently lying not far away like a dead dog. This comical scene really caused everyone watching from around him to feel a bizarre feeling.

"\*Cough\*, \*cough\*, \*cough\*..."

An intense coughing sound suddenly sounded in the empty ground, breaking the quiet atmosphere

The heavy ruler in Xiao Yan's hand made contact with the ground. One of his knees was involuntarily placed on the ground. Some paleness appeared on his delicate and handsome face. Dense amounts of cold sweat repeatedly seeped out from his forehead. Looking from his hurried breathing, it was clear that this victory was not without a price.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, are you alright?" A figure flashed and appeared at Xiao Yan's side. Her delicate hand looped around Xiao Yan's waist. That green-clothed young lady could not help but speak with heartache as she eyed the pale white face belonging to Xiao Yan.

"I'm fine. It is just the backlash for forcefully raising my strength," Xiao Yan lifted his body up with great difficulty as he clenched his teeth and shook his head. The 'Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change' may allow him to raise his strength for a short period of time, but the damage that the wild energy caused within his body was also quite extreme. If it was not because Xiao Yan was an alchemist and he had Yao Lao, an extremely experienced Alchemist Grandmaster helping him from within, it was likely that even he wouldn't dare to use this technique carelessly. Even though this was the case, his body would feel terrible pain every time he used it.

Xiao Yan's hand rested on Xun Er's delicate shoulder. His eyes coldly glanced at Fu Ao, who lay some distance away. Originally, this fellow would not lose so miserably, However, he underestimated the extent at which a 'Heavenly Flame' restrained water affinity Dou Qi. It was likely that Xiao Yan would also not dare to fight head on against that powerful attack which combined Dou Skill and a Dou Qi agglomerated object had it been an element which was not suppressed by the 'Heavenly Flame.'

However, regardless of whether there was the element of luck in this fight, Xiao Yan had obtained victory. This was already sufficient!

Xiao Yan took a medicinal pill for healing internal injuries from his storage ring and stuffed it into his mouth. Only then did he turn his head and throw his gaze toward Bai Shan's group.

Seeing Xiao Yan's sharp, knife-like gaze being thrown over, the group of people from the 'White Gang,' including Bai Shan, could not resist taking two steps back. Their faces were filled with vigilance as they watched Xiao Yan.

"Fu Ao has lost. Take him away. Remember your promise to us. There are quite a number of witnesses present. If you want to go back on your word, this 'White Gang' of yours will be completely discredited." Xiao Yan did not adopt any overly stimulating action and merely spoke in a cold voice.



"This fool thinks so highly of himself. He thinks no one can beat him just because he is a three star Dou Ling. Now, not only did he lose, he also left Xiao Yan and Pan's Gate half a year to develop. After half a year, it is likely that Older Cousin will have to personally come here if they want to remove 'Pan's Gate!'" Bai Shan gnashed his teeth and cursed angrily in his heart as he eyed Fu Ao, lying not far away like a dead dog.

"Let's go!" Bai Shan's entire body felt uncomfortable as he was stared at by Xiao Yan's stark, cold gaze. A moment later, he finally waved his hand as he cried out with a depressed and extremely unwilling tone.

Once he said this, he took the lead in turning around and swiftly walked out of the new students' residency. Behind him, a few 'White Gang' members hurriedly followed. Two people stepped out and grabbed Fu Ao as they passed by him along the way.

Seeing the group of people disappearing from the edge of their sight in a miserable looking manner, those members of 'Pan's Gate,' whose nerves were tense, finally sighed in relief. However, this time, they did not let out any cheers. They exchanged glances with one another and saw an urgency in each other's eyes. What they saw, was an urgency for their strength to increase.

Although they had only just entered the Inner Academy a couple days ago, they were truly able to sense the importance that strength had in the Inner Academy. Previously, they could all be considered among the best in the Outer Academy. However, now they were the most ordinary members within the Inner Academy. In order to be able to not receive a humiliation like the one today, they must raise their strength as quickly as possible. They clearly understood in their hearts that it was impossible to completely rely on Xiao Yan and the others to bear all the matters within this Inner Academy. As members of 'Pan's Gate,' they also needed to contribute!

"Everyone, the show's over. Please take your leave." Xiao Yan cupped his hands and smiled at the surrounding older students who were watching as he spoke.

Hearing Xiao Yan's guest expelling order, those observers around also cupped their hands toward Xiao Yan in an extremely polite manner. After which, they walked out in small groups, repeatedly engaging in private conversations along the way. It was likely that they were discussing the fight that had concluded earlier.

"Ke ke, Xiao Yan ge-ge, I'm afraid that very soon, the matter of you defeating Fu Ao will spread throughout the Inner Academy." Xun Er smiled lovingly as she supported Xiao Yan.

"This is also good. At the very least, it should be able to frighten those factions that have some ill intentions toward our 'Pan's Gate.'" Xiao Yan sighed again. He raised his head and eyed those members of the 'Pan's Gate', who were looking at him fervently. He slowly said, "Everyone, I think now all of you understand just how important strength is within this Inner Academy, right?"

“Yes!” The dozens of new students nodded uniformly.

“Without strength, we can only be bullied by people who block our entrance! Do you all want to endure what happened today a second time?” Xiao Yan questioned in a deep voice.

“No!” A flush suddenly swarmed onto the faces of all the new students. The blood in their hearts boiled as they roared.

“From tomorrow on, the members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ will begin to enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to train. By relying on Fu Ao’s defeat today, there should not be any other factions coming to find trouble with us for a short period of time. Hence, we must raise our strength as quickly as possible during this period of time!” Xiao Yan’s voice was low as he spoke.

“Moreover, by defeating Fu Ao today, we have undoubtedly given the ‘White Gang’ a ruthless slap to the face. Hence, they will definitely not let this matter rest. Due to their promise, they will perhaps not attack us during this half a year’s time. However, once half a year has passed, the ‘White Gang’ will definitely show up!”

“In order for us to be able to resist the ‘White Gang’ in half a year’s time, the matter of raising your strength is extremely urgent!”

All the members of the ‘Pan’s Gate’ had flushed faces as they nodded heavily after hearing Xiao Yan’s cry!

“Alright, everyone can disperse for today. Gather here tomorrow. We will collectively enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower!’” Xiao Yan waved his hand. He immediately turned his body and walked toward the small pavilion home. Just as he was about to enter the door, his footsteps suddenly paused as he whispered to Xun Er beside him, “That’s right, call Atai over here. I have some questions to ask him.”

“Yes.” Xun Er nodded slightly, turned her body and left.

.....

“How much do you know about the ‘White Gang?’”

Xiao Yan, Xun Er, Wu Hao, and Hu Jia were all seated on chairs in the hall. Atai was also seated on a seat toward the left side. Xiao Yan’s question was obviously directed at him.

“The leader of the ‘White Gang’ is called Bai Cheng, the older cousin of Bai Shan. He is very strong with a strength around that of a six star Dou Ling. It is said that he is also an expert on the ‘Strong Ranking.’ He is also considered to be a person with a prominent

reputation within the Inner Academy.” Atai thought for a moment before he spoke slowly.

“A six star Dou Ling? An expert on the ‘Strong Ranking’? What is his rank?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly as his finger gently tapped on the surface of the table. He had already displayed the ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change’ when he fought with Fu Ao, this three star Dou Ling. Moreover, he had relied on the advantage of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ in order to luckily defeat the latter. If he were to meet a six star Dou Ling, there would be a gap of a whole class. His chances of victory... unless he used the ‘Flame Splitting Tsunami’ or... a large scale ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame,’ his chances of victory would basically be nil.

“Thirty four.”

Atai replied honestly. His understanding of the Inner Academy somewhat exceeded Xiao Yan’s expectations.

“A six star Dou Ling is only ranked thirty four... this ‘Strong Ranking’ of the Inner Academy does indeed have quite a lot of golden content.” Xun Er held a warm teacup as she spoke with a smile touching the corner of her mouth.

“Yes. It is indeed very challenging.” Wu Hao nodded with a smile. A wild and heated fighting spirit filled his face.

Xiao Yan crossed his ten fingers, leaned his body on the back of the chair, and sighed, “What about the other members of the ‘White Gang?’ What is their strength like?”

“Other than Bai Cheng, the ‘White Gang’ has three more elite Dou Ling. One of them is Fu Ao whom you fought with today. The fighting strength of the other two is perhaps a little stronger than Fu Ao, but their levels are all around that of three star Dou Lings.” Atai sighed, “There are in total thirty-four other members. Thirteen of them are strong Da Dou Shi. The remaining are mostly around the peak Dou Shi class. If they gain the opportunity, they may directly advance to the Da Dou Shi class.”

“Four Dou Ling, thirteen Da Dou Shi and the rest are at the peak of the Dou Shi class...” Xiao Yan sighed and muttered, “This ‘White Gang’ is indeed quite strong... troublesome.”

“They are indeed quite strong. This ‘White Gang’ may not be considered a top notch faction within the Inner Academy, but there are not many people who would openly provoke them.” Atai laughed bitterly, “If it was in the past, a faction of the level that the ‘White Gang’ is in would usually not find trouble with a new student faction. This time around, it is likely due to Bai Shan that they came and find us.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Bai Shan and him had long since been in conflict. Now that the former had entered the Inner Academy and had strength that he could borrow, it

was natural that he would come and find trouble with Xiao Yan. Putting it this way, 'Pan's Gate' can be considered to have been implicated by him.

"Do everything like I have said earlier. From tomorrow on, the members of 'Pan's Gate' will enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train. We need to raise our strength in the shortest amount of time." Xiao Yan mused for a moment before raising his head and asking, "Everyone has sufficient 'Fire Energy' in their hands, no?"

"Ke ke, thanks to Chief, the 'Fire Energy' which we had obtained from the Hunting Competition is sufficient for us to train for one month in the tower." Atai smiled and nodded his head.

"Yes, that's good..." Xiao Yan nodded and let out a gentle breath of air. He softly muttered, "Hopefully, there will not be any other unexpected troubles occurring. The current 'Pan's Gate' is really too weak. It really is troublesome for us to establish a foothold in this Inner Academy."

### **Chapter 472: Meeting**

The atmosphere of the well lit room contained a faint scent of gunpowder. There were over ten people standing around or sitting within this room. At this moment, there was some anger on the faces of these people.

"Boss, that 'Pan's Gate' really doesn't know what is good for them. They actually dared to beat up Fu Ao until he is in such a state. If we do not get back at them, how will our 'White Gang' survive in the Inner Academy in the future?" A man in the room suddenly could not control himself as he slammed his palm on the table, and cried out furiously.

"That's right, Boss, we cannot let Big Brother Fu Ao just suffer this beating." The voice of that man had just sounded when the remaining people in the room went along with it and demanded uniformly.

A man was leaning on the back of his chair as he was seated on the leader's seat in the room and his palm fondled his chin. Looking at his appearance, there was a faint similarity between him and Bai Shan. It appeared that he should be the leader of the 'White Gang,' Bai Shan's older cousin and that strong person who was ranked thirty-fourth on the 'Strong Ranking,' Bai Cheng.

Bai Cheng ignored the people in the room who were rousing to action as a group. His gaze stopped on a human figure on his left side. At this moment, half of the face of this human figure was wrapped in gauze. From the half side of the face that was exposed, one could vaguely identify this person. He was Fu Ao, who had fainted on the spot after Xiao Yan ruthlessly swung a punch at his face today.

"Fu Ao, how are your injuries?" Seeing this miserable manner of Fu Ao, the man involuntarily frowned as he opened his mouth and asked.

As he opened his mouth, the noisiness in the room immediately became quiet. Everyone's gaze paused on Fu Ao's body.

"I did not suffer any overly serious internal injuries. However, I will need to rest for four to five days in order to be able to fully recover." A somewhat changed voice of Fu Ao was being emitted from the mouth belonging to Fu Ao, who had half of his face wrapped up.

"What is the strength of that Xiao Yan like?" Bai Cheng nodded slightly and narrowed his eyes. That calm voice of his contained a thread of dark coldness.

"His own strength is merely around that of a five or six star Da Dou Shi. However, he seems to be able to use a kind of Secret Technique in order to forcefully increase his own strength, raising it to the Dou Ling class. Additionally, the flame which he uses is also extremely domineering and powerful. The combination of a Dou Technique and an item agglomerated from Dou Qi attack which I had displayed were all neutralized by that domineering flame." A dissatisfaction flashed across Fu Ao's eyes. The anger in his voice also became richer, "Originally, I would not have lost so miserably, but who would expect that the fellow actually knows a sonic Dou Technique. He took advantage of me when I could not defend, shaking me until I became absent-minded, and launched a heavy blow to beat me up until this manner."

Bai Cheng nodded slightly. He turned his heads to one side. The cold-faced Bai Shan was seated there. The latter nodded when he saw Bai Cheng looking over and said faintly, "Older Cousin, the details are roughly the same as what Big Brother Fu Ao had said. That Xiao Yan does indeed possess these skills. In addition, he also knows an even stronger Dou Skill. That is the mysterious flame that he used to attack Luo Hou with back then. For some unknown reason, he did not use it today."

"I have also heard of that fire lotus Dou Technique. It is indeed very strong but it seems to be very exhausting. With Xiao Yan's strength, he may perhaps be only able to display it once or twice in his peak condition." Bai Cheng nodded and replied.

"Boss. This time around, I was at a disadvantage because I didn't know the details. If we were to fight him next time, I would definitely not lose!" Fu Ao said with extreme dissatisfaction.

"Do you still think that you have not embarrassed yourself enough?" Bai Cheng's face sunk. His palm abruptly slammed on the table. His clear voice shocked everyone in the room until they did not dare interrupt.

"If you had not given that so called promise before fighting today, I would bring people to crush the 'Pan's Gate' and get them to disband immediately. However, you, a fool who thinks highly of yourself, actually dared to make such a promise after clearly knowing that Xiao Yan had defeated Luo Hou. Now that the agreement has been spread throughout the Inner Academy, won't we end up being bad-mouthed if we go

and find trouble with 'Pan's Gate' now? There are quite a number of people in this Inner Academy who are waiting to see us, the 'White Gang,' embarrass ourselves.”

“Then what do we do? We cannot just simply let this pass so easily, no? If we were to act like nothing happened, it would not be beneficial to the reputation of our 'White Gang.’” Fu Ao could only soften his voice because of the reprimand by Bai Cheng as he replied indignantly.

Bai Cheng lifted the teacup beside him and took a shallow sip. He lifted his head and was quiet for a while before slowly speaking, “You have already promised not to find trouble with 'Pan's Gate' for half a year. Therefore, for a brief period of time, the members of the 'White Gang' should try to avoid having conflicts with them...”

“Older Cousin, you are thinking of leaving Xiao Yan's group alone for half a year?” Bai Shan could not help but ask with a frown after he heard this.

Bai Cheng held the teacup tightly, and mused a little before nodding. He said faintly, “They won't be able to become much stronger in half a year. At that time, I will personally issue a challenge to 'Pan's Gate.’”

“Isn't this a little too risky? Who would know what kind of unexpected changes would happen in half a year's time? That Xiao Yan is not someone that can be handled with common sense.” Bai Shan said in a deep voice.

“Relax. Even if they were to spend every single day of this half a year training in the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' they would at the very most reach the peak of the Da Dou Shi class. It is not so easy to advance into the Dou Ling class. Moreover, I am also not a fool like Fu Ao. Even if I have absolute confidence in winning, I will not promise a one on one. At that time everyone from the 'White Gang' will move together. I want to see if their 'Pan's Gate' can still struggle to stand.” Bai Cheng waved his hand and said.

“This...” Bai Shan still hesitated a little when he heard this. During the period of time when he was living alongside Xiao Yan in the forest, he had seen Xiao Yan create quite a lot of miracles that caused people to be endlessly shocked. Hence, he continued to have an uncertain feeling in his heart.

“This is only the initial plan. We will decide based on the situation at that time. Get someone to observe every single action of this 'Pan's Gate'...” Seeing that Bai Shan was still slightly perturbed, Bai Cheng could only helplessly shake his head and change his words.

“Alright, it is already quite late. Everyone should dispense. Tomorrow, I will enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train. It will perhaps be five to six days before I will come out. During this period of time, you, Fu Ao and the other two will look after the matters within the gang.” Bai Cheng stood up and commanded faintly.

“Yes.”

.....

In the morning of the next day, when the sky had just brightened, the lights in the new students' residence area were brightly lit. Numerous human figures came rushing out from their rooms before they finally lined up orderly in front of the small pavilion home of Xiao Yan's four-man group.

“Creak...”

A long while later, the door of the small pavilion home was slowly pushed open. Xiao Yan's four-man group slowly walked out. They stood in front of the door and eyed those high-spirited members of the 'Pan's Gate,' whose faces were filled with excitement, smiling involuntarily. Although these members were currently still quite weak, their potential was quite great. As long as they were given sufficient time, Xiao Yan believed that they would sooner or later become true strong people.

“Let's go.”

Since the members were all gathered, Xiao Yan did not say any other unnecessary words. He waved his hands, and took the lead along with Wu Hao, Xun Er, and Hu Jia as they swiftly walked toward the exit. The over forty new students followed close behind.

On the road that led to the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' the students coming and going eyed that large group of people who passed by them with a 'Hu La' sound. They could not help but be a little stunned. When some of those with sharp-eyes saw Xiao Yan and the large Heavy Xuan Ruler he was carrying on his back, surprised voices immediately sounded.

“Huh? Isn't that Xiao Yan?”

“Ha, he appears quite handsome...”

“The two girls that are following by his side also appear to be very beautiful. Hee hee, I wonder who will be lucky enough to get on intimate terms with them...”

“These people should be the new student faction 'Pan's Gate' which has caused an uproar in the Inner Academy recently, right? It seems that their aura is quite good.”

“I heard that even Fu Ao from the 'White Gang' was beaten by Xiao Yan yesterday. Looks like this fellow does indeed have some strength.”

“.....”

Xiao Yan let out a gentle breath as he heard the various private conversations as they passed by. Now their 'Pan's Gate' could be considered to be famous in the Inner Academy. However, their current strength and reputation did not appear to match.

Xiao Yan shook his head and ignored the discussions the people around were having over him and 'Pan's Gate.' He let out a urging sound and the speed of the group increased. After which, they carried a slip of dust as they swiftly disappeared at the end of the road...

After walking for nearly an hour, the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' that merely exposed its peak, finally appeared in their sights. When the people from 'Pan's Gate' saw that extremely mysterious tower, surprised sounds involuntarily appeared one after another.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, is this the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower?' It is indeed very unique to be actually buried underground." Xun Er eyed that extremely large tower, and let out a sweet soft laugh in a lovely manner, attracting quite a number of surprised gazes from the men who were waiting at this place.

"Yes."

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He led everyone to occupy a spot which was not too near the front. According to the rules of the Inner Academy, this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' had a strict opening and closing time. Hence, Xiao Yan's group could only patiently wait for the door of the tower to be opened.

As time slowly flowed passed, the human flow around them also became increasingly large. The noisy sounds as well as the human flow that gathered caused everyone in 'Pan's Gate' to be shocked. It was unexpected that the Inner Academy possessed such a number of people despite the extremely harsh condition to enter it.

The spot where Xiao Yan's group was, was undoubtedly the place which attracted the most attention. During these few days, Xiao Yan and the matter of 'Pan's Gate' being formed had already become the focus of attention of the entire Inner Academy during this period of time. Moreover, the matter of Xiao Yan defeating Fu Ao and causing the 'White Gang' to fall back had further intensified the spreading of this reputation.

Xiao Yan's group was seated cross-legged as they ignored the noisy voices and various looks they received around them.

Time continued to flow past like the sand between fingers. Over twenty minutes since Xiao Yan had arrived, there was suddenly a group of people who had squeezed out from within the crowd. After which, they slowly walked toward the spot where Xiao Yan's group was at.



As this group of people walked forward, the gazes around gathered onto them. After seeing the leader of this group, their gazes turned toward the place where Xiao Yan's group was at. Their eyes carried some delight from watching the fun.

The atmosphere which had suddenly become strange caused Xiao Yan to open his eyes. He raised his head, and threw his gaze toward the group of people that walked over, and could not help but frown slightly.

“Chief, be careful. That fellow is the leader of the ‘White Gang,’ Bai Cheng!” Atai, who was beside Xiao Yan, wore a solemn expression as he softly informed him.

“Yes.”

Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. He waved his hand and the dozens of ‘Pan’s Gate’ members who were seated cross-legged on the ground let out a ‘swish’ sound as they stood up in union. Numerous gazes stared intently at Bai Cheng’s group which was slowly walking over.

In an instant, the atmosphere outside the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ had turned somewhat tense.

### **Chapter 473: Hidden Confrontation**

Under everyone’s gazes, Bai Cheng’s group slowly walked up to Xiao Yan. The former’s gaze swept over the new students who had quite a strong aura before finally stopping on the faces of Xiao Yan’s four-man group.

Xiao Yan’s eyes were locked onto this man in front of him, whose appearance was somewhat similar to Bai Shan. Despite the powerful aura that was emitted from the body of this person, Xiao Yan felt no fear in his heart. His pair of eyes were calm without any ripples.

Seeing these groups staring at one another, the surrounding crowd could not help but become much quieter. The gazes which they used to look at the groups were filled with all sorts of emotions.

“You are Xiao Yan, right? I have frequently heard Bai Shan mentioning you. Now that I see you today, your bearing is indeed extraordinary.” After exchanging looks with Xiao Yan for a moment, the somewhat dark and solemn face Bai Cheng suddenly laughed. He actually extended his hand toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and observed Bai Cheng’s actions. The darkness contained within the other party’s eyes was also captured by his eyes. He laughed softly and extended his hand in full view of everyone before holding Bai Cheng’s hand.

The moment the hands held one another, the smile on Bai Cheng's face suddenly withdrew. A powerful aura erupted from within his body, shaking the surrounding crowd until their clothes flapped. Some of those who were weaker could not keep their bodies still as they took a step back. The hand which Bai Cheng used to hold Xiao Yan's was also instantly covered by this dense Dou Qi.

Xiao Yan's expression sunk as he sensed the surge in strength and the pain coming from his hand. Dou Qi in his body circulated and a wisp of green-colored flame was drawn out. Finally, it moved through the vein and was swiftly channeled to his palm.

However, the instant the flame was about to leave his body, Bai Cheng appeared to have sensed something. A cold smile was lifted from the corner of his mouth. His middle finger was bent slightly and immediately formed an extremely small arc that heavily pressed on Xiao Yan's palm.

The hidden force that was being transmitted from his palm caused Xiao Yan's hand to tremble. However, his face was still extremely calm as he stared intently at Bai Cheng opposite of him.

Bai Chang's single blow struck his opponent and Bai Cheng took advantage of that instant, when Xiao Yan's hand was numb, to withdraw his palm in a lightning-like manner.

Xiao Yan's eyes were icy-cold as he eyed Bai Cheng who wanted to withdraw after taking advantage. He flicked his finger and a wisp of green-colored flame shot out from his finger and swiftly caught up to Bai Shan's hand which was being withdrawn.

Seeing the hot fire seedling that was swiftly flying over. Bai Shan's eyes narrowed slightly. Dou Qi abruptly swarmed out from his palm before finally forming a half a foot Dou Qi barrier that wrapped the flame seedling within before swiftly pulling back his hand.

"Explode!"

Xiao Yan's mouth moved slightly as a deep soft voice was emitted from his mouth.

"Bang!"

As the Xiao Yan's voice sounded, the green-colored flame seedling which was wrapped by the Dou Qi light barrier suddenly trembled. It abruptly burst open with a muffled explosion. A flame undulation that was not weak smashed heavily against the Dou Qi barrier, blasting it until it was like the surface of a lake after a rock had been thrown into it. This lasted for a moment before the Dou Qi light barrier, which had been hastily constructed by Bai Cheng, was finally overwhelmed. It broke cleanly apart.

Although the explosion of the flame broke apart the Dou Qi light barrier, it merely turned into a fire wave that spread out before it slowly disappeared due to its energy being completely exhausted.

“Bai Cheng, what are you doing?”

This confrontation between the both of them was obscure and swift. Everyone reacted to it only after the fire wave had disappeared. Only then did they understand that in an instant, the two of them had actually secretly exchanged blows. The pretty face of the fiery tempered Hu Jia immediately sank as she took the lead to shout out loud.

After Hu Jia’s cry, Wu Hao, and the other forty plus members of the ‘Pan’s Gate’ also took a step forward in union while wearing furious faces. They appeared to show that they had the intention to fight should there be even a little argument.

“Ke ke, why are you so anxious? I am only exchanging pointers with Junior Xiao Yan. What is there to feel strange about with matters like this in the Inner Academy?” Bai Cheng patted his sleeves and replied with a faint smile. “I will give you an advice. Since you have arrived at the Inner Academy, it would be best to do things according to the rules of the Inner Academy. Otherwise, you will only be seeking humiliation at the end of it all.”

When Bai Cheng spoke, his eyes continued to stare at Xiao Yan. His meaning was naturally understood without needing to give voice to it. In the confrontation earlier, Xiao Yan did not cause any damage to him, but he had firmly given Xiao Yan a punch with his finger. Of course, there was an ambush factor to it, but he had still gained the upperhand. Hence, he could not help but have some obscure pride and laughter when he spoke.

Xiao Yan was expressionless as he waved his hand at Wu Hao and the others, indicating for them not to be impulsive. His other hand was withdrawn into his sleeve. The instant it entered his sleeve, his hand involuntarily trembled a couple of times. That finger punch of Bai Cheng earlier was not weak. If it were not for him taking precautions, it was likely that this hand would not be able to move for quite a number of days.

He had been in the presence of Bai Cheng for only a couple of minutes but by studying this brief attack and the latter’s schemingness, this person was even more sinister than Bai Shan. It was clear that he had the advantage in strength yet he still used this underhanded sneak attack method. This action may cause people to despise him, but it must be said that it was very effective.

A thought flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart. He lifted his head slowly and eyed Bai Shan on the opposite side. A moment later, a faint smile suddenly appeared on his calm face as he softly said, “Senior Bai Shan is indeed worthy of being an expert on the ‘Strong Ranking.’ In terms of this finger punch today, Xiao Yan is less competent. I shall remember this in my heart and hopefully, Senior will retrieve it in the future.”

Bai Shan could not help but knit his eyebrows together as he stared at the faint smile on Xiao Yan's face. The degree in which the other party suppressed his emotion had really exceeded his expectation. The obscure gloating expression in his eyes slowly disappeared as he said in a deep voice, "As long as you have the ability, I, Bai Shan will wait for you any time. You set up Fu Ao and caused my 'White Gang' to be unable to touch your 'Pan's Gate' for half a year. This can also be considered a little ability of yours. However, I will let you disband 'Pan's Gate' by yourself half a year later!"

"I will still say the same thing. The Inner Academy uses the Inner Academy's own rules. No matter what your status is outside or what your potential is like, you can only lie on the ground before you have strength. However, you still dare to be this arrogant despite not having strength. You are undoubtedly seeking to humiliate yourself." Bai Cheng laughed coldly.

Seeing Xiao Yan being willfully reprimanded in public by Bai Cheng, there was a faint golden-colored flame that flashed over the intelligent eyes of Xun Er by the side. There was a rare killing intent present within the flame.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. Some coldness flashed across his dark black pupils. He suddenly extended his right hand and pressed down Wu Hao by the side. The latter's face was dark and solemn while his blood-colored Dou Qi had shrouded his body. He muttered in a soft voice, "Don't be impulsive... we will settle the score in the future."

Wu Hao hesitated as he was pressed down by Xiao Yan. The former could only nod his head and withdraw. He clearly understood that with their current strength, it was still very difficult to fight with Bai Cheng, who was a strong six star Dou Ling.

Bai Cheng gave a cold proud laugh when he listened to Xiao Yan's group not say anything.

"For other people, it is seeking humiliation just because they have no ability to be arrogant. Is this also the case if you, Bai Cheng, don't have the ability?" Just as Bai Cheng was prepared to swagger away, a clear voice was suddenly transmitted from the crowd. The voice was not unfamiliar, Bai Cheng's face changed slightly as he coldly said, "Han Yue! Why are you being a busy-body?"

The human crowd suddenly parted and formed a small path. Immediately, seven or eight graceful figures walked slowly forward. Waves of fragrance caused the observers around to brace their spirits. The person leading the group was Han Yue, who had met Xiao Yan once before.

The few people behind Han Yue were all similar women. All of them wore a crescent shape badge. Clearly, they belonged to the same faction. The appearance of these females may be inferior to Han Yue, but with so many of them gathered together they still attracted many eyes. In this Inner Academy where the males occupied three

quarters of the entire population, females, especially beautiful females, were undoubtedly extremely welcomed.

The moment Han Yue's group revealed themselves, the gazes of those around immediately became much more heated. Private conversations occurred continuously.

"I merely cannot accept watching you bully a group of new students by using your status. If you have the ability, why don't you go and act imposing in front of Lin Xiu Ya or Yan Hao?" Han Yue's face was still cold and indifferent, much like a glacier. With the combination of her silver hair that gathered about her waist and her silver-colored dress, only Xun Er and Hu Jia among all the ladies present could compete with her elegant demeanor.

"You..."

Bai Cheng's face faintly revealed his anger. The corner of his mouth twitched slightly. Lin Xiu Ya and Yan Hao were experts ranked in the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking,' their strength was at the peak of the Dou Ling class. The factions under them were also the top five within the Inner Academy. How would he dare to act arrogantly in front of them?

Although he had some anger in his heart, he did not dare to be too presumptuous toward Han Yue. The other party was not weaker than him regardless of whether it was her strength or her faction. Hence, he could only stare at Xiao Yan with a dark expression as he replied in a somewhat mocking manner, "If what Bai Shan said is true, your affinity with women is really something that people envy..."

"Half a year later, I want to see just what excuses you find." Bai Cheng waved his hand and laughed coldly. He led his people as they walked toward the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.'

"Half a year later, the 'White Gang' will disband..." Xiao Yan slowly inhaled a breath of air and whispered just as Bai Cheng passed by Xiao Yan's shoulders.

Bai Cheng's footsteps paused. His eyes carried some ridicule and a teasing manner as he eyed Xiao Yan and said, "I will wait for you. It would be best that you do not hide behind a woman's back at that time." Once he said that, he led his people and left this place.

Seeing Bai Cheng's group leaving, those people around who were waiting to see some fun could not help but shake their heads in disappointment.

Han Yue slowly walked toward Xiao Yan. When she saw his face, which remained calm after being taunted, she sighed softly and said, "I have told you yesterday that it would be best if you try to keep a low profile before you become strong. In the end, you have already attracted trouble today."

"I am not to be blamed for this. Other people have come to find us... I cannot simply do nothing about it." Xiao Yan smiled and shrugged his shoulders. Immediately, he cupped his hands toward Han Yue and said, "Senior Han Yue, thank you for speaking out for the 'Pan's Gate' today. If there is anything that you need help with in the future, I, Xiao Yan will definitely do all I can to help."

"This kind of thing... we can talk about this in the future. The current you cannot help me with anything." Han Yue shook her head. Her straightforward words caused Xiao Yan to smile helplessly.

"Open the Tower!"

Just as Xiao Yan introduced Xun Er and the two others to Han Yue, an old voice suddenly sounded mightily over the entire crowded area. Immediately, all the noise ceased. The creaking sound of the tower door being opened slowly reverberated...

#### **Chapter 474: Middle Grade Training Room**

As they eyed the door of the tower being opened, the crowd immediately became noisy. Xiao Yan could only cease his introduction, and raised his hands at Han Yue. After which, he looked at the increasingly wide gap of the door.

When the door was opened, the human crowd outside the tower door suddenly swarmed in, much like a flood.

Xiao Yan borrowed the advantage of a large group of people as he squeezed into the crowd and rushed into the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.'

After entering the tower Han Yue brought those few ladies that were with her and parted ways with Xiao Yan since their paths were different. Before she left, she reminded Xiao Yan to pay more attention to every action of the 'White Gang.'

Xiao Yan naturally accepted Han Yue's good intention in his heart. After watching their backs until they disappeared from his sight, he turned to the members of 'Pan's Gate.' Before entering the tower earlier, he had told them that they needed to be careful of their first grilling by the 'Heart Flame.' Moreover, he also told them the secret of how to correctly resolve the Heart Flame. Therefore, there was no excessively strange phenomena occurring other than the bodies of the new students becoming stiff as their eyes tightly shut and their faces became flushed.

After waiting for nearly two minutes, Xun Er was the first to open her eyes. There was a faint glow which covered her entire face. Clearly, she had gained quite a lot after the Dou Qi was refined by that cluster of Heart Flame.

Xiao Yan was also a little surprised at Xun Er being able to wake up this quickly. As she had already known how to resolve the Heart Flame, the test of being grilled by the Heart

Flame for the first time had naturally lost its verification purpose. Hence, that standard of one being more outstanding the longer one endured was also useless. Instead, currently, it was to see who was the one who could exhaust all of the strength of the wisp of Heart Flame and achieve the effect of strengthening their Dou Qi. It was this reason that caused Xiao Yan to feel shocked at Xun Er's speed.

Behind Xun Er was unsurprisingly Hu Jia. After her, the members of the 'Pan's Gate' began to wake up one after another.

Although the time they woke up was not uniform, it was clear from their glowing expressions that they had reaped quite a lot of benefits from the grilling of a wisp of Heart Flame. It appeared that the 'Fallen Heart Flame' did indeed grant enormous help when training.

"This 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' is indeed a little fantastic. No wonder those older students improve so quickly. This Inner Academy actually relies on it..." A surprised expression was on Xun Er's face. However, on top of being amazed, there seemed to be some other feeling that other people would have difficulty sensing.

"Training in the tower does indeed have the effect of gaining twice the effect with only half the effort." Hu Jia at the side also nodded joyfully. She said, "By training in the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' I will definitely be able to advance to the Dou Ling class in less than a year!"

The other members of 'Pan's Gate' also echoed with joyful faces. That anxious manner of theirs really appeared like they wanted to immediately find a place to sit down and train.

"This should be student Xiao Yan, right?"

Just as Xiao Yan was prepared to bring everyone to search for a training room, a middle-aged man suddenly and swiftly walked toward them. He smiled and asked a question toward Xiao Yan.

"This student is indeed Xiao Yan. Does instructor have something to discuss?" When Xiao Yan saw the special badge on this middle-aged man that only the instructors of the Inner Academy could wear, he immediately replied courteously.

"I was instructed by Elder Liu to lead you all to that 'Middle Grade Training Room'..." The middle-aged man spoke softly with a smile.

Xiao Yan's eyes brightened when he heard this. Only then did he recall that special 'Middle Grade Training Room' that Elder Liu had mentioned yesterday. He hurriedly cupped his hands together and said, "In that case, thank you very much for leading the way, instructor."

“Ke ke, it’s fine. Follow me.” The middle-aged man smiled and shook his head. His gaze randomly swept over Xiao Yan’s body. A moment later, he nodded slightly, turned around and led the way at the front.

“Follow him.” Xiao Yan waved toward everyone behind and hurriedly followed the middle-aged instructor in front.

The group of people followed behind this middle-aged man as they walked toward the area where the middle grade training rooms were inside the tower. After a few minutes of the tortuous route, everyone paused outside a somewhat old training room.

As they saw this training room which appeared somewhat old and broken compared to other places, Xiao Yan’s group could not help but be speechless. Seeing their expression, the middle-aged instructor knew what they were thinking, and laughed involuntarily as he pushed the door and entered.

Xiao Yan stood at the door, hesitated for a moment before leading the way in.

As they walked into the room, a faint cold air moved along their feet and climbed up from the spot where their feet touched the ground, causing the bodies of Xiao Yan’s group to have a cool feeling.

The faint warm light within the room was not too eye-piercing. Neither did it cause them to feel the room was dark. The size of the room was quite large with more than enough space to hold forty people. There was a large spacious platform in the middle which was piled from various pieces of dark black rocks. The platform was around two inches higher than the ground.

“Xiao Yan, the black rock area in the middle is the training area.”

The middle-aged man smiled, and walked toward the edge of the black rock platform. He lowered his body and pointed at some cable ties which were distinctly divided and smiled as he said, “Each person will have sufficient training space. This place has a notch which protrudes out. As long as all of you place your own Fire Crystal Card into respective ones and activate your Qi Technique, there will be an unceasing amount of Heart Flames appearing in your body. After which, all of you can use it to refine your Dou Qi, toughen your Qi Paths and bones, and raise your strengths.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan’s group hurriedly went forward and surrounded the place out of curiosity. They did indeed see that there were individual training area being drawn out on the black platform with an unknown dye. Moreover, there was a rock platform socket that was an inch higher in this training area.

“This is the first day that you have entered the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to train. Hence, I need to tell you all about the rules you must take note of.” The middle-aged man straightened his body, mused for awhile before continuing, “Although the



refinement using the Heart Flame can cause your training speed to soar greatly, you cannot forget about your meals nor sleep and simply just train here. This is because the Heart Flame contains the violent and wild strength of a fire. When it refines the debris within the Dou Qi, it also appends some wild and violent forces of a flame into it..."

"The wild and violent forces of this kind of flame cannot be resolved by Dou Qi. Instead, one must use time to wear them off. Hence, with your current strength and your resistance to the Heart Flame, it would be best if you train for half a day then rest for some nights. Training and resting in this manner is the best..."

"After you all have trained for a long time here, you can increase your training time appropriately. If you advance to the Dou Ling class, you can train for four to five days in one go within the tower without leaving. However, now... you all must take it one step at a time and follow the stipulated resting and training time. Otherwise, you will only damage yourself. This kind of thing is something that we, in the Inner Academy, don't wish to see." The middle-aged instructor reminded gravely.

Xiao Yan's group nodded their heads when they heard the middle-aged instructor's reminder.

The middle-aged instructor smiled when he saw this. He waved his hand and said, "Since you already understand this, then all of you should make the most of your time and train. The effects of your first time entering a training room to train will be extremely notable. Many new students with outstanding training talent advanced a level in their first training. Hopefully, all of you are able to do so too."

Once he said that, he swung his sleeves, turned around and walked out of the door.

Xiao Yan mused slightly as he eyed the middle-aged instructor leaving. After which, he walked swiftly and followed him. When he sent the latter out of the door, he suddenly whispered, "Instructor, please wait."

The middle-aged instructor could not help but be stunned when he heard Xiao Yan's words. While he was still slightly stunned, Xiao Yan swiftly stuffed a small jade bottle into his hand and spoke with a smile, "We have troubled instructor today. This is a bottle containing medicinal pills that are able to let one calm down and train. It is not considered to be very valuable..."

The middle-aged instructor was about to return the item Xiao Yan had suddenly stuffed into his hands when he heard it was a medicinal pill that would enable one to calm down and train. A joy flashed across his eyes. He hesitated for a moment before he smiled stored the jade bottle away as he looked left and right. In a soft voice, he said, "Little fellow, rest assured. Coincidentally, I am in charge of this area. Hence, hee hee, you can be at ease and train."

"Ke ke, instructor, thank you very much." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded.

“If you do not dislike it, you can call me old brother Hou Hu in the future.” That middle-aged instructor laughed and replied.

“In that case, the little me will do as you say even though I don’t deserve it.” Xiao Yan responded and smiled.

“Ah, good. Go in and train. Don’t waste time.” Hou Hu continued to smile and spoke while he waved his hand.

Xiao Yan nodded, turned around and shut the door.

Seeing the room door which was shut, Hou Hu could not resist shaking his head and whispering, “This little fellow really knows how to conduct himself. Not bad, not bad, I like him...”

.....

“Tsk tsk, this kind of strange training method is really unheard of.”

Xiao Yan had just entered the room when he heard Hu Jia’s voice. He followed the voice and looked over, only to see that she was repeatedly stroking the black-colored stone platform.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He walked forward and his hand carefully touched the black platform. A faint warmth moved along his finger and was transmitted over. Under this strange warmth, it appeared that the speed in which the Dou Qi was circulating in his body had become much more dynamic.

“It is indeed a little intriguing. Ke ke, everyone, find a place to sit. Let’s see how many people among us can advance to a higher level in our first training!” Xiao Yan drew the large Heavy Xuan Ruler from his back. He flicked his hand and returned it to his storage ring. His body leaped and he took the lead in finding a place that was a little to the left of the room.

Seeing Xiao Yan taking the lead, all the members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ did as they were ordered. Their bodies flashed and each of them found a training spot.

Xiao Yan crossed his legs and sat on the rock platform properly. He sensed the warmth which was becoming increasingly rich. After which, he let out a long breath and flicked his finger. A green-colored Fire Crystal Card appeared in his palm.

He held the green Fire Crystal Card tightly with both hands. After which, he carefully inserted it slowly into the notch on the ground. He heard a slight creaking sound as a faint light shot out from within the notch. Following the appearance of this light, Xiao Yan could clearly see that the number, one hundred forty-eight, on his green Fire

Crystal Card reduce by one. Clearly, this should be the deduction of one day's worth of training fee, which was also one 'Fire Energy'.

Not long after the 'Fire Energy' was deducted, Xiao Yan slowly shut his eyes. His hands formed the training seals and his body appeared to be like an old monk in meditation, not making even the slightest movement.

Soon after Xiao Yan did this, Xun Er and the rest also inserted their Fire Crystal Cards into the notch. In an instant, a slight creaking sound was repeatedly sounded within the room. Faint glows were lit at the same time and basically covered the light in the room.

The glow gradually dimmed and the room, which originally had some private conversations, slowly became quiet. Only the sound of steady and strong breathing slowly reverberated throughout the room.

### **Chapter 475: Refinement**

There was only the long lasting and calm sound of heartbeats slowly reverberating within his quiet and lonely space. After entering the training condition, Xiao Yan's ability to sense the surrounding natural energy became even sharper. He could feel the hot energy within this training room, which was so rich that it left one speechless. When training in this kind of place, people who practiced a fire affinity Qi Method would undoubtedly obtain an even more notable effect compared to the others.

"Pu..."

Xiao Yan's spirit became even more quiet. Suddenly, a low and slight sound appeared. Immediately, a cluster of seemingly invisible fire seedling that contained a strange undulation appeared at a spot not far away from Xiao Yan's heart without any forewarning. Threads of warmth were being emitted, grilling the interior of Xiao Yan's body until it was steaming hot.

Xiao Yan mind focused on that wisp of invisible flame. He once again felt a fear due to the elusiveness of the 'Fallen Heart Flame.' Even though he was currently in an extremely prepared condition, he still did not sense just how this wisp of flame had appeared...

Xiao Yan sighed quietly in his heart. He stared intently at this wisp of flame seedling. The current cluster undoubtedly appeared a little stronger than the one that Xiao Yan had met yesterday. It was likely due to this being a Middle Grade Training Room.

Following the appearance of this cluster of 'Fallen Heart Flame,' the kind of burning feeling in his Qi Paths he felt yesterday began to appear once again. However, Xiao Yan did not use the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' to isolate it like he did before. After understanding the training method here, he already understood that letting the Qi Paths, bones, muscles, and even the cells slowly persist and evolve under this burning pain

was a very important link in training within this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' Hence, if he were to isolate it, the benefits he would gain would become increasingly small. In that way, he would lose more than he gained.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth and endured the pain. That wisp of invisible flame seedling soared even more happily. The high temperature which curled upward seeped out and seemed to have formed an oven in his body. All the organs and even the Qi Paths in a person's body were being refined within this oven. Moreover, they were repeatedly becoming stronger under this refinement!

The burning pain that was created from the high temperature caused the Qi Paths in Xiao Yan's body to occasionally twitch extremely slightly. However, it was fortunate that it such pain was not impossible to endure. After withstanding it in this manner for ten minutes, Xiao Yan's mind moved. A faint glow was suddenly emitted from that rhombus shaped Dou Crystal in the middle of the vortex. Immediately, waves of powerful Dou Qi began to unceasingly swarm out from it like a floodgate that had been discharged.

Dou Qi swiftly circulated in his Qi Paths and it finally arrived by the wisp of the Fallen Heart Flame's split body under the direction of Xiao Yan's mind. As his mind moved, the Dou Qi that had been waiting at that spot immediately rushed over. Green-colored Dou Qi directly poured into that invisible flame!

At that instant, when the Dou Qi entered the invisible flame, Xiao Yan could clearly feel that the latter had suddenly become much hotter instantaneously. The Dou Qi that had entered the flame was like boiling water that was bubbling. There was something that was repeatedly being expelled within that high temperature and stripped off...

This kind of bubbling did not last for very long before that thread of Dou Qi successfully came out of the flame. After the Dou Qi exited the flame, its size was around half as much compared to when it had entered. However, the power and compactness of the energy that was contained within far exceeded what its earlier form could compare with. Clearly after being refined by the invisible flame, this thread of Dou Qi had successfully undergone a slimming process.

After the first thread of Dou Qi had successfully exited the flame, it was directed by Xiao Yan's mind and once again moved along his Qi Paths. It circulated one full cycle before being poured into the Dou Crystal. Immediately, the glow on the surface of the Dou Crystal once again soared a little.

Joy immediately flowed into Xiao Yan's heart when he saw this change of the Dou Crystal. This 'Fallen Heart Flame' was indeed worthy of being a training accelerator. This effect would directly cause anyone to view it with envy. If this matter were to spread, it was likely that the Jia Nan Academy would not be able to escape having people covet it even with its position in the continent.

Following the first successful refinement, Xiao Yan put down the final worry in his heart. His mind flashed and threads of Dou Qi were being drawn out from the Dou Crystal unceasingly. After which, they circulated along his Qi Paths, passed through the flame and once again returned to the Dou Crystal!

A perfect cycle. A perfect refinement. Under this kind of cyclic training, Xiao Yan could sense the increasingly surging Dou Qi in his Dou Crystal. According to this speed, it was likely that he would be able to reach the peak of a six star Da Dou Shi without much time and break through to a seven star Da Dou Shi from this!

One did not have a precise concept of time when training. When everyone was swiftly raising their strength deep within them, there was a drive that appeared to cause them to anxiously want to train until they advanced to the next level.

The surface of everyone's body in the spacious training room was wrapped by a layer of faint invisible fluctuations. Thin, faint white-colored fog rose from their heads. Immediately, it gradually became fainter until it was finally transformed into nothingness and disappeared.

Occasionally, an intense quivering would appear on the invisible fluctuations on the surface of one's body. Following the occurrence of this quivering, a faint red glow would suddenly swarm onto their faces. At that moment, if they were to carefully increase their perception, they would discover that their aura was much stronger than what it was before. Clearly, these people were extremely lucky to obtain a chance to advance the level of their strength during their first refinement.

Most of those in this training room who had a chance to advance their strength were those who had quite a good training talent but whose strength were only around that of a seven or eight star Dou Shi. People similar to Xiao Yan and Xun Er, whose strength had already reached that of a seven or eight star Da Dou Shi did not show such an advancement situation. After all, most of the students who were of similar level to them had already entered the second or third level to train. This first level middle grade training room could no longer fulfill their need.

The training time was like flowing water as it quietly elapsed between the gap of one's finger. When an ancient gong unknowingly sounded throughout the entire level, all the closed-eyed individuals in the training room slowly opened them. In an instant, the Qis of some people which could not be controlled properly due to the increase in their strength immediately spread all over the place.

Xiao Yan's eyes suddenly opened as a faint glow flashed past. He exhaled a deep breath of turbid air that had been restrained in his chest for a long while. As he twisted his neck, he could hear the clear cracking sound of his bones colliding with one another and laughed involuntarily. He turned his head and swept his gaze over the members of 'Pan's Gate' who had woken up, only to feel stunned. When his gaze swept over their eyes, he discovered that there was actually a thread of faint fiery redness.

“This should be caused by the the wild and violent energy factor that was mixed into their Dou Qi by the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ due to the refinement of their Dou Qi.” Since Xiao Yan was an expert in playing with fire, he was not unfamiliar with this kind of situation and managed to see the reason at a glance.

“It looks like it is indeed as Hou Hu had said. Those who are not strong cannot continue to train in this place. Otherwise, if an excessive amount of the wild and violent energy factor of the flame is accumulated, it would sooner or later result in a Fire Poison that is difficult to cure and damage one’s body.” Xiao Yan muttered and sighed in his heart.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, how was your training?” A soft gentle voice suddenly sounded beside Xiao Yan. He raised his head and discovered it was Xun Er who had just woken up.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across Xun Er intelligent eyes before he raised his eyebrow, feeling somewhat surprised. This girl actually did not have the slightest abnormality even after training for so long. That manner appeared as though the wild and violent energy factor of the flame had no effect on her.

“This girl is also another one who hides her strength...” Xiao Yan muttered. He once again turned his head to where Hu Jia and Wu Hao were at and discovered that there was a wisp of an extremely faint red glow which vaguely existed in their eyes. Clearly, they, whose surface strength was similar to Xiao Yan and Xun Er, had also suffered the erosion from the wild and violent energy factor of the flame.

Xiao Yan shook his hand and a crystal card appeared in his hand. He rubbed that smooth mirror surface and stared carefully at himself for awhile, only to realize somewhat surprisingly that the traces of erosion had actually not appeared in his eyes.

“With the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ protecting your body, you can refine your Dou Qi without fear. Although the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ cannot compare with the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ in terms of its ranking on the ‘Heavenly Flame Ranking,’ it would be somewhat wishful thinking if just this small little split body were to cause any harm to you, who has the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’s’ protection. As for your little girlfriend, it is likely that she possesses some mysterious object to protect her body...” Yao Lao’s voice quietly sounded in Xiao Yan’s heart just as he was feeling doubtful.

Xiao Yan only came to a sudden understanding when he heard this. He nodded without leaving a trace. His heart rejoice a little as he asked, “In that case, I can continue to stay in this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to train, and need not rest to resolve the wild and violent factor?”

“Yes. As long as you are able to endure the toughness of the training, the you, who possesses the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame,’ can control the training time as you please.” Yao Lao smiled as he replied.

“Ke ke, I have already endured this hardship for a few years, what can I not withstand?” Xiao Yan softly laughed. Some joy involuntarily surfaced on his face. With the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ protecting his body, the time he could train in the tower would greatly surpass other people. If this was the case, his training speed would also far exceed other people!

“Looks like I need to find an excuse to stay in the tower to train. I cannot just waste this precious time for no reason. If I can reach the Dou Ling class earlier, I will have the strength to snatch the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ when there is a chance for it in the future!” A thought flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart. He stood up from the black stone platform and flashed down from it. After which, he extended his hand, found Xun Er and told her some of his plans beside her ear.

Xun Er nodded after feeling a surprise in her heart. She focused on Xiao Yan’s somewhat fervent face before saying gently, “You can rest assured. Hand the matters of ‘Pan’s Gate’ to the three of us. You just need to be at ease and train.”

Xiao Yan lowered his head and eyed that elegant and ethereal face. For some unknown reason, a slight ripple involuntarily surfaced in his calm heart. This girl was really becoming more and more pretty over the years. After having left to train for so many years, it was extremely difficult for Xiao Yan to meet one woman whose appearance and demeanor could compete with her.

Xiao Yan shook his head with all his might and temporarily threw aside his thoughts. He gently patted Xun Er’s head before turning around and walking out of the training room by himself. Now, he needed to use some connections in order to conveniently be able to continue staying in the tower to train. Since he had the help of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame,’ it really would not be justified if he did not grab hold of this unique opportunity.

### **Chapter 476: Second Level**

After Xiao Yan walked out of the training room, he realized that the entire tower was in an extremely busy situation. People were coming and going, perhaps as a result of the gong. Quite a number of doors to various training rooms, which were tightly shut when he arrived, were currently all open. A large group of people swarmed out and swiftly walked to the exit of the tower. Xiao Yan could see a faint red glow in the eyes of all of these people.

Xiao Yan hesitated a little as he stood outside the training room. After which, he squeezed into the human flow and swiftly walked toward the middle section of the tower. The tunnel to the next level should be around there. It was obvious that one can only have a short one day stay on this first level. It appeared that he needed to go down a couple of levels if he wanted to continue training.

Xiao Yan followed the human flow as he squeezed and moved. His body agilely rushed forward in an extremely small range. This continued for less than ten minutes when the

human flow blocking in front of him gradually became thinner. He turned his body, and completely squeezed out of the human crowd.

A sigh of relief was released in Xiao Yan's heart as he felt the feeling of being squeezed from all around disappear. His gaze had just swept all around him to look for the tunnel to enter into the next level when a human figure suddenly flashed in front of him. Immediately, a deep voice which held a complaining tone sounded by Xiao Yan's ear, "You, this fellow, do you not know the rules? Don't tell me that you don't know that it is forbidden to randomly charge around within the tower after the gong has sounded?"

The human figure that appeared in front of him caused Xiao Yan to hurriedly stop. He lifted his gaze, only to realize that the other party was a middle-aged man who was around the same age as Hou Hu. He similarly wore an instructor badge on his chest. It looked like he should be similar to Hou Hu, an instructor who was in charge of order within the tower.

"Instructor..."

Since the other party was an instructor, Xiao Yan naturally did not dare to randomly roam around. However, he had just opened his mouth to explain when this instructor, whose face was as heavy as water, waved his hand. He frowned and said, "There is no need to say anything. Since the training is over, you should go back and rest. Wait until the hidden Fire Poison has been resolved tomorrow before you come back to the tower to train. The tower is going to begin the inspection procedure soon. If you are discovered to be still staying here, your 'Fire Energy' will be deducted."

Hidden Fire Poison should be the wild and violent factor that Hou Hu had mentioned. Although the name in which it was referred to was dissimilar, the actual meaning was about the same.

Seeing the stern face of this instructor, Xiao Yan could not help but feel a little headache. However, it was fortunate that the headache did not last very long before it was resolved by a voice.

"Huh? Xiao Yan? Why are you still here?" Xiao Yan's heart immediately rejoiced when he heard this voice. He eyed Hou Hu who was striding over and hurriedly threw an expression at him.

There was some doubt in Hou Hu's heart when he saw Xiao Yan winking at him. He walked forward and smiled as he said toward the middle-aged large man who was blocking Xiao Yan, "Qin Li, let me handle it, you can go and do your stuff."

Hearing this, that instructor hesitated a moment. His gaze swept over Xiao Yan's body and immediately nodded, "Alright. You need to quickly get him out. Otherwise, if he is discovered during the inspection, we will be reprimanded by Elder Liu."



“Yes.” Hou Hu nodded.

That instructor Qin Li only turned around and left after seeing Hou Hu nodding his head.

After his gaze saw Qin Li vanish around a corner, Hou Hu turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan and spoke in an uncertain manner, “Brother Xiao Yan, isn’t your training over? Why are you still wandering around here?”

“Hee hee, Brother Hou, I have something that I wish to ask for your help with.” Xiao Yan leaned forward a little and hinted with a smile.

“What is the matter about?” Hou Hu blinked his eyes and asked.

“Hee hee, Brother Hou, you should also know that with my current strength, I am unable to obtain any effects by training on the first level. Hence, I wish to go a few levels down to train. May I know if you can accommodate me?” Xiao Yan asked softly.

“Go a couple of levels down?”

Hou Hu was startled when he heard this. He immediately shook his head and said, “Brother Xiao Yan, I know that the effect of training at the first level is not very notable for someone of your strength. However, according to the rules, no matter how strong the new students are, they must train at the first level for one week before that can enter and train in the few levels below. Regardless of what your strength is like, the grilling of the Heart Flame would ultimately cause the Dou Qi to be filled with some Fire Poison. This thing cannot be taken lightly. During these many years in the Inner Academy, there had been quite a number of people who have suffered irreversible losses because of the accumulation of the Fire Poison.”

“Additionally, the grilling of the Heart Flame also requires some time to get used to. In this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,’ the strength of the Heart Flame and its degree of heat are increased exponentially every level down. You have not gotten used to the first level. It would be a little too risky to go down.”

After hearing this large chunk of words from Hou Hu, Xiao Yan immediately felt a giddiness in his head. A long while later, he helplessly shook his head, pointed at his eyes and said, “Old Brother Hou, the Qi Method which I practice may not be of a high class but it has a little special effect; it has a certain resistance toward poisons like the Fire Poison. Hence, you need not worry that I will be injured in any way because of the Fire Poison. As for adaptation, you can also rest assured. I have heard that usually those who are at the strength of around a five star Da Dou Shi would usually be able to enter the third level to train. I am now only entering the second level. There would not be too much of an effect.”

Hou Hu was stunned as he stared at Xiao Yan’s dark black, ink-like eyes. After working in the Inner Academy for so many years, he understood the Fire Poison extremely well.

Hence, as long as he saw the other party's eyes once, he would be able to identify whether there was Fire Poison in a person's body. However, when he looked at Xiao Yan's eyes at this moment, it appeared that Xiao Yan had really not been affected by the erosion of the Fire Poison.

"Alright, I believe that you have a resistance to Fire Poison. However, even if this is the case, it does not really follow the rules..." It was a long while later before Hou Hu sighed and nodded as he spoke somewhat grudgingly.

Seeing Hou Hu's indecisive manner, Xiao Yan took a step forward. He flipped his hand and another jade bottle was stuffed into Hou Hu's hands without leaving a trace. He smiled and said, "Brother Hou. You frequently work inside this tower. Although you are strong, it is likely that it is extremely difficult for the Fire Poison that your body absorbs everyday to disappear. This bottle of medicinal pill is called 'Ice Spirit Pill.' It may not be of a high tier but it has the effect of suppressing Fire Poison."

Hou Hu's heart pounded when a jade bottle was once again stuffed into his hand. After he heard Xiao Yan explain the effect of this medicinal pill, the hand of his which was holding the jade bottle immediately tightened. It appeared that he was afraid that it would immediately flee. It was just as Xiao Yan had said. As they frequently worked in this tower, the Fire Poison that the instructors suffered from was actually much more serious than the students. Moreover, there was the additional issue of not having sufficient rest occasionally. Hence, it was difficult to completely resolve the Fire Poison issue in them. After continuing in this manner for a long while, it was unavoidable that the flame in their hearts would rise occasionally, resulting in problems during their training.

Everyone knew the danger should something go wrong with one's training. Hence, when Hou Hu came to know that this medicinal pill actually contained the effect of suppressing Fire Poison, his heart was filled with surprise and joy at this moment.

Although it merely had a suppression effect and could not expel the Fire Poison, Hou Hu was still extremely satisfied. Therefore, after musing for a while, he laughed bitterly and sighed. His gaze eyed Xiao Yan somewhat strangely and said, "The things that you take out always cause people to be reluctant to reject your requests. Ah, alright. I will take a risk for you today. Follow me!"

Once he said that, Hou Hu's eyes swiftly swept all around him. After which, he pulled Xiao Yan, passed through a corner before swiftly walking to a spot in the middle of the room.

Xiao Yan heaved a long sigh of relief as he followed behind Hou Hu. The refinement of this 'Ice Spirit Pill' may be a little complicated, but it was not difficult. It was really unexpected that it actually had such a unique effect when it was used to bribe people. It really was a situation of something being used in the most suitable area.

After following behind Hou Hu for nearly five minutes, Xiao Yan finally sensed that the former had slowly reduced his pace. His eyes looked to the front and was coincidentally able to see that there was a spiral-shaped staircase at a corner not far away. It was likely the entrance to the next level.

“Fortunately, I am guarding the door today. Otherwise, I really could not let you down. Hei, don’t move, be careful. There is a space glass placed here. You will only be rebounded by the force contained on it if you randomly charge in. The fate of that is to be, at the very least, seriously injured.” Hou Hu swiftly walked to the entrance to the stairs. He said those words before he hurriedly held Xiao Yan who wanted to walk around him.

Only after being reminded by Hou Hu did Xiao Yan realize that the space at the entrance indeed had a faint feeling of being distorted. Immediately, he could not help but release cold sweat from being shocked. The interior of this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ really had various mechanisms and traps all around. If one was not careful, one would end up being seriously injured.

After shocking Xiao Yan until he was still, Hou Hu extended his hand and removed the badge on his chest before he carefully placed it in a hidden notch on a wall to the side.

As the badge pressed on it, a slight fluctuation suddenly appeared in the space in front. In the time it took to blink a couple of times, Xiao Yan realized that the distorted space feeling had already completely disappeared.

“Can I go in now?” Xiao Yan carefully asked.

“Yes, the space glass has already been removed. You can now go down by yourself. After you enter, I need to continue watching this place. Only tomorrow morning when the tower door opens will this place be opened.” Hou Hu nodded and said.

“Brother Hou Hu, thank you very much.” Xiao Yan rejoiced when he heard this. He cupped his hands toward Hou Hu with gratitude before carefully extending his hand into the empty space in front of him. He touched around before he felt at ease as he walked down the stairs.

“Remember, if you cannot endure the grilling of the Heart Flame at the second level, find a place to rest. Come back up to train after the tower is opened tomorrow.” Hou Hu reminded Xiao Yan.

“Ke ke, I understand. Thank you very much Brother Hou.” Hou Hu’s kind reminder caused Xiao Yan to smile and nod his head. He once again cupped his hands toward the former. With a flash of his body, he entered into the corner of the spiral staircase and disappeared.

Hou Hu tossed the jade bottle in his hand before carefully storing it away. He eyed the spot which Xiao Yan had disappeared from and sighed gently. In a soft voice, he said, "Little fellow, training in the lower levels may allow you to train faster but that is on the precondition that you can withstand the Heart Flame..."

"Hopefully, you will really be able to endure..."

### **Chapter 477: Exploration and Meeting**

Xiao Yan walked along the spiral-shaped staircase for around five minutes before the sight in front of him suddenly became spacious. His body once again turned around a corner, and another spacious level within the tower appeared in his sight.

The size of the second level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' did not differ much from the first level. However, compared to the first level, it appeared a little more desolate. Moreover, it did not contain the congested feeling of the first level. Although there were small groups of students who were repeatedly walking past, it was undoubtedly much better compared to the the situation in the first level where even walking was difficult.

Xiao Yan's appearance caused the students who had come out from the surrounding training rooms to get a temporary rest to feel somewhat strange. However, there was not much commotion. Everyone's gaze shifted away after they swept over Xiao Yan's body. They talked privately among themselves, appearing doubtful about why Xiao Yan was still able to come down at this time.

Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze that was sweeping all around him. He was not too concerned about the gazes around him. He walked slowly and headed to the second level within the tower.

Xiao Yan breathed in a mouthful of the somewhat hot air after entering the tower. He could sense that the fiery heat contained in the air of this second level was far greater compared to the first level. It appeared that each time one descended one level within this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' the temperature would be much higher. He really did not know just how hot the last level was. It was likely only some Elders would dare to enter that kind of place.

Xiao Yan moved his feet and slowly walked through this corridor which had a circular path. On the left side of the corridor were the low grade training rooms at the outermost section of the tower. However, Xiao Yan's aim was not here. Hence, he did not pause his footsteps as he continued to walk along the corridor and entered into the inner part of the tower. After nearly seven or eight minutes, he arrived at the middle grade training room area toward the inner part of the tower.

Xiao Yan stood in front of a middle grade training room where a tag, which represented there was no one within, was hung outside. He hesitated a little and did not immediately

enter it to train. After musing for a while, he quietly headed to the middle area of this level. Since he had intentions on getting the 'Fallen Heart Flame,' he needed to figure out just what exactly was the bottomless black pit in the middle.

Xiao Yan walked out of the middle grade training room area and headed for the high grade training room area. The training rooms here undoubtedly appeared more exquisite compared to those outside. Moreover, they were much fewer in numbers. Xiao Yan carefully counted and realized that there were only eighteen high grade training rooms. Moreover, a special tag that indicated that there was someone training within was hanging outside the doors of these training rooms at this moment. Clearly, these training rooms had already been occupied by people.

A tall, enclosed wall stood further in the high grade training room area. Three middle-aged men wearing instructor badges on each of their chests stood straight by the metal door at the bottom of the enclosed wall while wearing an indifferent expression. When they saw Xiao Yan, who was at the intersection on the other side, the three of them threw over their gazes in union. Their gazes were filled with warning.

Seeing the tight defense, Xiao Yan could not help but shake his head in his heart. He could only give up the thought of inspecting. His gaze simply looked randomly around him before he turned around as though nothing had happened and headed to the middle grade training room area which he had passed while coming here.

Although Xiao Yan's footsteps were slowly leaving, Xiao Yan could still sense that the gazes of the three instructor were firmly placed on his body. This cautious defense really caused Xiao Yan to be a little speechless.

"Looks like there should be a secret that cannot be made public at the middle area. Otherwise, there would not be such a tight defense. Ah, this damn 'Fallen Heart Flame' is really troublesome." Xiao Yan muttered in his heart. His footsteps slowly paused as he raised his head to eye the small-sized middle grade training room not far away. This kind of small-sized training room could only accommodate three to five people to train. It obviously could not be compared to the kind of spaces on the first level.

Xiao Yan looked left and right only to realize that there was only this room that carried a tag that informed people an empty spot remained in the room. Immediately, he moved his feet toward the middle grade training room and hurriedly walked over.

When he approached this middle grade training room, Xiao Yan gently pushed open the room's door. After which, he entered the room lightly, flipped his hand and closed it.

Warm light shone throughout every single corner of the training room. In the middle of this training room, there were five stone platforms which were around two to three feet apart. There were people seated cross-legged and training on four of these stone platform. Hence, Xiao Yan could only lift his leg and walk toward the remaining empty stone platform.

Perhaps it was because of the sound of the door opening but when Xiao Yan entered the training room, the four closed-eyed students opened them. Their gazes revealed an alertness as they watched Xiao Yan walk over. They sighed in relief only when they did not discover any badge that represented a faction on his body.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept over the four of them. He similarly discovered that they did not have any badges that represented any faction on their chest. It was likely that they were free people, who were those students that did not join any faction.

Although Xiao Yan did not wear the badge of any factions, the four people did not take the initiative to open their mouths to speak. They simply used their gazes to observe every single action of Xiao Yan.

"Four Da Dou Shi. However, seeing their unstable Qis, it is likely that they advanced to the Da Dou Shi class not long ago." Xiao Yan sat cross-legged on the dark black platform. His gaze randomly swept over the back of the four of them and immediately muttered in his heart,

Xiao Yan flicked his hand and a green-colored Fire Crystal Card appeared in it.

"Green Fire Crystal Card?" The moment the Crystal Card appeared in Xiao Yan's hand, four shocked voices immediately sounded in this training room. These voices contained some shock, envy and yearning...

Xiao Yan could not help but raise his eyebrows when he sensed the four yearning gazes that were shot from around him. He snorted as a powerful Qi surged out from within his body.

As they sensed the powerful Qi that surged out from Xiao Yan's body, the expressions of the four of them involuntarily changed a little. They hurriedly withdrew their covetous gaze and no longer dared to display the slightest greed. Looking at the Qi which Xiao Yan displayed, he was undoubtedly much stronger than them.

Seeing that these fellows were shaken, Xiao Yan slowly withdrew his Qi. The Green Fire Crystal Card was inserted into the notch in front of him. Immediately, a faint glow was emitted. During the time this glow shot out explosively, Xiao Yan suddenly realized that two days of 'Fire Energy' was deducted from the number of 'Fire Energy' in his Fire Crystal Card at one go!

Xiao Yan frowned slightly and muttered in his heart, "Don't tell me that the further one descends, the fee required to train for one day also increases? This Inner Academy is really harsh."

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He gradually closed his eyes as his hands formed the training seal in front of him. Awhile later, his breathing gradually became calm and he once again entered into his training condition.

.....

Over ten old men were seated orderly in a spacious large bright room. Under the warm light, one was able to clearly see the badges that they wore on their chest. They were shockingly all special badges which only Elders had the qualification to wear.

Although the room was large, the atmosphere was somewhat depressing. A long while later, an old man seated on the leader's chair with an appearance that one could not clearly see coughed softly. He took the lead to break the silence in the room as an old voice slowly resounded across the interior of the room, "That thing is beginning to be unstable again during these few days..."

The remaining old men frowned when they heard his words.

"After observing it during this period of time, I discovered that the fluctuations which 'it' emitted are much more intense than in the past. Moreover, from the emotions that 'it' emits, it is also become increasingly irritable..." The old voice continued to talk as it pleased, "From the looks of the situation, I'm afraid that within these few years, a huge counterattack will appear. If it is not handled properly, I'm afraid that it will be an extremely great trouble."

"What about if we join hands and reinforce the defense once again? If that is really not going to work, let us inform the Headmasters of the Inner and Outer Academy. This thing cannot be exposed. Otherwise, those fellows from the 'Black-Corner Region' might covet and charge over to snatch it. Although our Inner Academy is deep within the mountains, it is coincidentally not far from the northern part of the 'Black-Corner Region.' Once something happens, those old fellows who have been paying attention to the Inner Academy will immediately rush over after hearing the news. With their experience, the seal on the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' may not escape their notice..." An old man voiced his thoughts.

"It is a must to strengthen the defense... however, the Headmaster is undergoing a deep retreat. The Outer Academy Headmaster is also likely to head out and travel around. No one knows where he is now." The old man at the leader's seat slowly shook his head. He mused for a moment before he suddenly lifted his head and threw a gaze toward an Elder in a corner. He said, "Elder Liu, how is that little fellow who possesses a 'Heavenly Flame' now?"

"He is currently training in the second level. Perhaps it is because he also possesses a 'Heavenly Flame,' but he is actually not afraid of the Fire Poison erosion. I have also did as First Elder has instructed and gave him sufficient care." Elder Liu, who had met Xiao Yan once, hurriedly stood up and replied respectfully.

"Ah." The black-robed old man in the leader's seat nodded slightly. His old voice appeared a little low, "Ah, it really is unexpected. A 'Fallen Heart Flame' caused our Inner Academy to rise. Yet, a little fellow who is not even twenty years old actually

possesses such a mysterious object all by himself. It really causes people to be envious.”

“All Elders, if you meet this little fellow, you can try to make things convenient for him. Perhaps, when the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ rebels in the future, we may need to rely on his strength... Ah, we cannot underestimate the strength of a ‘Heavenly Flame.’ Such a mysterious object is born from assembling the spirits of the Heavens and Earth. It possesses destructive strength. If one is not careful, I’m afraid that even the Inner Academy can face the threat of being destroyed.” The First Elder whose entire body was wrapped in a black robe sighed and said.

“Yes!”

The ten plus Elders who were extremely respected by the Inner Academy’s students all stood up at this moment and replied in union.

“Yes, alright. All of you can disperse. Oh, that’s right. Remember to watch the movement of those large factions in the northern region of the ‘Black-Corner Region’ all the time. Especially those few fellows. There has been some unusual action in the Blood Sect recently. I heard that it is because of the death of that old fellow’s son. It really doesn’t allow us to stay relaxed...” The First Elder waved his hand and coughed a couple of times before speaking.

All the Elders nodded slightly. Their bodies immediately swayed, and they turned into vague black shadows that accompanied a breeze and disappeared from this tight room.

When everyone from the room had disappeared, that First Elder, whose entire body was wrapped within a black robe, finally stood up slowly. As his body straightened, it actually became increasingly illusionary. When he completely stood up from the chair, his body had already strangely disappeared from the room...

### **Chapter 478: Seven Star Da Dou Shi**

The invisible flame soared and burned within Xiao Yan’s heart. Threads of Dou Qi swarmed out unceasingly from the Dou Crystal. After which, they passed through the refinement of the flame, and once again returned to the Dou Crystal within the vortex.

Under this perfect cycle, the Dou Crystal, which was originally only the size of a thumb was already nearing the size of a pigeon egg. Moreover, the glow that was contained on the surface of it was becoming increasingly bright...

This change of the Dou Crystal naturally did not escape Xiao Yan attention. Since he was in a training state, he was not too certain just how long he had trained this time around. However, from looking at the powerful Dou Qi contained within the Dou Crystal, it appeared that he had already reached the peak of a six star Da Dou Shi. Perhaps he would be able to truly enter the seven star Da Dou Shi level very soon!



The Heart Flame rose endlessly near his heart, providing Xiao Yan with inexhaustible refining energy. All the cycles currently in Xiao Yan's body were basically in a sort of an automatic process after having circulated for a long time. The Dou Qi did not require the control of Xiao Yan's mind as it swarmed out of the Dou Crystal by itself, followed the path of the cycle, passed through the flame, and finally returned to the Dou Crystal once again.

Xiao Yan was naturally not foolish enough to break this kind of automatic training condition that was relatively difficult to come across. He simply quietly watched the increasingly bright glow of the Dou Crystal by the side.

.....

There was no concept of time when it came to training. When Xiao Yan's somewhat chaotic mind was once again woken up by a strange fluctuation, he was surprised to realize that the rhombus Dou Crystal within the vortex was actually like a star, repeatedly pulsating with a unique glow.

This sudden action of the Dou Crystal caused Xiao Yan to feel surprise for awhile before he understood with great joy that the chance for advancement had actually arrived!

Xiao Yan forcefully suppressed the wild joy that had rose within his heart. He did not issue any order to the Dou Crystal, but merely adopted the attitude of an observer as he carefully watched its actions.

The rhombus-shaped Dou Crystal was suspended within the vortex. Suddenly, a suction force seeped out from within it. Following the appearance of this suction force, Xiao Yan could sense that the powerful Dou Qi, which was still flowing through the Qi Paths in his body, appeared to have received a dragging force. It began to turn into a turbulent flood water as it carried a muted bang and swiftly swarmed into the vortex located in his lower abdomen.

At this moment, not only was the interior of Xiao Yan's body experiencing a change but a large movement had also appeared on the exterior of his body. The moment the Dou Crystal emitted a suction force, the energy that was spread all over Xiao Yan's body involuntarily swiftly fluctuated. A moment later, waves of heated energy began to wildly pour into Xiao Yan at the middle!

The energy in the training room far exceeded the outside world. Hence, when the energy was pouring in, the people around could even see a partially visible energy swirl being swiftly formed with Xiao Yan at the middle.

The remaining four students within the training room were also awakened from their training condition due to the shock from the sudden movement. They were startled when their gazes saw the energy swirl over the surface of Xiao Yan's body.

Immediately, their faces were filled with envy. Clearly, they knew what this movement meant.

“This fellow has trained without eating or sleeping for nearly four days. He really is an abnormal being...” A student eyed Xiao Yan who was wildly absorbing the surrounding energy and involuntarily whispered.

Since Xiao Yan arrived at this training place four days ago, he had not made even the slightest movement. During these four days, the other four students had all left to rest a couple of times before returning to the tower to train. Xiao Yan, on the other hand, had continued training until this day under their astonished eyes. If it were not for Xiao Yan’s calm breathing, it was likely that they would have already reported it to the instructor within the tower.

“I have inquired around today. This fellow is the leader of the new students this year. He is called Xiao Yan and is very strong. Rumor has it that even Fu Ao from the ‘White Gang’ was defeated by him.” A lady with a somewhat tender and lovely appearance stared at Xiao Yan’s face and carefully informed the rest.

“He is Xiao Yan? Hei, originally I did not really believe the rumors about him. However, now that I have seen him, it looks like they are true.” A surprise immediately swarmed onto the faces of the other three students when they heard this. Clearly, they did not find Xiao Yan’s name unfamiliar despite them not having joined any faction.

“Shh, be a little quieter. If we are to accidentally interrupt his advancement, we will be in trouble...” That lady placed a finger on her lips as she softly chastised.

“Yes.” The remaining three nodded slightly. They similarly understood just what kind of fury a person would have should their advancement be interrupted.

.....

The Dou Crystal in Xiao Yan’s vortex repeatedly released a suction force. The Dou Qi within his Qi Paths had been completely withdrawn. The Dou Qi that endlessly swarmed into his body from outside was not immediately absorbed into the Dou Crystal like the Dou Qi in his body. Instead, it was controlled such that it passed through that invisible flame within his body, undergoing a refinement. After which, it once again followed the Qi Paths in his body and completed a cycle before it entered into the Dou Crystal under the observation of Xiao Yan’s pleased mind!

Although no one controlled the actions of the Dou Crystal, the latter completed this absorption, circulation, refinement and other steps without any mistake. Its control over the strength of the flame was perfect. Xiao Yan would likely be unable to achieve such a level of control if he controlled it himself.

Xiao Yan's action of totally washing his hands off and not bothering about anything appeared to have coincidentally allowed him to obtain a greater achievement.

As time flowed by, the suction force that was emitted from within the Dou Crystal grew increasingly powerful. The energy that poured into his body from the outside world also grew increasingly swift. If it were not because of the special terrain at this place and that the invisible flame could unceasingly appear, perhaps even the flame which refined the energy would cease working because of exhaustion of its energy.

Once the invisible flame disappeared, this refinement step would automatically disappear. At that time, Xiao Yan might have to personally take the helm. Otherwise, if he allowed the mottled energies to enter into his Dou Crystal, it was likely that he would not only have no hope to advance, but it would also cause him damage that would be difficult to remedy.

All the activities in the interior of Xiao Yan's body and the outside world were being orderly carried out under the command of his Dou Crystal. This advancement was undoubtedly the easiest one Xiao Yan had experienced. By borrowing the effect of the invisible flame, Xiao Yan had successfully become a leader who abandoned his duty for once.

When the suction force in the Dou Crystal had been emitted for around twenty minutes, it finally began to weaken. As the suction force weakened, the energy swirl that Xiao Yan had created also slowly became weaker and finally completely disappeared.

The final thread of somewhat mottled energy passed through the invisible flame. Its body, which had shrunk by nearly ten times, was finally carried and circulated in a complete cycle through the Qi Paths before entering the Dou Crystal within the vortex...

As the final threads of Dou Qi poured in, the somewhat trembling Dou Crystal suddenly stilled. The glow which it emitted suddenly surged. Bright intense light shone on every single spot within his body. Under the shine of this strange powerful light, Xiao Yan could vaguely feel his Qi Paths, bones, and even cells emitting an inaudible relaxed sigh...

The strange powerful light continued for merely ten seconds before it slowly withdrew. A moment later, the light grew increasingly dim until it finally disappeared.

The moment the powerful glow disappeared, the Dou Crystal which was hidden within it appeared!

When the Dou Crystal appeared, it let out a slight tremble. A thread of powerful Dou Qi swarmed out. Finally, it was entrenched into his Qi Paths like a green-colored torrent. It swiftly channeled past, giving Xiao Yan repeated feelings of being filled with energy!

Xiao Yan's mind studied the rhombus-shaped Dou Crystal, which was nearly two to three circular layers larger than before. He sensed the Dou Qi reserve was more than twice what it was before. Xiao Yan could not help but let out a long sigh of relief. At least this tough training of his was not wasted...

As Xiao Yan's tensed heart slowly relaxed, he was gradually unable to maintain his training condition. His spirit was a little too giddy and he immediately withdrew from his training condition...

Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes within the spacious training room. A faint green-colored glow flashed across his dark black eyes. He lifted his head slightly and swept it toward the other four people in the room. When they saw him sweep his gaze over, the remaining four people hurriedly turned their gazes away. At this moment, Xiao Yan had just completed his advancement and the force all over his body had reached its peak. How could they, as people who had just advanced to the Da Dou Shi class, contend with him?

Xiao Yan did not bother with the four people. He released a long turbid breath. His dark black eyes immediately became even deeper and more transparent.

Xiao Yan twisted his body and adjusted himself quietly before he withdrew the green Fire Crystal Card in front of him. He randomly glanced at it with his pupils and was stunned to realize that eight days of 'Fire Energy' had been deducted...

"How long have I trained for?" Xiao Yan frowned, turned his head and asked a student.

"Four days..." Seeing that Xiao Yan had voiced a question, that student hurriedly replied honestly.

"I actually trained for four days... no wonder..." Xiao Yan muttered helplessly. However, he rejoiced slightly within his heart. He had merely trained for four days, yet he had actually broken through to the seven star level. If it was in the outside world, this was impossible without one or two months.

"This 'Fallen Heart Flame'... does indeed have unceasing wonders... its split body that shoots into people's hearts can actually cause a person to raise their training speed to such an extent. If one possessed its actual body, just how frightening will one's training speed be?"

Xiao Yan praised once before he stood up. He directly walked out of the training room. After training for four days without rest or sleep, he needed to temporarily rest for awhile. Although working hard when training was good, Xiao Yan also knew that one would not be able to achieve anything if one overdid things...

## **Chapter 479: The Changes of Pan's Gate**

The warm sunlight scattered down as Xiao Yan walked out of the tower, causing Xiao Yan, who had stayed in the tower for a full five days, to have an impulse to simply lie down and not move. He covered his face with his hand and gazed at the blue sky through the gap between his fingers. He involuntarily inhaled a deep breath of fresh air with all his might. Although training in the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was able to let one train at a faster pace, that kind of dullness caused people's hearts to be far too depressed.

The Inner Academy had also thought of this point, which was why the light within the tower was made such that it was warm but not gloomy. However, no matter what was done, the tower was ultimately a tower. No matter how sufficient the light was within the tower, it would still feel like a cage-like area in anyone's eyes. Only by looking at the vast sky outside would one be able to feel one's emotions open up.

"No wonder the Inner Academy tries to think of all ways to prohibit students from staying in the tower for too long. By staying for a long time, a deformity might really form in one's mentality..." Xiao Yan quietly muttered. Only then did he move his feet and walk along the path that slowly headed for the area where 'Pan's Gate' was at.

"I have not come out for four days. I wonder just how Xun Er and the rest are. They should not have encountered any problems..." As Xiao Yan thought in this manner within his heart, his footsteps involuntarily increased in speed.

Having walked this path for quite a number of times, Xiao Yan did not reach the point of making the mistake of being lost. Hence, after half an hour of rushing, the new students' residence area appeared in his sight. His hurried footsteps also became a little slower after discovering that there was nothing amiss.

Using a laid back pace, Xiao Yan slowly walked into the residence area when his footsteps suddenly came to a halt. He knit his brows together as he eyed the four students at the entrance of the residence area as his eyes swiftly swept over their chests, only to discover a similar badge on them. The badge was entirely pale green in color and there was a black-colored object carved onto it.

"What faction do these people belong to? Don't tell me that they are here to find trouble with us again?" A thought flashed across Xiao Yan's heart. His expression became much darker and gloomier. Were these fellows not being too much like bullies? They had come to create trouble time and time again. Did they really think that these new students did not have a temper?

Xiao Yan moved his hand slightly and an enormous heavy ruler strangely flashed and appeared. He held the hilt of the ruler tightly as he walked toward the four students at the entrance with a dark and solemn face. The dark and deep anger on his face was something that anyone could see.

At this moment, the four students at the door also saw Xiao Yan. They were immediately startled before the four of them directly rushed over to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and directly watched the four people. His toes stepped on the ground. However, his body had just rushed forward when the excited cries from the mouths of the four people caused his face to be stunned.

“Chief, you are finally back!”

The heavy ruler in his hand was abruptly inserted into the ground, using this to stop his body which was just about to charge forward. He was surprised as he eyed the four people who had come to his side. A long while later, he asked somewhat uncertainly, “You are... people from ‘Pan’s Gate?’”

“Hee hee, Yes.” A young man among them who had an ordinary face, but a brilliant smile, nodded and spoke with that smile on his face, “Senior Xun Er said that since we are a faction, we should have a badge that belongs to us. She said that this would increase the sense of belonging the members have toward ‘Pan’s Gate’.”

Xiao Yan sighed in relief within his heart. He felt a little ashamed. As a leader, he was really somewhat irresponsible. He was actually not able to remember the faces of the members and had even nearly attacked them earlier...

Xiao Yan swept his gaze over the four people. Now that they had come close to him, Xiao Yan realized that the black-colored object on the badge seemed to be the Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand while that green colored background seemed to be the same color as his ‘Green Lotus Core Flame.’

“This girl is really quite meticulous...” Xiao Yan laughed softly, patted the four excited people beside him and asked, “Xun Er should be inside, right?”

“Yes, Senior Xun Er is inside. Now, our ‘Pan’s Gate’ also have our own guard unit. Everyday, four people will take turns to stand guard and protect the residence. Moreover, there are ten members waiting for orders inside at any one time, ready to handle any unexpected situations. Senior Xun Er gave the other members the freedom of movement so that they can be familiar with the geography of the Inner Academy as soon as possible.” That young man appeared to be eloquent. He was leading the way while talking about the changes that had happened to ‘Pan’s Gate’ during these short four days as though he was pouring beans.

Xiao Yan quietly listened to him speak and could not help but praise within his heart. This girl really did have some ability. In just a few short days, she was able to consolidate ‘Pan’s Gate’ such that it appeared totally new. These kind of measures were something that Xiao Yan, who was used to being alone, could not produce.

When they were entering into the entrance of the residence area, the other three members of 'Pan's Gate' paused. They continued to perform sentry while that eloquent young man continued to lead the way at the front until he brought Xiao Yan to the small pavilion home at the innermost area. Only then did he stop.

"Hee hee, chief, you can go in by yourself. I still need to return to do sentry. Senior Xun Er said that as long as we complete three full days of sentry and that no unexpected events happen during this period of time, we will be able to receive one day of 'Fire Energy.' The other brothers and sisters are all snatching to do this work now. Ha ha." The young man smiled and explained after he stopped walking.

Xiao Yan opened his mouth when he saw the young man's somewhat urgent and prideful face. His heart was finally filled with admiration. The girl had merely used some simple means to cause people to compete for the work of doing sentry. Although this kind of means was not too special, how many factions within the Inner Academy had the boldness and resolution to take out 'Fire Energy' as a reward? They themselves would feel that there was not enough of it. Xiao Yan, who had went to the second level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' clearly understood just how large the demand for 'Fire Energy' was in the lower parts of the tower.

"What is your name?" Xiao Yan smiled and asked just before the young man left.

"Chief, I am called Tie Mu. You must definitely look for me if you have problems in the future. Even if I cannot win in a fight, there are many brothers within our 'Pan's Gate!" The young man who called himself Tie Mu smiled as he rubbed his face, feeling a little shock at the great treatment Xiao Yan was giving him by inquiring for his name.

"Ke ke, alright. You should go and do your stuff." Xiao Yan nodded. He eyed the back of the other person as the latter ran with large steps and once again sighed at the changes of 'Pan's Gate.' The current 'Pan's Gate' was filled with an extremely solid cohesion. This kind of strength was the most basic factor that would enable a faction to grow.

Xiao Yan smiled in his heart as he turned around and pushed open the door to the pavilion home before slowly walking in.

Upon entering the pavilion home, Xiao Yan's gaze swept in all directions before finally stopping on a windowsill on the second story, where the beautiful back of someone carefully watering a flower was.

At this moment, faint sunlight poured through the window, shining on the tall and delicate body. The body was like a green lotus swaying under the sunlight, appearing elegant and otherworldly, but was filled with temptation at the same time.

Xiao Yan's gaze was somewhat blurred as he watched that beautiful figure. He remained quiet, unwilling to break this beautiful drawing.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge?”

No matter how beautiful the drawing was, there would ultimately come a time when one returned to reality. After she placed the watering pot in her hand down, the young lady finally saw the black-robed young man below. A faint joy and sleek redness involuntarily surfaced on her exquisite face.

Xiao Yan recovered when he heard the clear voice of the young lady. He smiled at the latter before slowly walking up to the second story. As his hands rubbed Xun Er's head, he smiled and praised, “Girl, not bad. I didn't expect that in only four days, you would have managed ‘Pan's Gate’ in such a manner. I have really underestimated you.”

“There is also Elder Sister Hu Jia's efforts here.” Seeing that there was no strange expression on Xiao Yan's face, Xun Er quietly sighed in relief. She naturally pulled at Xiao Yan's hand and said with a lovely smile.

“It is fortunate that there are the both of you. Otherwise, this ‘Pan's Gate’ would sooner or later be managed by Wu Hao and me until it is about to collapse...” Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. He understood his own ability. Moreover, Wu Hao, that fighting lunatic was clearly no expert in management.

“That's right, where is Hu Jia and Wu Hao?” Xiao Yan swept in gaze in all direction and asked uncertainly.

Xun Er pursed her lips and laughed softly. She said, “Elder Sister Hu Jia has gone to the Dou Technique Hall. She wants to see if there are any high class Dou Technique suitable for her there. As for Wu Hao... he went to the Fighting Arena. Moreover, he has not come back for the past two days, but Xiao Yan ge-ge need not worry. There are people from our ‘Pan's Gate’ there. Someone will inform us if there is something wrong.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He eyed that artfully smiling, splendid and exquisite face, and his heart could not help but pound. He extended his hand and held that delicate narrow waist which filled his grip. After which, he pulled the somewhat embarrassed Xun Er into a tight hug.

“You've worked hard. Xun Er...” Xiao Yan's chin was placed in front of Xun Er's forehead as he softly muttered.

“Why is Xiao Yan ge-ge being so courteous to Xun Er? When we were young...” Xun Er suddenly smiled. Before she had completed saying what she wanted to, she was interrupted by Xiao Yan.

“During these few years, you have already repaid me by over a hundredfold for those accidental actions that I did when I was young...” Xiao Yan softly sighed. What this girl had given to him was a little too much. Originally, with her elegant lotus-like character, it was very difficult for her to worry about a certain man in her heart. Moreover, with her



outstandingness, there were truly very few men of similar age who could catch her eye. Although the strength on the surface was but a seven star Da Dou Shi, Xiao Yan would never forget how she, as a person who had just become a Dou Zhe back then at Wu Tan City, had unleashed the strength of a Da Dou Shi because of the alchemist Liu Xi, whom the Jia Li clan had hired.

Three years ago, she was able to reach the strength of a Da Dou Shi. Three years later...

As he thought up to this point, Xiao Yan once again laughed bitterly.

Xun Er's face gently leaned against Xiao Yan's chest. Xun Er did not mind. A stubborn shallow arc was lifted at the corner of her mouth. A moment later, she suddenly recalled something and her expression became straight. She broke free from Xiao Yan's chest and pulled him along as she hurriedly walked into her room.

"What is it?" Xun Er's action caused Xiao Yan to be startled as he asked doubtfully.

"There's someone I want you to see." Xun Er smiled. She gently clapped with her delicate hand. The dark shadow from a corner of the room was suddenly slowly extended. After which, it agglomerated together and wiggled swiftly.

In Xiao Yan's somewhat shocked gaze, the dark shadow gradually agglomerated into the human figure of an old man. Finally, a somewhat familiar face that carried a smile appeared in Xiao Yan's eyes.

"Ke ke, young friend Xiao Yan. Have you been well since we parted..." The old man could not help but ask with a smile when he saw Xiao Yan's increasingly stunned gaze.

"You... you are old man Ling?" Xiao Yan's eyes stared at the old man in front of him. A moment later, he spoke in a somewhat disbelieving manner.

Old man Ling. The old man who had appeared in front of Xiao Yan was shockingly that mysterious Dou Huang helper with an unknown background back when the latter had charged into the Misty Cloud Sect...

#### **Chapter 480: Tou She Ancient God's Jade?**

Seeing Xiao Yan stunned as well as astonished manner, Ling Ying smiled and nodded. He bowed slightly toward Xun Er. "Young Lady (Young Lady)!"

Xiao Yan gradually recovered from his dumbfoundedness. When he heard the manner in which Ling Ying addressed Xun Er, his gaze involuntarily turned toward the latter. There was some relief in his eyes as he frowned slightly and said, "The both of you..."

“Ke ke, Young Master Xiao Yan. Around less than half a year after you have left Wu Tan City, I obeyed Young Lady’s dispatch and arrived at the Jia Ma Empire. I went to search for your traces and to quietly protect you along the way.” Ling Ying smiled and explained, “You should not blame Young Lady for making her own decision to intervene in your matter. It is just that the you then was alone and weak. It was extremely dangerous to venture out into the Jia Ma Empire alone. After arriving at the Jia Nan Academy, Young Lady was really worried. Hence, she got me to quietly go and protect you.”

“Originally, I was the final protection that the Clan Head arranged for Young Lady. During that period of time that I was not around her was perhaps the period of time when Young Lady’s protection was at its weakest. Now, you may perhaps vaguely know how enormous the faction behind Young Lady is. Hence, there are quite a number of people who have intentions toward Young Lady . Fortunately, this Jia Nan Academy is indeed worthy of being an ancient academy renown throughout the continent and did not allow any trouble to befall Young Lady . Otherwise, I’m afraid that I will have to receive an extremely strict dressing down by the Clan Head.” Ling Ying smiled as he spoke. The hidden meaning behind these words was to allow Xiao Yan to understand clearly just how much of a risk Xun Er took to ensure his safety and not form any resentful emotions toward Xun Er because of this. After having been with Xiao Yan for a period of time, he clearly knew that this fellow had a great discrimination against monitoring him in secret.

Xiao Yan was naturally able hear the meaning behind Ling Ying’s words. Immediately he sighed softly, patted Xun Er’s head with his hand and laughed bitterly, “You this girl... what problems will I have? You have really underestimated me?”

Seeing that there was no blaming look on Xiao Yan’s expression, Xun Er quietly sighed in relief. She suddenly smiled but did not open her mouth to explain herself.

“Old Ling, the last time, we parted in a hurry. Now that we have meet, Xiao Yan will once again say thank you for lending a hand last time.” Xiao Yan stood straight and bowed slightly toward Ling Ying while speaking in a deep voice.

“Ke ke, why does Young Master Xiao Yan need to be so courteous? I merely did as I was ordered.” Ling Ying hurriedly waved his hand and replied.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge. This time around, the main reason for me letting you meet with Old Ling is because I have got him to carefully investigate the movement of the experts within our clan during this period of time. He did not discover any elite Dou Huangs entering the Jia Ma Empire during these few years...” Xun Er softly said.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. Originally, he merely suspected that there was some relationship between his father’s disappearance and the faction behind Xun Er. However, after he had discussed it with her, his doubt had become fainter. However,

he did not expect that this girl had actually gone to the trouble of sending people to investigate.

“Young Master Xiao Yan, the matter of your father’s disappearance is indeed not related to us. The Xiao clan or perhaps I should say the Xiao clan from a long time ago has some deep relations to us. There are far too many favors and grudges within this relationship... there have indeed been some strong people within the clan who suggested we bring all the members of your Xiao clan back. However, they chose to give up due to the enormous dispute.” Ling Ying mused for a moment before he slowly spoke, “In the recent few years, there has seldom been anyone who brought up this matter. Hence, your father’s disappearance should be done by someone else.”

Xiao Yan frowned intently and sighed. His voice was low and deep as he said, “Our Xiao clan is but a second rate faction within an empire. How can it bother a strong Dou Huang such that he would act against it? If this is the case, it is likely that the greatest suspicion still lies with the Misty Cloud Sect. Ah. That damn First Elder...”

Xiao Zhan went missing while being chased by that First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect. Moreover, there was no one else present at that time. Therefore... whether the person went missing or was secretly kidnapped by him was likely something that no one else would know other than him. However, the party involved was already dead now. The traces of Xiao Zhan had become even more bewildering. However, no matter how one looked at this matter, it has some relation with the Misty Cloud Sect.

Back then Xiao Yan had lost his reasoning and killed the First Elder on the spot in his anger. After which, he was chased by the Misty Cloud Sect with great effort and he had to flee. Finally, he had escaped out of the Jia Ma Empire. He did not have even a little time during this period to give any deep thoughts to some of the strangeness regarding this matter. Now that he had once again mentioned the Misty Cloud Sect, Xiao Yan, who had calmed down, began to have some doubts in his heart... however, from the looks of the expression of the First Elder just before he died, it did not appear that he was lying...

“Ugh...”

Xiao Yan used all his strength to shake his head as he sighed. No matter how one put it, the Misty Cloud Sect did have some hidden foggy implication with regards to the disappearance of his father. He might perhaps obtain some clues regarding this matter when he returned to the Jia Ma Empire in the future...

Now, however, the him who was chased after with the intention to kill, still did not possess the kind of strength to contend with the entire Misty Cloud Sect. Hence, the only thing that Xiao Yan could do now was to quietly undergo bitter training and prepare to obtain the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ at any point in time. He clearly knew that if he were to train in a normal fashion, it would likely be impossible for him to possess the strength to return and take revenge on the Misty Cloud Sect without five years worth of time.

Therefore... his hope entirely lay with the 'Fallen Heart Flame.' As long as he possessed this second type of 'Heavenly Flame,' the him who practices the mysterious 'Flame Mantra' would possess a strength that could truly contend with the Misty Cloud Sect.

"Misty Cloud Sect..." Ling Ying's mouth also repeated this faction which he did not think much of back then. A strange expression suddenly flashed in his turbid eyes. However, it completely disappeared an instant later.

"Misty Cloud Sect... it is related to them once again. Back then, when I was chased out of the Jia Ma Empire by them, I had said that I would sooner or later return! At that time, I will definitely get to the bottom of this matter!" Xiao Yan violently held his fist. His voice contained a suppressed violent anger and killing intent.

Xun Er nodded slightly and softly said, "I will let someone observe the Misty Cloud Sect... Xiao Yan ge-ge also need not be too anxious. Training with a mind at ease is the correct path."

Xiao Yan's expression was slightly dark and solemn. A moment later, he nodded and rubbed his head with his hand. He once again conversed with Ling Ying for awhile before he, who was not too interested, frowned and left Xun Er's room by himself.

Xun Er watched Xiao Yan's back as he left. She waved her delicate hand and a wind shut the door tightly. Immediately, she was afraid that it was not secure and she shot out a golden glow from her palm which finally covered the entire room.

.....

"Old Ling, you seem to know something related to the Misty Cloud Sect?" Xun Er suddenly spoke after laying the soundproofing properly.

Ling Ying was startled when he heard this. He hesitated for a moment before nodding. His low soft voice said, "This time, when I went back, I specially checked some of the information regarding the Misty Cloud Sect, only to discover some things that I did not know in the past..."

"Speak." Xun Er's pupils narrowed. A shocking faint golden glow flashed passed as she waved her hand and spoke.

"This faction which has been holed up within the Jia Ma Empire appears to have some hidden and extremely obscure contact with 'those fellows'..." Ling Ying slowly said.

"Those fellows?" Xun Er was slightly startled. Her pretty face immediately changed a little. "You are talking about them?"

"Yes." Ling Ying nodded.

“Why would the Misty Cloud Sect be involved with them? No matter how one put it, the Misty Cloud Sect once had some strong people at the peak who possessed quite a reputation within the continent. Why would they get involved with them?” Xun Er spoke doubtfully.

“I am not certain... however, it appears that they were involved for only a short period of time. Perhaps they were only involved with the last Misty Cloud Sect leader, who is also the current elite Dou Zong Yun Shan. I’m afraid that not many people within the Misty Cloud Sect knows about this. I think that even the current Misty Cloud Sect Leader Yun Yun is also unaware of the connection between Yun Shan and them... otherwise...” Ling Ying hesitated for a moment when he revealed information up to this point. He eyed Xun Er’s tranquil face and softly said, “Otherwise, it would be impossible for her not to display things due to the little relationship between her and Young Master Xiao Yan...”

Xun Er nodded slightly. Her expression was still calm and did not have any change because of these words. Her voice only appeared a little colder. “If they are really involved with the Misty Cloud Sect... then Uncle Xiao Zhan’s disappearance may well have some relationship with them. After all... they also know that the Xiao clan had a portion of the key related to ‘that thing’. However, these fellows clearly know of our relationship with the Xiao clan. Yet they still dare act in such a reckless manner. They are really becoming increasingly wild.”

“Yes.”

Ling Ying nodded his head. He stared at Xun Er before speaking somewhat hesitantly, “Young Lady, you have been in the Xiao clan for over a decade... back then the clan allowed you to come to the Xiao clan with the intention of letting you secretly obtain that key from the Xiao clan. However, you have come to the Jia Nan Academy. Now, after so many years, you still do not have any news related to the key. This time when I went back, I heard that some dissatisfaction had appeared in the clan... if it was not because the ancestors of the Xiao clan having once had a blood oath with the clan, I’m afraid that there are some people who intend to use force.”

Xun Er raised her eyes slightly. A golden-colored flame leaped within her intelligent eyes as she said in a calm voice, “Just ignore them.”

Ling Ying could only smile bitterly and nod when he heard this.

“You should temporarily not tell Xiao Yan ge-ge about the matter of the Misty Cloud Sect’s involvement with ‘them.’ It will not be too late to tell him about it once he has the strength to contend with the Misty Cloud Sect. If we tell him about it now, I’m afraid that it would be detrimental for him.” Xun Er reminded.

“Yes.” Ling Ying nodded and replied respectfully.

“Ah... you should leave the Inner Academy first. There are too many strong people around here. If they were to discover traces of you, there would definitely be some trouble.” Xun Er waved her hand and ordered.

“Yes.” Ling Ying once again nodded as he said, “I will stay deep in the mountains. If Young Lady has any problems, you can send out the special signal of the clan.”

Once Ling Ying said this, his body trembled and began to twist strangely. Finally, it turned into a dark shadow, and quietly merged into the darkness of the room...

Not long after Ling Ying disappeared, Xun Er let out a soft sigh. The strange golden-colored flames in her eyes was slowly withdrawn. Her delicate hand rubbed her face, causing an additional gentleness to appear on her indifferent face. After which, she turned around and walked out of the room.

After Xun Er left the room, her gaze swept in all directions. Finally, it stopped at the peak of the pavilion house before she slowly walked up.

The sky had already gradually turned dark when Xun Er walked to the highest floor. There were a few stars which occasionally flickered, and a pale moon hung in the sky, emitting faint moonlight.

.....

Xiao Yan sat on the northern corner. His hand was playing with an ancient jade piece which emitted a strange glow. Under the shine of the moonlight, the strange lines on the surface of the ancient jade appeared to be breathing. It was bright at times and dim at other times. However, this did not attract Xiao Yan's attention. His gaze was staring intently at an agile light spot which was repeatedly swimming within the ancient jade. This light spot represented the life and death of his father. At such a time, only this light spot that was still emitting a vitality was able to cause Xiao Yan to truly devote himself to training.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge.”

The clear voice of a young lady suddenly sounded not far away. Xiao Yan raised his head to take a look and eyed Xun Er who was walking over with a smile. He also stood up.

Xun Er smiled as she walked toward Xiao Yan. However, when her moving gaze paused onto the ancient jade in Xiao Yan's hand due to the light, her walking footsteps suddenly stopped. Shock slowly surfaced on her elegant and pretty face.

“This... this, this is Tou She Ancient Emperor's Jade?”

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## Chapter 481: Tou She Ancient Emperor

Tou She Ancient Emperor's Jade?

Xiao Yan frowned slightly when he heard these strange words that came out from Xiao Yan's mouth, and saw the stunned expression on her face. His hand tightly held the cool mysterious ancient jade and said, "You recognize this thing?"

Xun Er inhaled a deep breath of cool air. Her expression was changing rapidly. It was a long while later before she clenched her teeth and swiftly walked to Xiao Yan's side. She said softly, "Xiao Yan ge-ge. Where did you get this from?"

"When the entire clan was moved, the Elders gave me to keep it safe." Xiao Yan eyed Xun Er's strange expression and his frown deepened a little. He asked in a deep voice, "What is it?"

"So it is this thing... the portion of the key which the Xiao clan holds is actually the Tou She Ancient Emperor's Jade..." Xun Er's gaze stared intently at the ancient jade in Xiao Yan's hand. A thought in her heart swiftly surged and rolled like flood water. A moment later, she slowly closed her eyes before immediately opening them. The shock in her eyes gradually became calm when she did so.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge do not take this Tou She Ancient Emperor's Jade out in front of anyone in the future. Remember. Anyone!" Xun Er held Xiao Yan's hand tightly. There was a solemnness that was never seen before on her face.

"Although there may be extremely few people on this continent who can recognize this thing, if other people were to know that you possess the Tou She Ancient Emperor's Jade, I'm afraid that you would immediately invite a fatal disaster. Even... this Jia Nan Academy may attack you out of desire for it." Xun Er's voice was extremely soft, seemingly afraid that there might be someone eavesdropping.

Seeing Xun Er's solemn expression, Xiao Yan's face had also become much more solemn. His hand held this piece of mysterious ancient jade. A faint cool was emitted from it, causing his heart to remain calm at all times. He nodded and said softly, "Why is this thing called Tou She Ancient Emperor's Jade? Isn't it just a symbol of the clan head of our Xiao clan?"

Xun Er nodded slightly and softly said, "After such a long time, there may currently no longer be anyone in the Xiao clan who knows about the background of this piece of jade. Hence, it is only treated as a kind of symbol the clan head passes down from

mouth to mouth. Moreover, it is used to store a little spiritual imprint within it, in order to conveniently let the clan members know about the life and death of the clan head.”

“What exactly is its history? Hearing you talk in this manner, this so called Tou She Ancient Emperor’s Jade seems to be an extremely extraordinary thing? Why would it be in our Xiao clan?” Xiao Yan asked in a deep voice.

“It is more than just extraordinary...” Xun Er laughed bitterly in her heart but she shook her head, “Xiao Yan ge-ge. Due to some reasons, I cannot tell you too many things now. Otherwise, it will not have the slightest benefit to you. If you believe Xun Er, then listen to me at this moment. In the future, do not take out this piece of jade in front of anyone!”

Xiao Yan’s knit his brows until they formed a line. He eyed the somewhat begging face of Xun Er and his heart softened a moment later. All he could do was sigh and nod. With a flip of his hand, he stored that incomparably mysterious ancient jade into his storage ring.

Xun Er sighed in relief only upon seeing Xiao Yan storing the ancient jade properly. She softly said, “Xiao Yan ge-ge. Keep it hidden. Although this piece of Tou She Ancient Emperor’s Jade in your hands is incomplete, it still hides an extremely great energy and magical strength. However, until now, the elders in the Xiao clan only researched and found out about the little insignificant ability of storing a spiritual imprint. In the future, it might provide you with a great amount of help.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His eyes were shining as he stared at Xun Er. In an instant, the two of them suddenly became quiet.

This silent atmosphere caused Xun Er to feel extremely uneasy. This was especially so under Xiao Yan’s shining gaze. A bitter laugh involuntarily surfaced in Xun Er’s heart. She sighed, lifted her head and looked directly at Xiao Yan’s gaze. Her voice was soft and gentle as she spoke, “Xiao Yan ge-ge. There are some things I hide from you, but trust Xun Er. Those things absolutely do not pose the slightest harm to you...”

“Trust me. As long as Xiao Yan ge-ge has the strength to contend with the Misty Cloud Sect, I will tell you about everything, including the faction behind Xun Er, and its relationship with the Xiao clan.”

Xiao Yan’s eyes stared intently at Xun Er. A long time later, he slowly nodded. His hand rubbed Xun Er’s head, and he said in a deep and soft voice, “Alright, I will wait for the day when you reveal everything to me.” Once he said this, he took the lead in turning his body and walking directly down the stairs.

Xun Er once again laughed bitterly as she eyed Xiao Yan’s back which had disappeared at the stairs. She clenched her silver teeth and said softly, “Ah, forget it. I don’t need to bother about the mission from the clan. Getting me to take away the ‘Tou She Ancient



Emperor's Jade' from Xiao Yan ge-ge hands is something that I cannot do... In any case, there is no one else who knows about this. The people in the clan should likely not be able to guess that it is in Xiao Yan ge-ge's hands."

.....

The faint moonlight scattered into the dark black room, shining into it until it was somewhat dim.

Xiao Yan sat cross-legged on the bed. His spiritual strength completely broke out of his body as his spiritual perception wrapped around the entire room. Every single dark corner within the room was repeatedly searched by it. Such cautiousness continued for over ten minutes before Xiao Yan tapped on the dark black ring. Immediately, a tread of faint glow drifted out and agglomerated into an old figure a moment later.

"Teacher..." Xiao Yan's mouth moved when he saw Yao Lao's figure. The latter waved his hand and voiced his thoughts, "I know that you want to ask about the matter regarding the 'Tou She Ancient Emperor's Jade.' However, even I have only vaguely heard about this thing and have never seen it..."

Xiao Yan was a little disappointed when he heard this. He probed, "Then does Teacher know what exactly is it?"

"I can only tell you that this Tou She Ancient Emperor's Jade is perhaps related to that Tou She Ancient Emperor a thousand years ago..." Yao Lao was silent for a long while before he finally spoke slowly.

"Tou She Ancient Emperor?"

Xiao Yan was startled. He muttered this phrase once again from his mouth. A moment later, he said uncertainly, "It's a person?"

"Perhaps it is not overboard to call him a God." Yao Lao sighed. There was an inexplicable respect in his voice.

Xiao Yan's heart shook. His throat rolled a little. He naturally knew that there was no such thing as a Emperor in this world. If one insisted that there was, then it would be some living being that had trained Dou Qi until the pinnacle stage where they could contend with the Heavens and Earth.

"Don't tell me, he... he was a... Dou Di?"

Xiao Yan's voice trembled slightly when he spoke the last two words. In this continent, no matter who it was, one would involuntarily speak with respect when mentioning this phrase that represented an incomparable and supreme peak.

“Yes.”

Yao Lao’s spirit also trembled a little at this moment. His low and deep voice reverberated throughout this room, “On the Dou Qi continent, an elite Dou Sheng is perhaps considered to be as rare as a unicorn’s horn or a phoenix’s feather. However, Dou Di... is something that is extremely difficult to appear. That barrier which cannot be crossed is an enormous barrier which confronts many people with talent so outstanding that even the Heavens and Earth are amazed at. Many can only quietly withdraw. Putting aside the ancient times that were already lost, in the current era, with the exception of that Tou She Ancient Emperor one thousand years ago, the continent, according to what I know, has yet to see another appear...”

“Dou Sheng and Dou Di... although they differ by only one level, it was like the difference between the Heavens and the Earth. In so many years, those strong people who had the qualification to stand at the peak of this world ultimately end up failing to get there.”

“The ‘Tou She Ancient Emperor’s Jade’ in your hand is perhaps the rumored item left behind by Tou She Ancient Emperor? Although I am not too certain about its exact use, from the looks of it, it appears to only be a small portion... However, just the name of its owner is sufficient to attract the strong people in the continent to rush over and snatch it. Hence, there is some logic from that little girlfriend of yours not letting you take this thing out in front of anyone.”

Yao Lao’s expression was somewhat solemn. He had never expected that the Xiao clan would actually possess such a mysterious object that could ruffle the entire continent. Moreover, he knew very well just what kind of severe situation Xiao Yan would face if this news was to leak out. The strong people that this thing would attract were not people that the Misty Cloud Sect could compare with. It was likely that even one of those who come would have already reached strengths comparable to when he was at his peak. With Xiao Yan’s strength, he undoubtedly did not have the slightest ability to resist.

“Tou She Ancient Emperor...”

Xiao Yan sighed and laughed bitterly. He suddenly had an illusory feeling. Originally, what he thought was an ordinary keepsake of the clan was suddenly now something that had a relationship with a legendary Emperor-like person. This seemingly sudden transformation had caused Xiao Yan to feel that it was somewhat surreal.

“I know that the impact of this matter is a little too huge. You can just treat it as though nothing happened today. Only the three of us know about this matter and I think that it will not leak out. In the future, this Tou She Ancient Jade may perhaps have some benefits to give you. Now, however, your strength is far from being able to come into contact with its profoundness. Hence, just let it quietly stay in your storage ring.” Yao Lao helplessly shook his head and spoke when he eyed Xiao Yan’s expression.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and nodded. This was all he could do at the moment. However, it was unavoidable for his heart to feel uncertain now that he was suddenly in possession of this kind of great treasure.

“From tomorrow on, you should enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ for a retreat and get to the Dou Ling class as soon as possible in order to increase the chances of success of snatching the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ by a little.” Yao Lao smiled and suggested.

Xiao Yan nodded his head. He mused for a moment before his heart became a little relieved. The so called whatever Dou Di was indeed so far away from him that he could not even reach it even if he tried. Now, the most important thing to him was the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ That thing can give him actual strength. Even if one assumes that this so called Tou She Ancient Emperor’s Jade was something that was left behind by that legendary Tou She Dou Di without discussing the validity of this claim, Xiao Yan did not believe that he would be able to thoroughly understand it after some brief study given that so many ancestors of the Xiao clan failed to do so. Hence, rather than placing his hope on this Tou She Ancient Emperor’s Jade with a use that he was uncertain of, it was better for him to increase his strength and place his thoughts on the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’...

This was a little more reliable and tangible.

#### **Chapter 482: Green Wood Celestial Vine**

When Xiao Yan came out of his room the next day, he coincidentally saw Hu Jia and Wu Hao who had returned. Hu Jia was little different from her usual self but Wu Hao’s appearance was a little ugly. His face carried little bruises. Despite carrying many injuries on his face, this fighting lunatic appears to have an excited and fanatic expression. When Xiao Yan observed his manner, he saw that there was faintly a little extra aggressiveness and sharpness to it. Clearly, having muddled along at the Fighting Arena for these few days had caused this fellow to gain something.

“Xiao Yan, your level actually advanced?”

When the two of them saw Xiao Yan and sensed his aura that was more mellow and stronger than a couple of days ago, the both of them involuntarily asked in surprise.

Xiao Yan nodded. He stopped in the hall and smiled as he asked Wu Hao, “How is the Fighting Arena?”

“There are many strong people. Moreover, they are the kind of strong people who were honed in true battles. They are far from what those people in the Outer Academy, who only know how to train, can compare with. I was there for four days and fought eight rounds, winning three and losing five. In the end, I still lost nearly twenty days of ‘Fire Energy.’” Wu Hao nodded his head. His evaluation of the Fighting Arena was quite high.

“Oh?”

Xiao Yan was slightly shocked when he heard this. Even someone with Wu Hao's strength couldn't maintain a victory rate of fifty percent in the Fighting Arena. It appeared that there were really as many strong people as there were clouds within the Fighting Arena. This caused him to form some interest.

“If you have the time, you can go to the Fighting Arena to try. That is a good place to hone oneself.” Wu Hao stuffed a pastry in his hand into his mouth and said vaguely, “During a period after this, I'm afraid that I will not often go to the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train. I think that the Fighting Arena is more suitable for me.”

Xiao Yan smiled. He was about to speak when he heard the footsteps behind him. When he turned around to take a look, he realized that it was Xun Er who was walking down the stairs.

Xiao Yan smiled at Xun Er. He mused for a moment before speaking, “Coincidentally everyone is present. I shall inform all of you that I plan to go into a retreat within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' for a period of time. During this period of them, I will need to hand over the matters within 'Pan's Gate' to the three of you.”

“Retreat?” The three people in the hall were somewhat stunned when they heard Xiao Yan's words. It was awhile later before Xun Er asked, “How long?”

“Until I break through the eight star level.” Xiao Yan replied with a smile.

“Ugh? You have broken through to the seven star for only a short while and you are thinking of breaking through again? Even with the help of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' one would not have such a speed right?” Hu Jia knit her eyebrows and questioned.

“One would indeed not have such a speed in the first or second level. However, don't we possess the green Fire Crystal Card? Ke ke, this thing is sufficient to let us enter into the fifth or even sixth level to train.” Xiao Yan said as he smiled.

Wu Hao eyes immediately widened when he heard this. He said, “The fifth or sixth level? Don't you know that each time you descend the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' by one level, the Heart Flame will become increasingly powerful and hot? With your strength as a seven star Da Dou Shi, you would be able to train at the third level at the very most. The fifth or sixth level would require one to be at least a four star Dou Ling and above to withstand it.”

Hu Jia by the side also nodded slightly. After getting familiar with the Inner Academy during this period of time, she also knew some of the information regarding the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’”

“All of you can rest assured that Xiao Yan ge-ge is able to do it. Haven’t all of you seen the large number of unexpected events that occur around him?” Upon hearing Xiao Yan’s words, Xun Er’s reaction was different from Wu Hao and Hu Jia. She merely was a little startled before she immediately raised her teacup with her delicate hand and took a shallow sip before speaking in a soft voice. Her understanding of Xiao Yan was a little greater than the other two. Moreover, she also understood that given Xiao Yan’s character, it was definitely impossible for him to do things that he was not confident of.

Xiao Yan nodded with a smile. The him who possessed the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ was able to ignore the vigor of the Heart Flame and the corrosion of the Fire Poison. From the other students perspective, these may perhaps be extremely great obstacles in training. However, in front of him, these things would not even delay his footsteps by half an inch.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had already made up his mind, Wu Hao and Hu Jia could only nod their heads.

“During the period where I am in retreat, you should all pay a little more attention to the ‘White Gang.’ That Bai Cheng does not appear to be a magnanimous person. I think that even with that half a year agreement, it is likely that he will quietly play some little tricks.” Xiao Yan furrowed his brows slightly when he mentioned Bai Cheng. That dark and evil fellow kept causing people to feel uneasy in their hearts.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, you can be at ease and undertake your retreat. When you come out, you will see an even stronger ‘Pan’s Gate.’ As for that Bai Cheng, if he really wants to cause obstruction secretly, he cannot blame us for not following the rules of the Inner Academy.” Xun Er nodded and spoke with a faint smile.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. With Xun Er in charge, Xiao Yan would naturally be able to completely be at ease. He did not really view a single Bai Cheng too seriously.

“That’s right. Is there any place in the Inner Academy that one can obtain various medicinal ingredients or Monster Cores?” Xiao Yan gulped down the tea in his teacup at once before suddenly asking.

“Medicinal ingredients? Monster Core?”

Xun Er mused for a moment before nodding. She said, “The eastern region of the Inner Academy is a trading area. There are many different strange objects being sold there which include many medicinal ingredients. These things are those that the students of the Inner Academy found by themselves deep in the mountains. However, you will need ‘Fire Energy’ if you want to purchase them.”

After remembering the location in his head, Xiao Yan patted his buttock and bid the three others goodbye before he left the new student residence area. After which, he walked all the way to the eastern region of the Inner Academy Xun Er had mentioned.

This time around, his retreat would last for a long time. Moreover, in order to display the best effect during the training, he also needed to prepare some things.

The size of the Inner Academy was extremely vast. Xiao Yan had to spend a total of half an hour to get from the new student residence area to the eastern area of the Inner Academy. However, it was fortunate that this so called transaction area within the Inner Academy could be considered to be a popular place. Therefore, there were always people coming and going along the road that led there such that Xiao Yan did not get lost.

Half an hour later, Xiao Yan paused outside an extremely vast plaza. There were quite a number of stone tables set up within the plaza. At these moment, there was a dazzling assortment of various items being placed on these stone tables. The squeezing crowd was bustling outside these stone tables. The great popularity of this place caused Xiao Yan to be a little speechless.

The surrounding noisiness nearly caused Xiao Yan to lose his bearing when he walked into this enormous trading area. He twisted his body and squeezed into the human crowd. His gaze repeatedly swept over the items on those stone tables. As his gaze swept over them, the surprise in his heart increased. He realized that some of the things that were sold here were actually not the slightest bit inferior to some of the large cities in the 'Black-Corner Region.' Perhaps it was because the Inner Academy was itself located deep within the vast mountains, but some of the rare items among those on the stone tables were things that one would have difficulty seeing in some of the shops within the 'Black-Corner Region.'

After Xiao Yan felt an astonishment in his heart, he began to search for the medicinal ingredients which he needed. The things that he needed were not to refine some high tiered medicinal pill. Hence, it was not too difficult to find them. After spending one hour to scour for treasures and spending nearly thirty days of 'Fire Energy,' he had nearly obtained all the medicinal ingredients he needed.

Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly as he eyed the 'Fire Energy' on the green Fire Crystal Card which had greatly shrunk. He originally thought that over a hundred days of 'Fire Energy' was considered quite good. He did not expect that it could not endure his spending.

After sighing over his spent 'Fire Energy' within his heart, Xiao Yan decided to leave this noisy place. However, his body had just turned when Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded in his heart, "Little fellow. The eighth stall in front of you. Go over there and take a look."

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard Yao Lao speaking suddenly. He immediately turned his head around somewhat uncertainly and threw his gaze to the eighth stall in front of him. However, he was a little stunned to realize that the originally squeezing

human crowd appeared to be void from that spot. Some students who had passed through this place swiftly leaped pass the area like a rabbit.

Xiao Yan carried some doubt within his heart as he lifted his footsteps and squeezed into the human flow as he walked over to the somewhat special area.

As he approached that area where the human flow was cut, his eyes moved along the stall and took a glance, only to see that there was a pale grey clothed man seated cross-legged behind it. His eyes were tightly shut as he ignored the surrounding human crowd. That manner of his did not appear to be like someone who had come out to sell things.

“This person... his aura is very strong. I’m afraid that even Bai Cheng cannot match him. It appears that he is another expert on the ‘Strong Ranking.’ Although his aura is very strong, it is filled with a kind of fiery and violent hostility. It appears that this fellow’s temper is not very good.” By relying on his sharp Spiritual Perception, the aura of the gray robed man was still unable to escape Xiao Yan’s senses despite the latter having kept it hidden very well. A strange thought immediately flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart as he sensed the aura.

Xiao Yan’s gaze shifted from the gray-robed man to the stone platform as he slowly swept over it.

As Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across him, the shock he felt in his heart become increasingly dense. There were quite a number of Monster Cores of various elements being displayed on the stone table. Moreover, these Monster Cores were around rank four. A Magical Beast of such a rank was sufficient to be a match for an elite Dou Ling. It was really unexpected that this person had taken out so many of them at once.

Xiao Yan shook his head as he sighed in shock. His continuously moving gaze suddenly stilled. A low and soft shocked voice sounded in his heart as his eyes stared at an item in the middle of the stone table.

The thing that attracted Xiao Yan’s gaze was a dry vine that was around half a foot long. The vine was an emerald green color, much like a good piece of jade. There were faint natural lines being drawn on it. It was wound up like a meandering green snake. The strangest thing was that this dark green dry vine still emitted a strange scent that caused one to feel refreshed. Looking at this point, one would know that this thing was not ordinary.

“This is?”

Although Xiao Yan was able to know that this thing should be the rarest item on the stone table by just looking at its appearance, he was unable to identify what it was with just his knowledge.

“Green Wood Celestial Vine!” Yao Lao faint laughter contained a joy that was difficult to hide.

“Green Wood Celestial Vine?”

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. Immediately, his heart shook and joy quietly swarmed onto his face.

Green Wood Celestial Vine. One of the necessary items to refine the ‘Ground Spirit Pill.’ It was really unexpected that he would be so lucky to find it here. It must be said that his luck was at its limit!

### **Chapter 483: Strange Fellow**

Xiao Yan suppressed the joy within his heart and squeezed out of the human flow. He slowly walked toward this somewhat special stone table. Upon seeing his action, the surrounding human flow involuntarily halted their footsteps. The gazes which they used to look at Xiao Yan appeared to contract a playfulness of watching the fun.

Xiao Yan’s footsteps stopped in front of the stone platform. His eyes shot to that Green Wood Celestial Vine. After hesitating for a moment, his hand extended toward it.

“Chi...”

Just as Xiao Yan’s hand was about to touch that Green Wood Celestial Vine, a sharp wind suddenly rushed through the air toward him. The strength of the wind even caused the hair on Xiao Yan’s hand to stand up in shock.

Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows as he sensed the sharpness of the force. A thought passed through his heart and green-colored flame immediately surged out from within the Acceptance Spirit. After which, it swiftly moved passed a few Qi Paths before it suddenly broke free from his body and swiftly wrapped around his withdrawing hand.

“Huh?”

The instant Xiao Yan’s hand was wrapped by the green-colored flame, a surprised exclamation suddenly sounded. That sharp wind was immediately annihilated.

After successfully withdrawing his hand, Xiao Yan lifted his head to eye the gray-robed man in front of him. At this moment, the latter had already opened his eyes. His face carried shock as he eyed Xiao Yan. When Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over the other person’s eyes, he was slightly startled as he saw that the other party’s eyes were actually filled with a strange red glow that was mixed with some ferocity.

Xiao Yan was not unfamiliar with this kind of red glow. As long as one trained for a long time within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,’ such a condition would appear.



Normally, this was called Fire Poison invading one's body. However, there was merely a little bit of red glow within the eyes of those people whom he had seen a couple of days ago. On the other hand, the fellow in front of him... the entirety of his eyes appeared to be filled with the red glow. Clearly, the Fire Poison had invaded deep into his body... Such a serious invasion of Fire Poison in one's body was the first one that Xiao Yan had seen until now.

"If you are not buying, don't just randomly touch." The gray-clothed man blinked his red eyes as he coldly glanced at Xiao Yan. After which, he spoke faintly as withdrew his fingers placed together, appearing like a knife.

Xiao Yan was a little amused by this attitude of the gray-clothed man. He shook his head helplessly within his heart. Now, he finally understood why the people around shunned this fellow. The buyer was actually nearly attacked when he took a look at the merchandise. Regardless of how high rank the items that he displayed were, it was likely that there was hardly anyone who dared to purchase them.

"Who said that I am not buying?" Xiao Yan crossed his arms in front of his chest, and replied in a similarly indifferent tone.

"Don't pay me lip service. If you want to buy, you can take out the 'Fire Energy' to buy it. Debating here and there and wasting time." An irritable feeling flashed across his reddened pupils. The gray-clothed man's hand suddenly slammed on the stone table as he spoke angrily.

"The invasion of the Fire Poison into his body is actually this serious... even his mind has been affected by it." Xiao Yan was unconcerned about the angry rebuke of the gray-clothed man. His face became slightly solemn. It was really unexpected that the Fire Poison within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was actually this strong. It appeared that he should be even more careful when he trained in the future even though he had the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' protecting his body.

"How much does this green vine cost?" Xiao Yan pointed at the strange Green Wood Celestial Vine and asked faintly. From how the other party had placed it in the most eye-catching spot, one could understand that this fellow actually knew the rarity of this thing. Hence, there was likely going to be some difficulty if Xiao Yan wanted to carelessly obtain it like in the past.

"Four hundred days of 'Fire Energy.'" The gray-clothed man replied in a cold voice.

The moment the gray-clothed man said these words, the entire area suddenly became quiet. The gaze which each of them used to look at one another was like that in which they used to look at a lunatic. Four hundred days... this kind of large number was something that some people were likely unable to obtain in an entire year or even two years. Was this fellow's big appetite not a little overboard? Although they could also see

that this green vine was a little unique, there would definitely not be some who believed that it was worth four hundred days of 'Fire Energy.'

Under this kind of sky-high price, forget about the surrounding observers, even Xiao Yan also involuntarily twitched his mouth. Four hundred days... this fellow...

"I'm afraid that it is a little expensive, no?" Xiao Yan swallowed the breath that was choked in his chest before speaking with a frown.

"Although I do not know what exactly this Green Wood Celestial Vine is, two Dou Wang class Magical Beasts fought to death over it. That is sufficient to prove its worth. Moreover, in order to obtain it, I nearly threw away my life. Therefore, four hundred days of 'Fire Energy' is not expensive. If you are really unable to afford it, please leave. Don't disturb me doing business." The gray-clothed man glanced at Xiao Yan and replied before waving his hand.

Although the gray-clothed man spoke easily, these words of his still caused the crowd around him to be somewhat shaken. Snatching something from the hands of two Dou Wang class Magical Beasts. This fellow... was indeed worthy of being the craziest person in the Inner Academy.

Some similar surprise also flashed in Xiao Yan's eyes. The gaze which he used to look at the gray-clothed man had an additional seriousness. Xiao Yan asked himself and knew that if he was to completely rely on his own strength, he did not have much confidence in successfully snatching this kind of unique object from the hands of two Dou Wang class Magical Beasts. This fellow in front of him might be arrogant and wild, but he did indeed have the means to do so.

"Can you change it to something else? For example exchanging another item for it? I am unable to take out four hundred days of 'Fire Energy.'" Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment. The Green Wood Celestial Vine was a key ingredient in refining the 'Ground Spirit Pill.' Moreover, if he wanted to successfully swallow the 'Fallen Heart Flame,' the 'Ground Spirit Pill' was something that was indispensable. Hence, no matter what happened, he must obtain all of the necessary medicinal ingredients and Monster Cores needed to refine the 'Ground Spirit Pill' in his hands before he obtain the 'Fallen Heart Flame.'

The number of medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Ground Spirit Pill' may not be large, but all of them were extremely rare items. Take for example this Green Wood Celestial Vine. If he was to let it slip by today, Xiao Yan did not know just exactly when will he find it again. Therefore, he would naturally not easily give it up.

"Yes you can. I need Dou Techniques. Di class ones. Do you have any?" The gray-clothed man did not hesitate with regards to Xiao Yan's suggestions. He opened his mouth and changed his demands. However, this price once again caused Xiao Yan and

the surrounding students to be a little speechless. Di class. It was likely that there were not many students within this Inner Academy who had a Dou Technique of that class.

Of course, Xiao Yan did indeed possess a kind of Di class Dou Technique. Moreover, it was an Agility type Dou Technique. However, this technique was also something that he needed to practice but did not have the time to do so. Asking him to use it to exchange for the Green Wood Celestial Vine caused him to feel as though it was cutting into his flesh.

Xiao Yan's face was volatile as it continued to change rapidly for awhile. Under the focus of the surrounding gazes, he shook his head and slowly said, "I am also unable to take out a Di class Dou Technique..."

The gray-clothed man glanced at Xiao Yan with disdain. He was too lazy to even say anything as he directly shut his eyes once again and ignored Xiao Yan.

Seeing Xiao Yan being humiliated, the surrounding people involuntarily emitted low laughter. They felt that Xiao Yan's action of bringing himself grief was funny.

"He does indeed have a strange temperament..." Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly. He ignored the laughter around him and did not simply just leave. After standing for a long while in front of the stone table, a thought suddenly shook his heart. His gaze slowly swept over the body of the gray-clothed man.

Around two minutes after Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the gray-clothed man, a powerful force that contained some anger suddenly surged out of the gray-clothed man's body. Under the sweeping of this powerful force, the expressions of the surrounding students observing the situation drastically changed as they hurriedly stepped back.

"This fool is going to be out of luck. He actually infuriated that crazy Lin Yan..."

"He deserves it. He clearly knows that that fellow has the worst patience in the entire Inner Academy yet he actually dares to dawdle. Isn't he asking for a beating?"

"But this fellow seems to be quite familiar..."

On top of stepping back, the surrounding students involuntarily felt some resentment for being implicated into the mess. At that moment, complaints and ridicule sounded.

Under the powerful fury of that gray-clothed man, Xiao Yan's expression also changed slightly as he took a step back. His heart was slightly shaken. From just looking at this Qi, it appeared that the strength of this fellow was likely above that of a seven star Dou Ling.

The fellow's tightly shut eyes were once again slowly opened. Those reddened pupils of his contained violence and anger. He eyed Xiao Yan and asked in a dark and cold voice, "Are you asking for a beating?"

"I don't wish to fight. However, I have quite a bit of interest in this green vine." Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and laughed softly.

"Get out of the trading area in one minute." The gray-clothed man inhaled a deep breath of air. His voice contained some suppressed anger and violence as it shook.

"I don't have four hundred days of 'Fire Energy, and I don't have a Di class Dou Technique..." Xiao Yan rubbed his head, feeling vexed. However, before all of his words sounded, the aura of the gray-clothed man completely erupted. The latter suddenly stood up. In an instant, he appeared in front of Xiao Yan. Both of his eyes turned red as the sharp wind of his fist nearly tore through the air. There was a faint pale red fist shadow along the path which his fist was swung.

The aggressive force which came toward Xiao Yan caused his expression to change. His body, however, remained straight as his dark black pupils eyed the pair of eyes that had been corroded by Fire Poison. A calm voice was slowly emitted, "However, I can help you expel the Fire Poison in your body..."

"Chi..."

The fist which was wrapped by a faint red Dou Qi suddenly stilled just when it was around two inches in front of Xiao Yan's face. Along with the stiffened fist, was the shocked face of the gray-clothed man.

"You... what did you say?" The bright redness in his eyes dimmed slightly as the gray-clothed man opened his mouth and asked in a somewhat trembling voice.

Xiao Yan's finger gently touched the fist in front of him. After which, he slowly put it down. Xiao Yan directly looked at this man who appeared to be quite strong within the Inner Academy and said indifferently, "I will help you expel the Fire Poison in you and you give me this green vine. What do you say to this transaction?"

The expression of the gray-clothed man changed intensely when he once again heard Xiao Yan's voice.

Xiao Yan was unconcerned about the clash within the gray-clothed man's heart. He inserted his hands into his sleeves and quietly waited for the other party's reply.

This area in the noisy trading area had descended into a temporarily silence. Those numerous gazes shot at Xiao Yan's body while carrying some shock. This fellow had actually subdued the craziest person within the Inner Academy... it was really somewhat unbelievable.

## Chapter 484: A deal

The shock on the gray-clothed man's face continued for quite awhile before it slowly became fainter. He coldly looked at Xiao Yan and questioned, "Why should I believe that you have such ability? I once let quite a number of elites within the Alchemist Department check out the Fire Poison within my body, but all of them said it is not possible to dispel it. On what basis can you do it?"

"The depth in which you are afflicted with the Fire Poison is indeed the first time I have seen such a case." Xiao Yan glanced at the face of the gray-clothed man where fury had once again surfaced. He continued on indifferently, "However, do you have any other choice now? Perhaps you yourself might have already sensed that the Fire Poison is currently quietly eroding your sense of reasoning. If it continues like this for a long time, I'm afraid that you might become a powderkeg that will explode at the slightest contact."

The expression of the gray-clothed man changed slightly. These words of Xiao Yan had indeed hit the deepest part of his heart. The man hesitated for a moment before he tightened his fist and slowly turned it away from Xiao Yan's front. He said in a deep voice, "Who exactly are you? If you really have the confidence to expel the Fire Poison in my body, you should likely not be a nobody."

"New student Xiao Yan." Xiao Yan smiled and answered as he cupped his hands toward the gray-clothed man.

"Xiao Yan? He is the leader of that 'Pan's Gate,' Xiao Yan?" When Xiao Yan's words sounded, a ripple naturally rose from around him. Most of the Inner Academy students had heard of the matters regarding 'Pan's Gate' and Xiao Yan during this period of time.

"Xiao Yan? I seem to have heard this name before... It is of that fellow who finished off all of the older students during the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' right?" The gray-clothed man mused for a moment before shock immediately flashed across his face as he eyed Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan ignored the numerous strange gazes around him as he smiled and nodded.

"Most of those who participate in the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' are useless people. It is not surprising that you defeated them... you are an alchemist?" The gray-clothed man did not give any face toward those older students who participated in the Hunting Competition. In the end, he still could not help but use a somewhat doubtful tone to ask Xiao Yan.

"Yes." Xiao Yan flicked his finger. A wisp of green-colored flame appeared on the tip of his finger. "I think that while it is not something absolute, being able to summon out an essence flame at the Da Dou Shi class should be able to prove my status, right? If you don't believe me, I can let you take a look at my alchemist robe."

The gray-clothed man stared at the wisp of green-colored flame. Some shock flashed across his eyes as he sensed the high temperature being emitted before he spoke, "This flame of yours is indeed a little stronger than the ones those fellows in the Alchemist Department. I believe you. But... even if you can expel the Fire Poison within my body, it seems that just taking away that green vine, which is obviously extraordinary, with just a cure is a little..."

When he spoke until this point, the gray-clothed man smiled. "Why don't we do it like this. If you can really completely expel the Fire Poison in my body, this green vine will be yours if you add a hundred days of 'Fire Energy' on top of it. What do you say?"

Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrows. He eyed the man in front of him and his gaze stared at the eyes filled with a red glow. It was really unexpected that this man, who appeared to be hot-tempered, would actually have this profiteer side to him.

"I am not adding..." Xiao Yan shook his head indifferently. He said in a manner as though nothing had happened, "It does not matter to me if you agree with this deal. Although I need this thing, it is not as though I must get my hands on it now. As for the Fire Poison in your body, if you continue to delay treating it, I think that even an alchemist grandmaster will be helpless. If you are unwilling, then we can forget about it..."

"You are threatening me?" The gray-clothed man frowned and spoke in a deep voice.

"The truth is just as I have said. I can delay but you can't. Hence, you can forget about your luxurious dream of adding other prices. This is because you are at a disadvantage. Of course, if you are one of those kind of people who view death as going home, I can only admit that I am unlucky. However, from the looks of it, it doesn't appear that you are someone like that..." Xiao Yan ridiculed.

"You..." The gray-clothed man was slightly dull. He clenched his teeth and violently nodded a moment later. He said fiercely, "Alright, I agree to your terms. As long as you can completely expel the Fire Poison within my body, this green vine will be yours. However, you should remember that it has to be completely expelled! If I sense that there is still Fire Poison residue remaining at that time, forget about obtaining the green vine. I'm afraid that you will still have to suffer the pain of the flash."

Xiao Yan smiled slightly. He flicked his sleeves, turned his body and walked out of the trading area. Seeing him walking over, the congested human flow hurriedly parted and formed a path.

The gray-clothed man behind him turned around and squeezed all of the things on the stone table into his storage ring as though he was throwing garbage around. After which, he swiftly followed Xiao Yan.

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“How long has the Fire Poison been accumulated within your body?” Xiao Yan frowned and asked the gray-clothed man seated in front of him within a quiet room. Before he helped the latter expel the poison, he needed to clearly inquire about the latter’s condition.

“Around one and a half years or so...” When he mentioned this, the gray-clothed man’s expression became ugly. However, when he remembered that the person opposite him was the alchemist that would help him expel the poison, he could only swallowed the irritation in his heart as he replied, “During that period of time, I anxiously needed to raise my strength. Hence, I continued to undertake a retreat within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ Moreover, my retreat was one to two months at one go. The Fire Poison continued to accumulate in this matter. In the end, when I discovered it, the Fire Poison had already firmly intertwined itself with my Dou Qi and cannot be separated.”

“That’s right, I am called Lin Yan. You can directly call me by my name.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He stared at the reddened eyes of Lin Yan. It was a long while later before he withdrew his gaze. After musing for nearly seven to eight minutes, he slowly said, “The depth of which the Fire Poison has accumulated in your body had somewhat exceeded my expectation... if you don’t wish to die, you better be quiet. I did not say that it cannot be cured.”

Before Xiao Yan had completed the first part of his sentence, Lin Yan on the opposite side slapped the table with reddened eyes as he immediately scolded angrily. This fellow’s temper actually gave one a headache.

“Hmph. Don’t beat around the bush when you speak to me... in any case, I don’t care. Only once you have successfully helped me expel the Fire Poison will I give you the green vine.” Although he sat down after being chided by Xiao Yan, Lin Yan still rubbed his nose and snorted.

Xiao Yan shook his head with a bitter smile. He said, “Since the Fire Poison is too deep, it is clearly an impossible task to expel it all at once. Hence, I can only adopt a gradual method.”

“How slow will it be?”

“This is an ‘Ice Spirit Pill.’ It can temporarily suppress the Fire Poison within your body and cause it to be unable to erode your reasoning. Remember, take one every day. There are a total of fifteen of them which is enough for you to consume them for half a month...” Xiao Yan took out a jade bottle from his storage ring and placed it on the table.

Lin Yan swiftly grabbed the jade bottle and poured out one of the pills with some doubt. The snow-white round medicinal pill emitted a faint coldness. Seeing this, joy flashed across Lin Yan’s face as he stuffed it into his mouth.

As the 'Ice Spirit Pill' entered his body, it gradually transformed into an icy-cool feeling, causing the red glow in Lin Yan's eyes to quietly weaken a little.

The weakening of the Fire Poison was naturally most clearly felt by Lin Yan. Immediately, there was some conviction in the gaze he used to look at Xiao Yan.

"Of course, the 'Ice Spirit Pill' can only suppress it and cannot totally expel it..." Xiao Yan fondled his chin and mused for a while once more. Suddenly, he waved his hand and a medicinal cauldron appeared on the table. He muttered, "Looks like I have to put in some effort..."

"Go and guard the door. Don't allow anyone to come in and disturb me. I need to refine some things." Xiao Yan waved his hand at Lin Yan and commanded.

Lin Yan was startled when he heard this. Even Lin Xiuya, Yan Hao, and those extremely strong people did not have such courage to open their mouths and ask him to guard a door... However, after thinking about the Fire Poison in his body, Lin Yan smacked his mouth and could only helplessly nod his head. He honestly stood up and went out before closing the door.

Seeing that Lin Yan had did as he was told and left, Xiao Yan finally turned his gaze to the medicinal cauldron in front of him. He flicked his finger and a wisp of green-colored flame shot into it. Finally, it turned into a raging flame that rose within the medicinal cauldron.

As the fire increased the temperature of the medicinal cauldron, Xiao Yan took out over ten medicinal ingredients from his storage ring. Finally, he took out a Monster Core that was emitting a faint cold air and placed it among the medicinal ingredients.

"I must really put in some capital if I want to obtain the Green Wood Celestial Vine..." Xiao Yan pursed his mouth and shook his head as he eyed the rank three Ice Affinity Monster Core that he had bought earlier. The sum of all of the medicinal ingredients would at least reach around one hundred and fifty thousand gold coins. However, Xiao Yan could only bear the pain of this loss for the Green Wood Celestial Vine.

There were quite a number of things that needs to be refined this time around, but they did not need overly precise control. Hence, in the hands of Xiao Yan, whose refining level had already reached that of a tier four alchemist, not too much time would be wasted.

While the green-colored flame writhed, the medicinal ingredients on the table were thrown into the cauldron one after another. Around ten minutes later, the lone Ice Affinity Monster Core on the table was also thrown into the medicinal cauldron.

As it was shrouded by the raging flame, an ice-like snow-white liquid became suspended above the green flame. As it rolled, threads of cold air began to rise. They



intertwined with the flame and turned into a substantial white fog that rose out from within the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared directly at the snow-white liquid emitting a cold air. After the liquid was grilled by the flame for another few minutes, Xiao Yan's face slowly relaxed. He flicked his finger and the cover of the medicinal cauldron automatically fell off. With a wave of his hand, a suction force drew up the snow-white liquid in the cauldron, forming a graceful arc. Finally, it was accurately poured into a jade bottle on the surface of the table.

Xiao Yan heaved a long sigh of relief as he stared at the jade bottle which was filled with cold liquid. He smiled, waved his hand and stored the medicinal cauldron on the table. Only then did he face the door and open his mouth. He said indifferently, "Come in."

Hearing Xiao Yan's voice, Lin Yan, who had become impatient from waiting in front of the door, hurriedly pushed it open and entered. He looked at Xiao Yan with a face filled with anticipation. "Are you done?"

"Yes."

Xiao Yan nodded. He threw the jade bottle on the table to Lin Yan. The latter hurriedly rushed to catch it.

"This is the 'Marrow Washing Cold Spirit Liquid.' Drop one drop in a large basin filled with clear water. After that quietly sit and train within it for half an hour. Do it once every day until the liquid is completely used up. At that time if there is still remnant Fire Poison, I will help you refine it again. Remember, you cannot go to the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train during this period of time. Otherwise, these medicinal effects will be lost." Xiao Yan reminded.

"Alright."

Lin Yan was somewhat excited as he held the jade bottle. He faced Xiao Yan and spoke with a smile, "As long as you can expel the Fire Poison within my body, I, Lin Yan will owe you a favor."

"I am not too interested in your favor. It is fine as long as you remember to hand me the green vine at that time." Xiao Yan waved his hand. After which, he walked out of the door, "I will now go to the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to undertake a retreat. It is likely that I will take quite a while. There is no need for you to look for me during this period of time."

"Hei, alright..." Lin Yan nodded. He eyed Xiao Yan's back and suddenly spoke with a smile, "Little fellow, I will help take care a little of that 'Pan's Gate' of yours during this

period that you are training. With I, Lin Yan, around, don't mention the crappy 'White Gang.' Even Lin Xiu Ya's 'Wolf Teeth' will not dare to do anything to 'Pan's Gate.'”

Xiao Yan paused his footsteps. A smile lifted at the corner of his mouth as he nodded slightly.

“In that case, thank you very much Senior Lin Yan...”

### **Chapter 485: Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment, Swift Wind Spirit Pill**

After parting ways with Lin Yan, Xiao Yan hurried to the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' located on the northern side of the Inner Academy. The doors to the tower had long been opened by this time. Thus, it saved him some waiting time.

Xiao Yan did not stay in the first level for long after he entered the tower. Instead, he directly went to the second level. Perhaps it was because there were more people training during the day, but all the high and middle grade training rooms in the second level were occupied by others. Seeing this, Xiao Yan, who originally intended to head directly to the third level, mused for a moment and randomly searched for a small-sized low grade training room.

This low grade training room which Xiao Yan had found was the smallest kind of size. It could only accommodate one person within it. Moreover, from the looks of the dust that had accumulated within the training room, it was obvious that it belonged to the category of those rooms which people seldom used. After all, the Heart Flame within this kind of training room could not even be compared with some of the middle grade training rooms on the first level. Therefore, an ordinary person would not purposefully come to this kind of training room unless there was really no other place to train.

However, Xiao Yan's intention of searching for this kind of single person training room was not for the sake of training. He merely wanted to find a quiet place to refine some medicinal pills he needed for his retreat.

After entering the training room, Xiao Yan shut the door tightly. He did not enter that extremely small black stone platform. Instead, he sat cross-legged on the ground. With a wave of his hand, the medicinal cauldron which had just entered his storage ring a short time ago was summoned out once again.

Xiao Yan slowly closed his eyes after placing the medicinal cauldron in the proper position. He began to search the medicinal formulas that Yao Lao had given him... five minutes after he shut his eyes, the former opened them. A faint joy was contained in his eyes.

“Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment. The ingredients needed to refine it are a Three Leaves Green Ganoderma, Fire Lotus Fruit, Thousand Spirit Grass, Fire Affinity Monster Core...”

“Swift Wind Spirit Pill. The ingredients needed to refine it are Rapid Dragon Saliva, Night Spirit Leaf, Wind affinity Monster Core...”

Although the tier of both kinds of medicinal pills were not very high, they belonged to the species with extremely unique effects. The rarity of these kinds of unique medicinal formulas did not lose to that of a Sonic Dou Technique among the Dou Techniques .

The first kind, the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment, could be rubbed on one’s body when one trains and allowed a person’s skin to be extreme sensitivity to natural fire energy and possessed a unique suction strength. After rubbing this kind of ‘Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment,’ even if one did not voluntarily circulate one’s Qi Method to absorb energy, the fire affinity energy between the Heavens and the Earth would still be towed and unceasingly pulled into one’s body automatically. Of course, this kind of Fire Spirit Ointment also had one kind of drawback. It would cause the person who applied it to their skin to feel a numb and itchy feeling. If it was a person who did not have a firm mind, it was likely that the person would not be able to maintain their training state, much less absorb energy.

The second kind of medicinal pill, the Swift Wind Spirit Pill, was even rarer. It would allow a person to increase the circulation of Dou Qi within their body upon consumption. This was like adding a wild gale to a windmill, causing its circulating self to circulate much fiercer and faster. However, everything had its rules. This kind of increase in the circulation of one’s Dou Qi was like an overdraft. Once the increase in the Dou Qi speed lasted for a while, the inside of one’s body would descend into a sluggish period. If one were to meet an enemy during this period, it was likely that one would only be able to unleash half of one’s strength.

The effects of the two kinds of medicinal pills were strange. Under normal circumstances, it was likely that not many people would pay attention to them. However, for the current Xiao Yan, they were extremely useful things. In this ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,’ the fire affinity energy was so rich that it left one speechless. With the help of the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment, his absorption speed would undoubtedly be raised by a few folds.

Moreover, if the speed of circulation of Dou Qi could suddenly become faster when the Heart Flame rose in his body, it would undoubtedly increase his training speed... Hence, it was not an exaggeration to say that these two kinds of medicinal pills were currently the things that Xiao Yan needed the most.

The tier of these two medicinal pills was not very high. Although the coordination of the various ingredients was a little strange, refining them was merely a problem of time to Xiao Yan with his current alchemist skills.

After he revised the degree of merging and the control of the fire to refine the first kind of medicinal pill within his heart, Xiao Yan flicked his finger. A wisp of green flame once

again shot into the medicinal cauldron. The raging intense flame immediately caused the temperature of the training room to climb by quite a bit.

Xiao Yan sat cross-legged in front of the medicinal cauldron. He waved his hand and a pile of various medicinal ingredients appeared on the ground. His eyes stared intently at the flame in the middle of the cauldron. The green-colored flame was reflected within his dark black eyes. The dark black and green color mixed, appearing somewhat strange.

Xiao Yan's body did not move even a little. His expression was serious. Occasionally, he would wave his hand and a skillful wind would wrap around the medicinal ingredients on the ground and throw them into the medicinal cauldron one at a time, repeatedly undergoing refining and merging...

The first refinement lasted for a total of nearly half an hour. Only then did it gradually end. When Xiao Yan stored a large cluster of extremely viscous red-colored paste into a jade bottle, the refinement of the first kind of medicine, the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment, was successfully completed.

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After the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment was successfully refined, Xiao Yan did not start refining the second Swift Wind Spirit Pill. Instead, he swallowed an energy recovery pill and chose to sit cross-legged to recover his Dou Qi. Although refining the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment did not consume a lot of Dou Qi, this habit had become second nature. Xiao Yan always liked to refine medicinal pills in his best condition. Being in his best condition allowed his Spiritual Perception and his degree of flame control to be in their peak states. If he refined medicinal pills at such a moment, it was undoubted that his success rate would reach its highest level.

Xiao Yan sat cross-legged and merely rested for over ten minutes before he opened his eyes with a face that revealed a faint red glow. He sensed the slightly stronger Dou Qi in his body after undergoing one round of refining medicine and involuntarily smiled. With a wave of his hand, the green-colored flame once again rose within this training room.

Perhaps it was because the Swift Wind Spirit Pill needed to be formed into a pill shape, hence the time needed for its refinement was nearly twice that of the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment .

Over an hour later, Xiao Yan suddenly opened his tightly shut eyes. His eyes were shining as he eyed the flame rising within the cauldron. As the flame curled up, one could even vaguely see the outline of a few partially visible rounded medicinal pills.

Xiao Yan exhaled a breath of air. He flicked his finger gently and a wisp of wind shot out, opening the cover of the cauldron. He beckoned with his hands and a few pale

green-colored medicinal pills flew out from within the cauldron. Finally, they were sucked into Xiao Yan's palm.

Xiao Yan opened his palm. Five thumb-sized pale-green-colored medicinal pills that contained some warmth lay within it. A faint medicinal fragrance was emitted from them. When he inhaled this medicinal scent, Xiao Yan sensed that the speed of the Dou Qi flowing within the Qi Paths of his body increased slightly.

"Hee hee, they are indeed effective."

A joy involuntarily flashed across Xiao Yan's face as he sensed the increased circulation speed of Dou Qi in his body. He took out a jade bottle from within his storage ring and carefully threw the medicinal pills into it. After doing all of this, he stored the medicinal cauldron in front of him into his storage ring. He then patted his buttocks and stood up.

"I have already prepared the things I need. Now, let's enter the third level and prepare to undertake a retreat to train..." Xiao Yan muttered in his mouth. He arranged his clothes before pushing open the door and walking out.

After exiting the training room, the coming and going human flow appeared before Xiao Yan's eyes. He hesitated for a moment before pulling a student walking past in front of him, and inquired about the direction in which one could descend to the third level.

Having suddenly been pulled by someone, the student felt somewhat impatient and angry. However, when he heard Xiao Yan's question, he involuntarily shut his mouth. One would need at least the strength of a three star Da Dou Shi in order to enter the third level to train. He weighed Xiao Yan up and down before courteously pointed in the north-west direction.

Xiao Yan voiced his thanks before he opened his stride and swiftly walked in the north-west direction. After nearly ten minutes, a spiral staircase that was similar to the entrance to the second level appeared in front of him. However, there were two men who were clearly instructors, standing at the area by the staircase. Xiao Yan saw that the students who entered it had to take out their own Fire Crystal Card before they were allowed to enter.

Doubt flashed across Xiao Yan's heart. As he slowly walked nearer, the two instructors glanced at him. One of them said in a faint voice, "If you want to enter into the third level to train, you need to possess a blue-colored Fire Crystal Card, and a strength above that of a three star Da Dou Shi."

"So, they are inspecting..."

Xiao Yan came to a sudden understanding when he heard the words of the instructor. He took out his green Fire Crystal Card before handing it over.

“Green Fire Crystal Card?” Seeing the crystal card in Xiao Yan’s hand, surprised voices were immediately emitted from the mouths of the two instructors. Immediately, they eyed Xiao Yan with astonished expressions.

“Can I enter?” Xiao Yan smiled and asked when he saw the astonished manner of the two of them.

“The green Fire Crystal Card is sufficient to enter into the sixth level to train. It is naturally qualified to enter the third level.” An instructor smiled and nodded. There was an additional politeness in his smile. No matter what kind of status one had, it was easy for a person who had great strength to receive courteous treatment from others.

Xiao Yan received the green Fire Crystal Card that the instructor returned and cupped his hands toward the latter. After which, he entered the spiral staircase and disappeared in front of many envious gazes...

“Tsk tsk, having obtained a green Fire Crystal Card at such an age. This is the first time that I have seen such a thing in many years.” The instructor earlier could not help but say in a surprised manner.

“That’s right... but looking at his aura, he appears to be still at the Da Dou Shi class. Why would he possess a green Fire Crystal Card?” The other instructor was somewhat uncertain. There was no more than fifty students within the Inner Academy who possessed a green Fire Crystal Card. Those people who had the qualification to possess it were mostly the experts on the ‘Strong Ranking,’ and their strength were at the Dou Ling class.

“It seems like a few new student representatives this year obtained the reward of a green Fire Crystal Card by Elder Su?” The instructor by the side hesitated for a moment before he suddenly spoke.

“Uh... then that little fellow earlier... don’t tell me he is the person whom the First Elder instructed to give special care to... Xiao Yan?”

“It seems... to be so?”

The two instructors at the entrance to the third level looked at one another while feeling at a lost. A long while later, they finally nodded and smiled bitterly.

### **Chapter 486: Retreat**

Xiao Yan clearly sensed his surroundings suddenly become much quieter after entering the third level. He lifted his head and eyed the pathway which was somewhat deserted when compared to the second level. He suddenly came to an understanding. It appeared that there was still only a small portion of students within the Inner Academy who had the qualification to enter the third level.

If one were to say that the students training on the first and second levels belonged to the basic level of the Inner Academy, the third and fourth levels should belong to those whose strength were at the middle level. The potential of this group of students was extremely great. They could become a member at the peak at any time. As for the students who could enter the fifth and sixth level, they were mostly people who had stepped into the peak level within the Inner Academy. They were a group of strong people who were most respected within the Inner Academy.

As this thought flashed across his heart, Xiao Yan had some gauge of his strength. He laughed bitterly. The strong people were indeed as numerous as clouds within the Inner Academy... Xiao Yan sighed in this manner within his heart. His gaze swept in all directions before slowly walking along a path and entering the level.

The layout of the third level and the second level were about the same. Hence, Xiao Yan did not waste too much time. He searched for the high, middle and low grade areas. The low grade area was naturally a grade abandoned by him. His footsteps paused for a moment when he passed through the middle grade training ground. Xiao Yan stood in front of an empty middle grade training ground and hesitated for a moment. A ruthless expression immediately flashed across his face. He did not enter it. Instead he lifted his foot and walked toward the high grade training room...

What kind of bitterness and difficulty had Xiao Yan not experienced when training? By relying on his own strength, he had contended with the Misty Cloud Sect which had dominated the Jia Nan Empire, and had even killed the First Elder of the other party. How many of those blessed by the Heavens within the Inner Academy had such battle results?

Xiao Yan did not possess any fear even when facing the Dou Zong Yun Shan. Therefore, he did not believe that he would be forced to become a good-for-nothing from a group of students that were of similar age to him within this Inner Academy.

Xiao Yan stepped forward with his feet, and walked into the high grade training area. Immediately, numerous gazes that contained partially visible enmity were shot over from all directions. Xiao Yan ignored these gazes. His similarly cold and indifferent gaze slowly swept around him. His shoulders shook, and the force of a seven star Da Dou Shi was completely unleashed. It was like a storm that came sweeping out.

Sensing the powerful force that erupted from within Xiao Yan's body, some of the expressions of the students in the high grade area involuntarily changed a little. When they looked at Xiao Yan once again, there was an additional seriousness within their gazes. In this Inner Academy where the strong were honored, acting timidly would cause others to look down on you. If one wanted to obtain the respect of others, one needed to display a strength that would cause others to give one respect!

Xiao Yan was expressionless. He slowly walked deep into the high grade training room area. His gaze moved across the training rooms one at a time.

There were a few more high grade training rooms on the third level than on the second level. Xiao Yan had counted them. There was a total of thirty-eight of them. Among these training rooms, there were those that could accommodate the training of twenty people, and those that could only allow one person to train.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept past these high grade training rooms. There were many training rooms where a tag, which represented that someone was using it, was hung. However, Xiao Yan was not in a hurry. His footsteps slowly moved to the deeper areas.

When his gaze was about to shift away from the last area of the high grade training rooms, his gaze suddenly stopped. He eyed that training room where an 'empty' tag was hung and quietly sighed in relief. After which he swiftly walked into it.

Xiao Yan walked to the entrance of the high grade training room and touched the door gently with his hand. His eyebrows were slightly lifted. This door, which appeared to be an ordinary wooden board from afar, actually faintly emitted threads of cold air. His finger gently knocked on it and it emitted a clear strange sound. This sound did not ring like one emitted by wood. Instead, it was like a kind of metal.

"It looks like this is designed in such a fashion because the Inner Academy is worried that the people training inside would be disturbed should someone suddenly kick open the door and enter, resulting in some accident during the training." Xiao Yan felt the toughness of the door as he heard that low and deep sound. He sighed in relief within his heart. Since this was the case, he no longer needed to worry that someone would forcefully charge in and interrupt his training should he reach a critical point in his training.

Xiao Yan gently pushed open the door, and slowly walked through the doorway. After which, he shut the door tightly.

The moment he closed the door, Xiao Yan, whose back was facing it, naturally did not notice the shock and ridicule that some of those students strolling leisurely around this place had in their eyes when they saw that he had chosen this training room.

.....

Xiao Yan shut the door tightly after entering the training room. After which, he began to observe his surroundings. This training room was clearly meant for a single person to train. In the middle spot of the training room, there was a black stone platform that could only accommodate two people seated cross-legged. Moreover, there were tables and chairs etc. placed in other areas. There was even a bed that was prepared in the furthest corner of the training room.

"The treatment of the high grade training room in the third level is indeed a little better than that of the two levels above..." Xiao Yan clicked his tongue and praised when he



saw these facilities within the training room. He walked toward the black stone platform and finally sat down crossed-legged on it.

As Xiao Yan's buttocks touched the black stone platform, a faint warmth entered into his body, causing his bones to have a sort of lazy feeling.

Xiao Yan flicked his hand and a green Fire Crystal Card appeared in his palm. He took a look at the number on the Crystal Card: one hundred three. In just a short span of less than seven days, the 'Fire Energy' on this Crystal Card had shrunk by one third. This kind of depletion rate really caused Xiao Yan to feel ashamed.

"If I am to continue squandering like this, I'm afraid that the remaining 'Fire Energy' will not support me for very long..."

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and shook his head. He inserted the Fire Crystal Card into the notch in front of him. A faint glow flashed. That number one hundred three immediately changed to one hundred.

"As expected. Each time one descends by one level, the 'Fire Energy' that is needed increases by one day..." Xiao Yan sighed when he saw the number that was reduced on the Fire Crystal Card. This third level requires 'three days' of 'Fire Energy' to train for one day. This 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was really a glutton that would not be full no matter how much one fed it.

"Since I have already paid the fee, won't it be a pity if I don't train to recuperate it?" Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders, and took out two jade bottles from his storage ring. He removed his black robe, revealing his naked body that appeared somewhat skinny but hid an explosive strength.

Xiao Yan picked up the jade bottle containing a dark-red-colored paste like item. He flipped his hand and a jade piece appeared in it. After which, he used it to pry out a cluster of red-colored medicinal paste from within the jade bottle.

"I wonder just how itchy it will be when the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment is spread on my body? I'll just go all out..." Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at this cluster of red-colored medicinal paste. A moment later, he clenched his teeth violently and threw it onto his naked chest. After which, he used the jade piece to spread it apart as he rubbed it all over the upper half of his body.

As the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment wrapped around his body, Xiao Yan's entire body became stimulated and alert. He could clearly feel that his senses toward the fire affinity energy in the training room had suddenly become extremely sharp. He did not even need to use his Spiritual Perception. When he shut his eyes, he could faintly see the repeatedly drifting pale-red-colored energy within the training room...

"It is indeed useful!" Xiao Yan's heart immediately rejoiced when he sensed this kind of change. The joy had yet to spread to his face when the corner of his mouth suddenly stilled. Quickly following this, he clenched his teeth tightly together, and tiny dense perspiration instantly covered his forehead.

"This... is this the side effect of the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment... it is indeed numbing and itchy!" Threads of cold wind were released from Xiao Yan's mouth from between his tightly clenched teeth. He could sense that his skin at the moment felt like it was filled with ants crawling over it. That numb and itchy feeling caused Xiao Yan, who was unprepared, to nearly exit from his training condition.

Xiao Yan inhaled a few deep breaths of air. He clenched his teeth tightly together and placed the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment in his hand down. After which, he grabbed a jade bottle and poured out a pale-green-colored, round medicinal pill from it.

Xiao Yan opened mouth and flicked the medicinal pill into it. After which, he shut his teeth tightly once again.

Not long after the Swift Wind Spirit Pill entered his mouth, it transformed into a somewhat agile and pure energy that moved along his throat, rolling and flowing downward. After which... the Dou Qi circulating within his Qi Paths appeared to be like a wild bull that had suddenly consumed some medicine as it began to circulate wildly.

As he sensed the strange sound emitted by the Dou Qi within his body due to the fast circulation, Xiao Yan's hands formed the training seal. He slowly shut his eyes. After over ten minutes of adaptation, he finally entered into his training condition.

When Xiao Yan entered his training condition, one could see the fluctuations that had suddenly appeared in the training room. Waves of fire affinity energy agglomerated out of thin air. After which, they even agglomerated into waves of somewhat substantive pale-red energy... these substance-like pale-red energies whizzed and circulated over Xiao Yan's head. After which, they appeared to receive a certain suction force as they wildly smashed into Xiao Yan's naked body.

The smashing of the energy did not cause Xiao Yan's body to quiver. Instead, the energy appeared to have fallen into a bottomless pit, and was swallowed by Xiao Yan in an extremely strange manner.

As the first wave of energy moved, those countless energies circling above Xiao Yan's head suddenly began to collide with Xiao Yan in an unceasing manner.

An extremely strange scene appeared within the training room. Due to the energy that was pouring in being too large, Xiao Yan's body, which was seated cross-legged on the black stone platform, was completely wrapped in circular pale-red energy ball of light.

The intense energy fluctuations were like ripples that began to swiftly spread within the training room. In the middle of these ripples was Xiao Yan, who was seated cross-legged on the stone platform!

At this moment, Xiao Yan was like a bottomless pit that was emitting an endless suction force, completely swallowing all of the extremely rich fire affinity energy within the training room.

If other people could see that nearly frightening swallowing, it was likely that they would be so shocked that they would stare at it with stunned looks created from their eyes and mouth.

### **Chapter 487: Trouble That Knocks On The Door**

A half-naked young man within the spacious training room had his eyes tightly shut. Dark-red energy circled and flew by, finally violently crashing against his naked body. It immediately disappeared in a strange manner.

The green-colored Dou Qi that was within the spacious Qi Paths in his body was like a car whizzing past on an expressway. Under the focus of his mind, it carried a low humming sound that repeatedly reverberated and spread within his body.

After consuming the Swift Wind Spirit Pill, the circulating speed of the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan's body was basically increased by nearly three to four times at this moment. Waves of green-colored powerful Dou Qi shot out from the Dou Crystal. They ran quickly through the Qi Paths with strange muffled sounds.

Due to the fast rate of circulation, the cycle within Xiao Yan's body eventually achieved a stage where the start and the end were connected. Dou Qi had just left the Dou Crystal from one side when Dou Qi that had been refined by the Heart Flame poured turbulently back into it on the other side.

Moreover, other than the Dou Qi that the Dou Crystal emitted, the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment that was spread on Xiao Yan's body had also become a bottomless pit that was repeatedly emitting a suction force. Pale-red energy that was visible to the naked eyes seeped in endlessly from the pores of the skin. Finally, it once again gathered into an extremely impressive large amount of energy.

The fire affinity energy within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' was clearly much purer than that of the outside world. However, it could not be directly incorporated into the Dou Crystal. Hence, Xiao Yan had to separate a large portion of his mind to carefully control the fire affinity energy that had barbarically charged in, and began circulating it through another Qi Path.

Of course, this Qi Path's destination was near the heart flame which meant that after being purified by the Qi Path, the fire attribute energy with a bit of impurities would be plunged into the vibrant heart flame.

The Dou Qi within his body was just like two small rivers that were flowing independently. When the small rivers flowed to the place where the Heart Flame was at, they would undergo refinement. The two rivers would then converge and completely merge into pure powerful Dou Qi. The final river carried a low rolling thunder-like sound as it poured into the Dou Crystal within the vortex.

Under this kind of two prong absorption and refinement, Xiao Yan could clearly sense that the Dou Crystal was gradually filling up with Dou Qi...

Borrowing the aid of the Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment and the Swift Wind Spirit Pill, everything was progressing in the most perfect direction. According to this kind of speed, Xiao Yan had the confidence that within a month's time, he would break through to an eight star Da Dou Shi.

Xiao Yan's training continued for two days. No one would willing halt this kind of training where one could clearly sense their strength growing. This was because this kind of pleasure from growing caused people to feel a kind of thrilling comfort that was emitted from deep within the spirit.

Of course, Xiao Yan may not want to break from this kind of nearly perfect training condition, but due to various outside factors, his intention of quietly training fell apart.

The training continued until the afternoon of the second day when the originally somewhat noisy third level training area had suddenly become a little quiet due to a group of people charging in.

The leader of this group of unwelcomed guest was a lady wearing a snow-fox cashmere dress. The lady had a beautiful appearance. She had a melon face, small cherry mouth, drawing-like eyebrows and watery big eyes. The combination of all of these would cause people around to have a pleasant aesthetic feeling. Therefore, one also did not feel strange that there was always a group of people surrounding her. After all, females were the minority within the Inner Academy. Beautiful ladies were all the more sought after by everyone.

TL: Melon face - long face

No matter where one was, a beauty would always easily be sought after and favored.

Being surrounded by people, with her at the middle, like a moon being surrounded by stars, this fox cashmere-dressed lady may have a sweet and calm smile on her face for now but one could still see self-satisfaction and vanity within her eyes. This kind of self-

satisfaction was the true evaluation that people had about her after going past the aura that the lady exerted from her body.

Vanity was always the thing that a woman could not resist. A woman's heart would involuntarily feel quiet and self-satisfied when she watched so many men fighting because of her.

After she entered the high grade area, this lady's pupils gently drifted toward the men whose footsteps had paused because of her. Under her gentle water ripple eyes, the faces of some of the mentally weak people involuntarily reddened. After which, their eyes hurriedly avoided her.

Seeing the gazes of these males students becoming evasive under her watch, the lady laughed softly. Her beautiful smile suddenly caused this sealed interior of the tower to become much brighter.

The lady led a group of people as they directly passed through the high grade area and finally stopped at the last area at the end. The spot where their footsteps were halted was the single training room that Xiao Yan had chosen to train in.

Seeing the female footsteps coming to a halt, the gazes that swept over from the surroundings were involuntarily startled when they saw that the door was tightly shut and on it hung a tag which stated that there was someone training in it. Immediately, a gloating look appeared in their eyes. Did the fellow inside not know that this training room was dedicated for snow fairy Liu Fei's use?

The snow-fox cashmere-dressed lady's footsteps came to a stop. She eyed the tightly shut training door and surprise similarly flashed across her face. Having her training room being occupied by others was something she had not encountered for a long time. The last time she encountered it seemed to be half a year ago? However, when that fellow who occupied her training room was eventually beaten by her suitors until he could not even get out of bed for half a month, there was seldom anyone in the Inner Academy who dared to come to this training room. It was really unexpected that she actually met this kind of thing that people yearned for.

"Ke ke, Fei-er, looks like we have to meet some people who did not open their eyes..." A large-sized man behind the lady had a smile on his face as he eyed the tightly shut door. This was undoubtedly a good chance for him to put in an appearance in front of the beauty.

Liu Fei smiled faintly as she shook her head slightly. In a soft voice, she said, "Lei Na, be a little courteous to other people..."

Hearing some hidden meaning within Liu Fei's voice, the man called Lei Na parted his mouth and smiled with a nod. He said, "Be rest assured that I will only let him

understand something. Big Brother Liu Qing said to let me protect you. You are her younger cousin sister. I will naturally not let you suffer even a small grievance.”

Hearing Lei Na speak that renowned name within the Inner Academy with some reverberance, Liu Fei could not help but smile. There were some emotions that others around her had difficulty sensing flashing across her eyes. That domineering and sharp man had left an extremely deep shadow in her since they were young. Although there was an endless stream of suitors flocking around her after she followed him to enter the Jia Nan Academy, all of these people could not help but appear to be eclipsed when compared to his shadow.

Lei Na slowly walked closer to the training room. He tightly clenched his metal fist and heavily smashed on the door. Immediately, a clear metal sound resounded across this area.

The sound lasted for nearly two minutes before it gradually disappeared. The tightly shut door, however, did not have any movement.

Seeing the lack of movement within the training room, Liu Fei’s eyebrows were slightly knit together. Lei Na’s expression also became slightly gloomy. He lifted his fist once again and was about to violently smashed it down when a cracking sound appeared in the tightly shut door as it slowly opened.

“Hmph.” Seeing that the room was finally opened, Lei Na let out a snort and withdrew his fist. He took a couple of steps back as his gaze stared into the training room with ill intentions.

As the room’s door was opened, all the gazes in this area were swiftly shot over.

Under those numerous gazes that contained various different emotions, the black-robed young man slowly walked out from the training room with a gloomy expression. No matter whose training was disrupted, that person would not have a good expression. He lifted his head and eyed Lei Na who had stepped back. He frowned slightly and coldly asked, “What are you intending to do?”

“Brat, are you new?” Lei Na smiled as he gave Xiao Yan an inclined glance. He said, “Don’t you know that other people are not allowed to use this training room?”

“I have looked at the rules of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ before I came in. There was nothing on it that says that no one is allowed to touch this training room.” Xiao Yan shook his head and replied extremely seriously.

Lei Na choked and became dull at Xiao Yan’s reply. He said with a cold smile, “You have guts to actually treat me as amusement.”

"I am not so free..." Xiao Yan finger flicked his sleeves gently as he replied faintly, "If there's nothing else, please give way. Don't disrupt my training." As he said this, he turned around, intending to enter and continue his training.

"Please wait."

A lovely voice that suddenly sounded caused Xiao Yan to pause slightly. He lifted his gaze and looked at the snow-fox cashmere-dressed lady with eyes that were ordinary. From the moment he had come out earlier, he understood that this lady was perhaps the main source of trouble.

Liu Fei involuntarily became a little stunned as she was indifferently stared at by Xiao Yan. This was because the gaze the former used to look at her not only did not have a little of the evasiveness and adoration that other men had when they looked at her, but it also did not possess even the pure admiration of something beautiful. The expression in those eyes appeared to not have the slightest difference between looking at her and those surrounding men.

"Is something the matter?"

"This student, this training room is my personal training ground, I'm sorry..." Liu Fei recovered and knit her eyebrows slightly. There was some displeasure in her heart toward this attitude of Xiao Yan. However, her face still carried a smile as she said softly.

When he heard Liu Fei's words, Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows tightly. A long while later, he pointed at the training room and said, "Is this a special treatment that the Inner Academy gives you? Do you have a proof that comes from the Inner Academy? If this training room is really built by the Inner Academy just for you, I will apologize to you for my usage earlier."

Xiao Yan somewhat cold, faint laughing words slowly reverberated throughout this high grade training area. Under these words of his, some of the people who had come with the intention of seeing the show were involuntarily startled. They immediately sighed with some pity.

Liu Fei's face, which was originally filled with a sweet smile, had also slowly become ugly at this moment.

### **Chapter 488: Liu Fei**

Under Xiao Yan's cold and indifferent words, Liu Fei's expression gradually became ugly. Letting the Inner Academy construct a training room just for her? If these words were to be spread, it was likely that a large group of people would laugh to death. With the Jia Nan Academy's position in the Dou Qi continent, forget about her being only a student that could be considered to have outstanding talent, even her older cousin

brother Liu Qing, who could be considered to be quite renowned within the Inner Academy did not possess such a qualification. Therefore, these words that Xiao Yan had spoken were undoubtedly full of ridicule directed at her.

The entire area had become quiet under Xiao Yan's words. There was a secretly surging pressure of a storm in the atmosphere, covering the area outside this training room.

Lei Na by the side had also recovered from Xiao Yan's words. His expression immediately became so dark and solemn that it was frightening. His gaze stared intently at Xiao Yan while his somewhat hoarse voice containing suppressed anger shouted, "Brat, you've got guts!"

"Don't you know the rules? Before you issue a challenge, you must press the challenge bell outside the training room. Are you trying to show that your strength is great by using your might to knock on the door like a barbarian?" Xiao Yan lifted his eyes. A faint coldness flashed across his dark-black pupils. His finger pointed at a black-colored button not far beside the door as he said in a dark and cold voice.

Although whoever had the harder fist within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' would get to enjoy the best training conditions, if someone had entered the training room to train earlier and there was someone else who wanted to join after that, one must first press the challenge bell outside of the training room. In addition, one must insert one's Fire Crystal Card into it before pressing this challenge bell and one day worth of 'Fire Energy' would be deducted.

As long as there was someone who pressed the challenge bell, the person training inside the training room would gradually sense the Heart Flame decrease. As the Heart Flame weakens, the person training would be able to exit from his training condition without encountering any trouble. This was a protective measure that the Inner Academy had in place for the person training. However, Lei Na had clearly ignored the so-called challenge bell earlier, and instead chose the method easiest to shock a person in his training condition awake: Forcefully banging the door!

Although the Inner Academy had used a special material to manufacture the door, if one used such large force to knock at it, the ear-piercing sound that would be created would still pose a disruption to the person training inside and even force him to exit his training condition.

This was the reason why Xiao Yan's expression was dark and solemn when he came out earlier. It was also why his words were a little bristly.

Lei Na was dull as he was being reprimanded by Xiao Yan in this manner. The fury on his face became even denser. As he was used to being domineering normally, he had seldom bothered about these rules. Moreover, from the way he looked at it, how strong would a person that was training on the third level be? It was due to this that he directly



ignored the challenge bell and used the most barbaric, yet the most effective method to wake the person training inside.

Lei Na pointed pointed at Xiao Yan. He ended up laughing due to his extreme anger, "Good, you do indeed have some ability... my hands have been itchy for a few days. I can relax my muscles and bones properly today." As Lei Na's voice fell, a powerful force surged out explosively from within his body. The intense pressuring force caused some of the students by the side to involuntarily take a couple of steps back.

"Around that of a four star Dou Ling. A little stronger than Fu Ao..." Xiao Yan was expressionless as he sensed the force from within Lei Na. His heart, however, had determined the other party's strength.

The expression of Liu Fei at the side had finally recovered a little. She did not open her mouth to stop Lei Na when she saw that he had taken this step toward Xiao Yan. In all these years, she had not been bullied so much. Today, this soft nail known as Xiao Yan had actually pierced her until she felt pain. Hence, she was naturally happy to see someone teach him a lesson.

"Big Brother Lei Na, don't strike too hard. Otherwise, elder cousin will blame me at that time." Liu Fei glanced at Xiao Yan indifferently as she spoke to Lei Na.

"Hee hee, alright." Lei Na smiled and nodded. Immediately, he turned his head and gave Xiao Yan a savage smile. The powerful Dou Qi on his fist swiftly agglomerated.

Seeing that a fight was about to break out at this spot, the surrounding people hurriedly stepped back as they feared being implicated.

Xiao Yan's expression had once again become much gloomier as he coldly eyed the savage smile on Lei Na. He gently inhaled a breath of somewhat hot air and said coldly, "You really want to fight?"

"Are you afraid?" Lei Na smiled and continued, "Immediately get out of this training room and apologize to Fei-er. Moreover, you are not allowed to enter this high grade training area in the future. I can let you go if you agree to this."

Xiao Yan lowered his eyes slightly after hearing this. He quietly nodded, shook his hand and a purple-colored medicinal pill was stuffed into his mouth. He slowly began to quietly and gently chew it.

"Hei, brat, you want to consume a medicinal pill to forcefully raise your strength?" Seeing Xiao Yan's action, Lei Na involuntarily laughed coldly. There was some disdain in the smile on his face. He could sense that Xiao Yan's aura was around that of a Da Dou Shi and would not be able to endure even ten exchanges with him.

Xiao Yan ignored him and widened his mouth. A purple flame was spat out and he held it in his palm.

“Hm?” Lei Na was startled when he saw the Purple Flame in Xiao Yan’s hand. He immediately frowned slightly and coldly laughed, “It seems that you have some strength. No wonder you are so arrogant. However, you are still lacking if you want to just rely on this thing to defeat me.”

Xiao Yan still ignored him. He slowly opened his right hand and a green-colored flame suddenly shot out.

Eyeing Xiao Yan who was holding the Purple Flame with one hand and the Green Flame with the other, some shock finally flashed across Lei Na’s eyes. Although he was an arrogant person, he was not a fool. The heat that was emitted from these two kinds of flame was sufficient to cause him to quietly begin to view them seriously.

“I cannot delay any longer...” A thought flashed across his heart. Lei Na’s body shook slightly. A deep-yellow-colored energy that was visible to the naked eye surged out. Finally, it wrapped completely around his entire body.

“Brat, today, I shall tell you that if you want to survive in the Inner Academy, it would be best that you keep a low profile!” Lei Na’s cold laughter was suddenly emitted from the yellow-colored energy cluster. His feet immediately stomped heavily on the ground as his body became like a huge Magical Beast on a rampage, carrying a fierce pressuring wind as he violently charged at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan coldly watched Lei Na come charging over. The powerful wind that blew at him caused the black robe to press tightly on his body. Lei Na’s body was swiftly becoming enlarged in those dark-black eyes. Xiao Yan face became colder. The green and purple flame held on his hands abruptly collided together heavily.

The moment the flames collided, Xiao Yan’s footsteps slightly shifted one step to the left and coincidentally completely dodged Lei Na’s attack.

Lei Na’s feet heavily rubbed on the ground. He did not turn his head around. He flipped his body and a whipping leg that shook the air until it emitted a thunderclap noise was swung ruthlessly toward Xiao Yan’s head.

Xiao Yan’s hands were tightly pressed together. The green and purple flames in his hands were intertwining with each other swiftly. Fire seedlings were like sparks that repeatedly hissed and appeared. As he sensed the sharp wind that shot toward his head, Xiao Yan’s body abruptly vibrated. His slightly shaking leg stepped gently on the ground. In an energy explosion, Xiao Yan, who was slightly inclined from the ground, swiftly pulled back under this force.

Lei Na's feet stomped on the ground and his body leaped into mid-air. After which, his hands turned into claws. Like a fierce eagle diving on its prey, they swiftly dove toward the retreating Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan used one leg to step on the rock wall behind him. Using the reverse force, he once again dodged this fierce attack of Lei Na. On top of dodging it, the corner of his eyes swept toward the flame in his hand. The green and purple flames had already gradually merged. As long as he had a moment for, the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' would be formed. It would also be able to hurt the enemy!

The current him did not need any protracted fights. In order to avoid troubles in the future, he needed to use absolute strength to let himself possess a deterring reputation. Otherwise, there would be an endless stream of people who would interrupt his training in the future!

The deterrent that the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' would create was more useful than any other thing!

Lei Na's claws heavily landed on the ground. The sharp force on it directly caused threads of crack lines to form on the tough black rock surface.

In just a short period of less than two minutes, they had over ten exchanges with one attacking and one defending. The sharp force and the flashing human figures caused the surrounding observers to involuntarily exclaim in surprise. The first reason they had exclaimed was because of the viciousness of Lei Na's attack while the second was because Xiao Yan was actually able to endure for such a long time in Lei Na's hand with just the strength of a Da Dou Shi. It should be known that this fellow was an elite four star Dou Ling. Even in the entire Inner Academy, there would not be more than a hundred people that could beat him.

"R-r-i-i-p-p!"

Another fierce attack came once again. This time around, Xiao Yan, who was a little slower, had a corner of his black robes viciously torn by Lei Na. Fortunately, his body was not injured.

Seeing the attack which he had planned deliberately for a long while being dodged, the fury on Lei Na's face became deeper. He raised his head and mocked Xiao Yan who was repeatedly dodging, "Don't tell me you are a rabbit? If you have guts, fight me head on!"

Upon hearing Lei Na's words, some of the students observing around them could not help but laugh quietly. You use the strength of a Dou Ling to bully a Da Dou Shi and still ask the other person not to dodge? Did he really think that other people are fools?

However, just as the observing students around them were quietly laughing, Xiao Yan, whose body had been moving swiftly, really came to a stop. A delicate and handsome face was filled with a coldness at this moment. Those dark-black pupils were coldly watching Lei Na opposite of him.

Lei Na immediately rejoiced upon seeing that Xiao Yan had actually listened to him and ceased dodging. His feet violently stomped on the ground and his body shot out in a sudden explosive manner.

Xiao Yan watched Lei Na shooting explosively toward him in an indifferent manner. His body did not make the slightest movement as his hand was slowly lifted. He flicked his palm and a green-purple fire lotus the size of one's palm was suspended on it.

Following the appearance of the green-purple fire lotus, the space around Xiao Yan's palm began to suddenly form waves of fluctuating motion. Everyone looked over, only to see that the space there had become distorted. Immediately, they were stunned.

Lei Na, who was shooting explosively toward Xiao Yan, similarly discovered the unusual phenomenon that the fire lotus in Xiao Yan's palm brought. A shocked expression swiftly drew past his face. He could vaguely sense just what kind of frightening strength was contained in that fire lotus.

"This is bad... given his strength, how can he display this kind of terrifying Dou Technique?" A thought flashed across Lei Na's heart. In his shock, his feet hurriedly rubbed on the ground. Both of his hands blasted out a force in front of him, using the reverse force from it to let his forward charging body finally come to a stop. After which, he used both of his legs to hurriedly pull back.

"Bang!"

Xiao Yan's gently stepped forward after indifferently eyeing Lei Na. As it fell, an energy explosion was emitted from under his feet. Immediately, Xiao Yan's body turned into a vague black shadow. It was like black-colored lightning as he instantly appeared in front of Lei Na. His expression was cold as he used the fire lotus in his hand to ruthlessly smashed at the latter's head.

The green-purple fire lotus was swiftly enlarged in Lei Na's eyes, shining upon his distorted face where shock and horror were coexisting.

### **Chapter 489: Elder He**

Xiao Yan's face was cold and indifferent. The green-purple fire lotus in his hand ruthlessly smashed toward the shocked and horrified face belonging to Lei Na. From the looks of the ferocious force, it was evident that the former did not have any intention of showing mercy.

“Stop!”

However, just as the fire lotus was merely around two feet from Lei Na, an old low cry was suddenly transmitted from a distance. Since the strength of the Dou Qi contained in the cry was strong, it resulted in the eardrums of the students in this area to be shaken until they felt a pain.

Xiao Yan’s face changed slightly when he heard the cry. A thought swiftly flashed across his heart. Xiao Yan forcefully stilled his vicious smashing hand in mid-air. Even though this was the case, the high temperature on the fire lotus still incinerated Lei Na’s hair into a pile of ashes in an instant.

“Chi!”

The moment that Xiao Yan’s palm came to a stop, an extremely powerful force abruptly flashed over from the mid-air. However, it was not directed toward Xiao Yan. Instead, it heavily shot onto Lei Na’s body. Immediately, under this ferocious force, Lei Na’s body was like a kite with its string severed. He rolled a couple of times in mid-air before heavily smashing into the wall. Immediately, he spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, dying the dark-black floor a dark-red color.

With Lei Na, who was in front of him, sent flying with one blow, Xiao Yan had lost his target. He could only slowly straighten his body while his palm dragged a green-purple fire lotus the size of a palm. He followed the gazes of everyone present and turned toward the source of the cry.

At the end of the well lit passageway, a few human figures had come flashing over. The person in front was clearly an old man. His speed was swift. Everyone had merely seen his body performing a few leaps and flashes when he appeared at this place where the incident had occurred.

“Elder He! Why was he disturbed? He even came out?”

Seeing the appearance of this old man whose body was a little hunched, some of the expressions of the observing students involuntarily changed. They cried out involuntarily. These tower guardian Elders had an extremely high position within the Inner Academy. They would usually not show themselves in situations where a fight broke out between students. It was really unexpected that the highest person-in-charge of the third level would actually make an appearance today. This caused these students to involuntarily feel some surprise.

Not long after the old man flashed and appeared, four to five human figures quickly appeared after him. The few of them were the instructors within the tower. They had hurried over because they had similarly sensed the frightening energy fluctuation here.

“What are you doing?” The sharp gaze of that somewhat hunched old man looked all around him as he coldly cried out.

The surrounding students all had their mouths tightly shut when they heard the question of the old man. The prestige these Elders had within the Inner Academy was something that could not be infringed upon. One would be in for suffering if one offended them.

“Elder He, why would we disturb your elderly self? There is only ordinary sparring going on here.” A somewhat sweet lovely voice broke the silence. It was actually Lui Fei who had swiftly walked forward and spoke with smile toward Elder He.

“An ordinary sparring? If I had come a little later, I’m afraid that a life might be lost!” Elder He coldly chided. He turned his gaze and stopped it on Xiao Yan’s body. When his gaze swept toward the purple-green fire lotus on Xiao Yan’s hand, his eyes suddenly shrunk. He could sense the frightening energy contained within that fire lotus.

“Little fellow, can you resolve that fire lotus in your hand? I will uphold justice for the incident here.” Elder He took one step toward Xiao Yan before he stopped. Within this range, he would be able to instantly come to the rescue in the event of any unexpected situation.

“I will do as Elder orders.” Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment after hearing Elder He’s words. After which, he nodded. He clearly knew the strength the Elders possessed within the Inner Academy. Naturally, he was unwilling to easily offend them.

Xiao Yan’s right hand covered the green-purple fire lotus suspended in his palm. Spiritual Strength came surging out and invaded the flame, splitting the tight connection of the fire energy within. With the great increase of his current strength, Xiao Yan’s control over this ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ had also reached a higher degree of proficiency. In the past he could not even grasp the merging portion, but he was now in possession of the ability to withdraw and release it as he pleased.

The erosion generated by the Spiritual Strength caused the green-purple flame to form an intense undulation. Upon seeing the fluctuation of the flame, Elder He’s face immediately became much more worried. His shriveled hands were curled slightly like an eagle claw and a sharp Dou Qi was partially visible in his palm, ready to act any moment.

However, it was fortunate that the worst case scenario Elder He expected did not appear. After the green-purple flame fluctuated a little, they gradually became illusionary. A moment later, they disappeared into thin air on Xiao Yan’s palm.

Seeing that the frightening flame had finally disappeared, Elder He quietly sighed in relief. His tense body also slowly became more relaxed.

“Little fellow, you are Xiao Yan, right?” On top of sighing in relief, Elder He looked up and down and sized up Xiao Yan. He recalled the frightening fire lotus from earlier and surprise flashed across his eyes as he asked Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan was slightly startled. He did not expect that even this Elder He had heard of his name. Immediately, he hurriedly nodded. “This little one, Xiao Yan, greets Elder He.”

“Ke ke.” Elder He smiled and nodded. The cold, sharp expression of Elder He became much gentler when facing Xiao Yan. He asked, “What happened here?”

“Elder He, you know that this training room is a place that Fei-er frequently uses. Today, it was forcefully occupied by this person. Big Brother Lei Na is merely helping Fei-er seek justice. However, it was really unexpected that this person was so ruthless in his attack. If Elder He had not shouted earlier, I’m afraid that Big Brother Lei Na would have lost his life here.” Hearing Elder He inquire about the entire story, Liu Fei hurriedly took a step forward. Her pretty face had some grievances as she explained what happened.

She had trained on the third level for a long period of time, therefore, Liu Fei and Elder He had met a couple of times before. Moreover, due to the beauty of the former, Elder He was extremely warm toward her when they spoke to each other occasionally. She naturally had some intentions of having Elder He punish Xiao Yan now that she had opened her mouth to speak first.

If this occurred during ordinary times and involved an ordinary student, Elder He might give the former a dressing down on account that a man should not argue with a woman. However, the offender today was Xiao Yan. The First Elder had mentioned this person by name and wanted all of them to take care of this student. Hence, Liu Fei’s hope clearly would result in her being disappointed.

Sure enough, after hearing Liu Fei’s narration, Elder He simply rolled his eyelids faintly and ignored her. He merely swept his gaze toward Xiao Yan and smiled as he said, “Xiao Yan, why don’t you describe what happened.”

Seeing that Elder He actually ignored her, that Liu Fei was involuntarily startled and immediately stepped back bitterly. She clearly knew the strength of these Elders. If it was her elder cousin here personally, the Elder might still give him some face. However, with her ability and training talent... she could only save the effort.

Xiao Yan glanced indifferently at Liu Fei, the wicked person who was the first to swing accusations. A cold smile that he did not hide drew passed his face. He cupped his hands toward Elder Liu and described all that had happened earlier in detail from the start to the end. Due to there being numerous spectators, Xiao Yan did not exaggerate anything, but merely told the truth of the story.

Elder He’s expression involuntarily became a little ugly as Xiao Yan told the story. He turned his head slightly, and coldly stared at Lei Na who was climbing to his feet at the

corner of the wall. This stare of him caused the expression of the originally somewhat anxious Lei Na to become much paler.

Liu Fei by the side also heard Xiao Yan reveal her involvement. Her pretty face involuntarily became ugly once again.

“Lei Na, as a senior, you actually failed to follow the rules of the tower. You will be fined thirty days of ‘Fire Energy’ which you must pay up within three days. Otherwise, you will be punished by being prohibited from entering the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ for one month.” After Xiao Yan had revealed the entire story, Elder He nodded. Under the observations of numerous gazes, he turned his gaze toward Lei Na and coldly spoke.

Upon hearing the punishment that came out of Elder He’s mouth, the surrounding students could not help but be startled. Immediately, they turned their pitiful gazes toward the pale-faced Lei Na. This fellow was going to bleed greatly this time around.

“Liu Fei, although you are not the primary offender, you have the fault of being an instigator and will be fined ten days of ‘Fire Energy.’ You must pay up within three days, or you will be punished as mentioned earlier.” The cold gaze once again turned toward Liu Fei. That cry, however, caused Liu Fei to become a little dull. She did not expect that Elder Liu would also punish her.

“Xiao Yan, although you had good reason, your attack was too vicious. You will be fined five days of ‘Fire Energy’ as a warning.” Elder He finally turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan and softly cried out.

Hearing that the punishment Elder He had given Xiao Yan was insignificant, the people around were once again shocked. They faced each other. Immediately, they appeared to have understood something and remained quiet. According to the rules, using a fatal attack during sparring would receive an extremely heavy punishment. Some of the unlucky ones would even be disallowed to enter the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to train for one to two months. Compared with Xiao Yan’s fine of five days of ‘Fire Energy,’ it was naturally the difference between the Heavens and the Earth...

No one expected Xiao Yan to possess such a backing. Liu Fei and Lei Na could be considered to have kicked a metal plate this time around.

“Elder He, isn’t your punishment for Xiao Yan a little too light? A person using a fatal move while sparring will be prohibited from entering the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower!’” Liu Fei’s face was green and her voice had become much sharper.

“If you are not satisfied with my judgement, you can go and find the First Elder or the Headmaster...” Elder Liu glanced at Liu Fei before speaking indifferently.

Liu Fei was furious when she heard this. This First Elder seldom appeared, where would she go and look for him? As for the Headmaster, she had not even seen this



mysterious Headmaster once since she had entered the Inner Academy, not to mention finding him to seek redress for the injustice.

“Alright, the matter today shall end here. If there is anyone who does not obey the rules of the tower in the future, do not blame me for giving a heavy punishment.” Elder He’s gaze glanced around him. Those people who came into contact with his gaze hurriedly lowered their heads.

Elder He glanced at Xiao Yan before turning around and walking back down the path which he had come from.

“Little fellow, the next time that you spar with someone, don’t go all out like this. It is good that you want to show your might, but one would not achieve what one desires if one overdoes things...” Xiao Yan eyed Elder He who was leaving. He was just about to bow and send the latter away respectfully when a low old voice reverberated softly by the side of his ears. Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this voice before he quietly nodded.

As Elder He left, this area once again descended into an embarrassed silence. There was additional respect and fear present in those gazes that looked at Xiao Yan. They were not formed from the Elder He covering up his actions, but were formed because of the terrifying fire lotus that Xiao Yan had displayed. A person with sharp eyes would be able to see that if Xiao Yan’s attack had not stopped and Elder He did not appear, the current Lei Na might well have become a corpse by now.

Xiao Yan was unconcerned about the gazes around him. He once again turned around and walked into that high grade training room. When he passed Liu Fei, he paused his footsteps and said faintly, “I didn’t hit you only because you are a woman. If you were a man, your ending would not have been much better than Lei Na’s...”

Once he said this, Xiao Yan brushed his sleeves and walked into the training room, leaving behind a green-faced Liu Fei who was clenching her silver teeth.

### **Chapter 490: Progress of Training**

Xiao Yan leaned his back against the door after he entered the training room. His originally sleek red face had suddenly become much paler. The ‘Swift Wind Spirit Pill’ that he had consumed before his training had caused the Dou Qi to increase its circulating intensity for a short period of time. However, after his training was interrupted, the side effect of the ‘Swift Wind Spirit Pill’ had appeared. The slowly circulating Dou Qi in his body caused Xiao Yan to have a weak feeling flowing all over his body. Earlier, one of the reasons that Xiao Yan had resorted to the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ when exchanging blows with Lei Na earlier was to use it to show his might and deter others. The other hidden reason was that the weak Dou Qi in his body was insufficient to allow him to hold out for too long against Lei Na’s hands.

Xiao Yan glanced at his shattered robe and sighed gently. He could not help but feel some lingering fear in his heart. If Lei Na's attack earlier was a little faster, it was likely Xiao Yan would be forced to reveal an opening, and would end up being seriously injured. Fortunately, the appearance of the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' had caused Lei Na to first lose his fighting spirit. The deterrent effect that he needed was also perfectly achieved. All of these had some element of luck mixed in as well.

Xiao Yan softly coughed for a couple of times. He slowly walked to the black stone platform and sat cross-legged on it with some difficulty. He inhaled and exhaled the warm air deeply a couple of times before forming his training seal. After which, he once again entered his training condition, circulating his Dou Qi and slowly recovered his condition.

After nearly three to four hours of training while sitting cross-legged, the weak feeling in Xiao Yan's body gradually disappeared. The slow Dou Qi as a result of the 'Swift Wind Spirit Pill' also began to slowly recover its normal state.

After the condition in his body recovered, Xiao Yan once again took out a 'Swift Wind Spirit Pill' and swallowed it. Once again, he entered into his retreat training state!

Earlier Xiao Yan came to know that Liu Fei appeared to have an extremely strong older cousin from her own mouth. Moreover, from looking at the degree of respect that Lei Na had toward this so called older cousin, it was clear that this person's strength far exceeded Lei Na. Although he was considered to have gained an advantage in this matter today because of favoritism by Elder He, he most likely had completely offended that woman because of this. This type of woman who appears to be gentle, but bones were extremely haughty would likely be unaware of what was called appeasement based on Xiao Yan's expectations. Hence... in order to put an end to some trouble in the future, the current Xiao Yan needed to swiftly raise his strength!

There was no concept of time during training. A full five days passed since the incident that had happened in the third level that day. During these five days, the name of Xiao Yan had gradually been transmitted into the ears of all the students who were training within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.'

A frightening fire lotus skill that had frightened Lei Na, who was a four star Dou Ling, until he had lost his fighting spirit on the spot. Xiao Yan had also not given Liu Fei, who possessed the beautiful name of Snow Fairy within the Inner Academy, even a little face, and after using such a heavy blow, he did not receive any great punishment from the usually strict Elder He. All of these mysterious incidents caused Xiao Yan to become the hottest topic of conversation within the Inner Academy in a short period of time.

Of course, when they were spreading the conversation contents to one another, there were quite a number of students who involuntarily felt respect in their hearts. Forget about discussing why the usually strict Elder He would treat Xiao Yan with such politeness. Just the frightening fire lotus of Xiao Yan's, which shocked Lei Na until the

latter lost his fighting spirit, was sufficient to cause them to feel respect toward Xiao Yan. In this 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' and even the entire Inner Academy, the strong would ultimately be honored no matter how one put it. It was also because of the frightening fire lotus that Xiao Yan had displayed to cause some of those suitors of Liu Fei's, who quietly admired her, not to dare look for Xiao Yan to issue a challenge. Otherwise, how would Xiao Yan be able to quietly undertake a five day retreat without anyone daring to come and interrupt him after having offended Liu Fei, the little beauty who possessed quite a great reputation within the Inner Academy?

However, no matter how one put it, the deterrent effect that Xiao Yan required was indeed something that he had successfully achieved!

People came and went in the spacious third level. The atmosphere was extremely lively and there would occasionally be one or two battle circles with heated fights. Many curious people surrounded these battle circles.

When the human flow that came and went passed through a certain corridor in the high grade training area, they would involuntarily throw their gaze toward a high grade training room by the side where a tag representing someone was occupying it hung. These gazes were filled with curiosity and some respect. During these few days, nearly all the students training in the third level knew that this training room was the place where the new student, Xiao Yan, who had shocked the elite four star Dou Ling, Lei Na, with the frightening fire lotus until he lost his fighting spirit, was staying in.

There were also quite a number of people who had come after hearing Xiao Yan's name. They wanted get a look at this student's appearance. However, ever since the end of the fight that day, Xiao Yan had not come out after entering that training room. This had caused them to be slightly disappointed. However, the people around could only give up the thought of seeing him. Although an ordinary Dou Zhe or even Da Dou Shi may need to eat something to fill one's belly after training for a day, the degree of one's resistance to hunger would become increasingly stronger following the increase in strength of one's Dou Qi. Once one reach the class of the Da Dou Shi, one might not be able to completely ignore eating food, but when one was in a training state, the body's consumption would reach its lowest point. If one did not consume any food for five days, there would not be any serious effect other than one's body being a little weaker.

Hence, after seeing the tightly shut training room door, the students who had come after hearing his name could only leave in disappointment. After all, they did not know just how long this retreat of Xiao Yan would continue for.

"Creak..."

The sudden sound of a door opening in the corridor attracted some gazes over. This was especially so when they saw the door number of the one that was being opened. They immediately became startled and their gazes became much hotter.

The entire noisy corridor had suddenly become much quieter. Numerous gazes were thrown to the door which was opening.

Under the focus of everyone's gazes, the young man in black robes slowly walked out with a calm expression. When he saw those gazes in the corridor which were thrown at him, he could not help but knit his eyebrows slightly together. He helplessly shook his head, turned around and left this training room. After which, he slowly walked toward the entrance to the fourth level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.'

After spending nearly seven days training on the third level, the perfect progress that Xiao Yan had obtained in his training had caused him to feel stunned. Xiao Yan was able to faintly feel that he had entered into the peak of a seven star Da Dou Shi in just this short seven days partly because of help of the 'Swift Wind Spirit Pill,' the 'Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment,' and the refining effect of the Heart Flame during this period of time. According to this speed, he might be able to touch the barrier of the eight star without much time and break through it in one go.

Xiao Yan felt extremely excited at his progress. However, just as Xiao Yan was planning to continue training and break through to the eight star level in one go, he was suddenly somewhat stunned to discover that the Heart Flame could not keep up. After nearly seven days the Heart Flame and the circulating speed of the Dou Qi, the Heart Flame of the third level was beginning to be unable to provide satisfactory supply. At times, it would be choppy, causing Xiao Yan to have no choice but to cut his training and choose to come out from his retreat midway through it.

Now that the strength of the Heart Flame could no longer satisfy Xiao Yan's requirement, he could only continue down to the fourth level. Otherwise, his training speed might be greatly reduced.

Under the heated gazes of everyone, Xiao Yan slowly disappeared at the edge of the corridor. When they saw the path which he was taking, the crowd in the corridor involuntarily emitted sounds of private conversations.

"He appears to be intending to head to the fourth level?"

"Uh, isn't the fourth level a place that one must reach the Dou Ling class strength to be able to enter? Xiao Yan doesn't appear to have achieved it right?"

"Ah... but who knows. He can even defeat Lei Na. I think that he should be able to enter the fourth level, right?"

Everyone in the corridor faced each other before they immediately laughed bitterly and shook their heads.

Xiao Yan did not hear the private conversations behind him. He walked past the corridor before taking a turn, and saw the passageway which had instructors strictly guarding it. After hesitating for a moment, he walked over swiftly.

“One must have the strength of a Dou Ling in order to enter the fourth level. Those whose strength has not reached it are prohibited from entering!” An instructor saw Xiao Yan who was walking over from the distance and spoke lazily.

“Uh?” Xiao Yan’s footsteps paused. Surprise flashed on his face. Immediately, he let out a bitter smile. It was unexpected that the condition to enter the fourth level was this harsh. Could he only continue to train at the third level? Just thinking of how the Heart Flame was humbled when faced with the circulating Dou Qi in his body, Xiao Yan could not help but feel a little headache.

“You... you are Xiao Yan?” Just when Xiao Yan felt a headache, the other instructor who had come forward to size Xiao Yan up suddenly opened his mouth and asked in surprise.

Hearing the surprised voice of his companion, the instructor who had spoken lazily earlier also raised his head in astonishment. He eyed the black-robed young man who had come in front of him and saw that somewhat familiar face. Once again, he recalled the instructions of the First Elder and hurriedly said, “You are that Xiao Yan who had a conflict with Lei Na a couple of days ago?”

Xiao Yan hesitated a little when he saw the surprised gazes of those two instructors. He nodded slightly before immediately cupping his hands together toward the two instructors and said, “Since this student has not met the requirement, I will continue to train at the third level. I have disturbed you, instructors.”

“Hey, wait!”

Seeing Xiao Yan turn around with the intention of leaving, the instructor from earlier hurriedly stopped him. The latter’s face was full of smiles as he said, “Elder He has already given instructions to us. If you want to enter the fourth level, we need to do things according to the rules. Therefore... please.”

Xiao Yan could not help but be startled when he saw the smiling manner of this instructor. Joy immediately surfaced on his face. If he could enter the fourth level to train, breaking through to the eight star Da Dou Shi would be just around the corner. Immediately, he hurriedly cupped his hands toward the two of them. “Thank you very much, Elder He and instructors.”

“Ke ke, there’s no harm... your level may not have reached the requirement, but in terms of strength you do have the qualification.” The two instructors smiled gently and replied when they saw the joyous face of Xiao Yan.

“Alright, you should go down first. I saw that you have undertaken a retreat for quite a number of days. After entering the fourth level, you should eat something. Otherwise, your body cannot endure this kind of closed door training.”

“Thank you for your concern, instructor.”

Xiao Yan voiced his thanks toward the two of them, cupped his hands together and hurriedly walked into the passageway. After which, he disappeared around a corner with numerous stunned gazes behind him.

## **Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 491: Breaking Through Once Again - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 491: Breaking Through Once Again**

### **Chapter 491: Breaking Through Once Again**

The students who had the qualifications to enter the fourth level of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ to train could basically be considered the top among the Inner Academy. Being unworthy of this level, the current Xiao Yan did not act so mightily like he did in the third level. Hence, after he entered the fourth level, he first settled the most important matter of filling his belly before choosing a middle grade training room to continue his important task of his retreat.

Although the effect of training in the middle grade training room on the fourth level could not compare with that of a high grade one, if one was to compare the degree of power of the Heart Flame, it was much stronger than that obtained by training in the high grade training room on the third level. From the perspective of the current Xiao Yan, it was just suitable. His training would also not be frequently interrupted because of people trying to snatch a high grade training room.

After finding an empty training room, Xiao Yan once again took out the medicinal cauldron and refined some ‘Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment’ and ‘Swift Wind Spirit Pill.’ During the seven days of retreat, he had exhausted all of the pills from the last refinement. Therefore, he needed to once again open his cauldron and refine them.

With the refinement experience from the last round, Xiao Yan’s refinement this time around naturally appeared even more skillful. Thus, the time which he used was greatly reduced. Moreover, the quality and quantity that he refined was clearly better than his first attempt.

After Xiao Yan successfully refined the two types of medicinal pills that he needed, he began his retreat. His great breakthrough plan would continue without bothering about anything else.

This time around, Xiao Yan's retreat was not interrupted midway through, perhaps due to some other factors. This also gave him his most favorable training time.

There was no concept of time when training. With a flick of a finger, nearly half a month passed by. During this reclusive retreat, Xiao Yan would occasionally leave the training room but around ninety-five percent of his time was spent within the training room, persevering to breakthrough the eight star barrier.

Under this kind of training where he forgot to eat and sleep, Xiao Yan, who had already reached the peak of the seven star Da Dou Shi class, had finally vaguely touched the eight star boundary after half a month. Now, after two to three days of training, the Dou Qi in his body finally reached a stage where it was completely full. It was like a tank that was filled to capacity with water. At this moment, the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan's body was like water which was about to overflow. As long as one added a little more, it would break the bounds of the water tank and enter into an even larger world.

This little opportunity finally came suddenly during one of Xiao Yan's training where he was slightly unconscious...

Xiao Yan's upper body was naked within the quiet training room. He sat cross-legged on the black stone platform. Both of his hands formed the training seals. His face was like an old monk meditating, appearing calm and indifferent. The threads of powerful energy visible to the naked eye were pouring unceasingly into his body due to the effect of the 'Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment' that was spread all over.

The quiet atmosphere continued for an unknown period of time. Suddenly, an extremely slight but strange, low sound appeared like a drum being heavily pounded beside one's ears. If one were to carefully listen to it, this sound was actually being emitted from Xiao Yan's body!

Not long after the appearance of this strange low sound, Xiao Yan's wooden pillar like unmoving body appeared to have received an electric shock. It trembled abruptly and an unusual sleek redness immediately swarmed up onto his face. Of course, the change was not only restricted to this little bit on the outside. An extremely great change appeared to also be happening in his body. The most obvious one was the suction force in his body which had suddenly rose explosively.

Under this incomparably powerful suction force, the dark-red, hot energy threads lingering around his body that was originally entering his body in a successive manner had become like a herd of wild bulls that was in a panic state at this moment. They no longer cared even a little about order as they wildly swarmed into Xiao Yan!

Xiao Yan's body had once again turned into a bottomless pit at this moment. It received all the energy that came, regardless how large the energy that swarmed over was. Moreover, there was no signs of this momentum being reduced. Instead, the suction force became increasingly stronger. Finally, it resulted in the energy in the training room

to appear like the surface of a calm lake after one had thrown a large rock into it. The energy fluctuated and an extremely large energy ripple with Xiao Yan at the middle was suddenly formed. A powerful suction force stirred all of the energy that filled the training room.

The unusual phenomenon within the training room continued for nearly over ten minutes before the clear explosive sound of bone slowly became weaker...

After the appearance of the somewhat strange bone explosive sound, the enormous energy ripple within the training room became increasingly weaker. A moment later, it finally completely disappeared... Following this disappearance of the energy ripple, the human figure that was seated cross-legged was once again revealed.

The black robe on the body of the current Xiao Yan had been shaken by the wildly pouring energy earlier until it was in tatters. The 'Green Ganoderma Fire Spirit Ointment' that was applied all over his skin had also been vaporized and depleted. Other than the seven-colored small snake hiding and sleeping on his arm, the other remaining part of his body, which was still skinny, did not have much change compared to earlier.

The green-colored flame soared strangely from within Xiao Yan's tightly shut eyes as they were slowly opened. Finally, it shrouded over his dark-black pupils. It was awhile later before it gradually disappeared.

The flame was withdrawn. The pair of dark-black pupils were somewhat darker, deeper, and more profound compared to earlier. A long turbid breath moved along his throat and was exhaled. This breath actually contained a little black vapor.

Xiao Yan immediately knit his eyebrows tightly upon seeing the black vapor in his breath. His heart only recalled something which he had nearly forgotten, the 'Searing Poison.' It was that mutated 'Searing Poison' that had been hiding deep within his body and was difficult to cure just like maggots within one's tarsal bones.

"It is really unexpected that I have only managed to remove this little bit of 'Searing Poison' by borrowing the strength of breaking through... this damn thing. It really causes one's entire body to feel uncomfortable by concealing itself in one's body." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and shook his head. Although the 'Searing Poison' currently did not appear to display any harm to his body because of the protection of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' that his body enjoyed, this thing was ultimately a thorn in Xiao Yan's heart each day that it was not removed. After all, he had personally witnessed its strength. Even Nalan Jie, with his Dou Wang class strength, had nearly lost his life because of this thing. There was no need to even mention him, who was a seven star, no, an eight star Da Dou Shi now.

Xiao Yan sighed gently as he temporarily put down the worry over the 'Searing Poison' that he had in his heart. He slowly stood up and twisted his body. Immediately, a clear



bone cracking sound, like that of a firecracker being lit, appeared within the training room.

As the cracking sound appeared, a relaxed and full feeling seeped out from within Xiao Yan's bones. After a twenty plus days retreat, he had finally broke through to an eight star Da Dou Shi as he had hoped. Such a fruitful result was worthy of his twenty plus days of reclusive and tough training!

"Already eight star. Looks like my distance to the Dou Ling class... is not far..." Xiao Yan smiled. He lowered his head to eye the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' on his arm which carried an icy-cold temperature and could not help but say with a bitter smile, "This fellow is really becoming increasingly greedy for more sleep these days. It was not even woken up after such a large activity..."

Although Xiao Yan was scolding with a smile on his mouth, his heart sunk greatly. This kind of long-term slumber of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was clearly irrational. According to common sense, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python,' which was in its growing period, should be extremely lively. However, it was current drowsy all day and was not even the least bit alert... Xiao Yan had a faint inkling on what kind of abnormality this meant. Immediately, he could not help but become a little worried.

"Looks like the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' has already begun to be pressured by that of Queen Medusa... According to this situation, I'm afraid that in less than a year, Queen Medusa will successfully occupy the body of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. At that time, her spirit and the body will merge. She will also truly become an absolute strong Dou Zong... Dammit, from the looks of the viciousness of that woman, the first thing she will do after she gains control of the body will be to point a blade at me..." Xiao Yan's hand rubbed the somewhat icy-cold body of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. His brows were knit until they formed a straight line as he slowly muttered.

"Rest assured that she will not attack you before she obtains the 'Thawing Spirit Pill.' How is it so easy for the spirit and the physical body to perfectly merge? She must borrow the help of the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' to first swallow the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' Only after that can she merge with the body of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' Otherwise, she will not be able to achieve total control. The body of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' would only become a burden to her." An old laugh suddenly sounded from within Xiao Yan's heart, comforting his uneasy heart.

"Teacher!"

Xiao Yan's face rejoiced upon hearing the voice in his heart. Only after hearing Yao Lao's words did he let out a heavy sigh of relief. He smiled and nodded as he spoke in his heart, "It will be for the best if it is like this. As long as she still requires the 'Thawing Spirit Pill,' I will have the chips to discuss conditions with her. It will naturally be for the best if I can rope in an elite Dou Zong."

“Yes, Queen Medusa who broke through the limits of a Dou Huang will have limitless potential in the future. Back then, a Medusa evolved and appeared on the Dou Qi continent once. However, her actual body was not the ‘Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python’ but another ancient ferocious beast: ‘Seven Wings Purple Golden Snake.’ Although it is a little weaker than the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python,’ three elite Dou Zun were eventually mobilized in order to exterminate her back then.” Yao Lao laughed. His voice contained a feeling of cherishment.

“Three Dou Zuns?”

TL: For those who cannot remember, Dou Zun the next level after Dou Zong. Refer to wiki

The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth parted. This title that contained an immense pressure caused Xiao Yan to not know what to say. He was black for a long while before his gaze turned toward the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ on his arm. He laughed bitterly and muttered, “Is this ‘grandaunt’ going to be that powerful in the future? Won’t I be unlucky? Ah... ‘Heaven Swallowing Python,’ you must hang on. Do not get swallowed by that woman. Otherwise none of us will have a good time...”

TL: grandaunt - refers to a female who is great and difficult to deal with

As Xiao Yan thought about the partially visible cold and indifferent killing intent that Queen Medusa would always display toward him, a cold shiver violently occurred in Xiao Yan’s heart. Being eyed by this kind of frightening woman really could not be considered good news...

### **Chapter 492: Tyrant Spear Liu Qing**

Xiao Yan eyed the lush green color outside as he walked out of the tower’s door. He felt the warm sunlight that scattered down from the sky and involuntarily had an introspective feeling. He opened both his arms before he suddenly laughed bitterly. It was really unexpected that this retreat, which was not even a month long, nearly caused his mind to be overly sensitive.

Since the Heavy Xuan Ruler had basically become Xiao Yan’s signature item at this moment, he did not frequently carry it on him in order to save some trouble. Although it would affect his training this way, it also caused Xiao Yan to have much less of a need to worry.

Xiao Yan followed the road and walked for nearly half an hour before he returned to the new student residence area of ‘Pan’s Gate.’ He eyed those guards standing as straight as a pen at the entrance and involuntarily praised quietly. It was really indeed as Xun Er had said. This ‘Pan’s Gate’ was basically undergoing changes like day and night. By observing the aura of just these few guards of ‘Pan’s Gate,’ it was likely that they were all around the peak of the Dou Shi class. Clearly, quite a number of members of ‘Pan’s

'Gate' were training within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' during this one month. Moreover, it appeared that the effects of the tower were quite beneficial.

Xiao Yan slowly walked toward the entrance. Those few guards on sentry duty actually still remembered Xiao Yan's face. After being initially startled, some excitement swarmed onto their faces instantly. When the former walked closer, the few of them pulled their throat as they shouted in unison, "Chief!"

The loud and clear voices pulled over the gazes of some of the people coming and going. Xiao Yan parted his mouth, and smiled foolishly at the few of them and helplessly shook his head. He walked forward, patted one person on his shoulder before swaying leisurely as he walked into the new student area. He left behind the guard whose face was shocked from being favored due to Xiao Yan's actions.

"Hee hee, after not having seen him for one month, Chief's strength appears to have advanced quite a lot. Looks like an elite Dou Ling will appear in our 'Pan's Gate' very soon. At that time, we will not need to watch other people's expressions to do things." The guard, whose shoulder was patted by Xiao Yan earlier, could not help but part his mouth and speak with a smile as he eyed the partially visible back of Xiao Yan.

"Che, who is the chief afraid of now? All of you have also recently been training frequently within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' Don't tell me that you have not even heard of that incident? Hee hee, shocking a four star Dou Ling until the latter lost his fighting strength with just one strike. How many people in this Inner Academy can do this kind of thing?"

"I have also heard of that incident. Ha ha. Now, no other faction look down on us, like in the past, upon hearing that we are members of 'Pan's Gate' while we are training in the tower. This is mostly because of Chief!"

Xiao Yan was naturally unable to hear the conversation of these guards. However, since he had entered the new students area until now, the occasional members of 'Pan's Gate' coming and going would be initially startled upon seeing him before they immediately gave way. Their gazes were filled with respect and fear as they eyed Xiao Yan who walked past them with some doubt.

Xiao Yan walked back to the small pavilion home. After he entered the door, he discovered that Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were present. Even that Lin Yan was also unexpectedly in the hall.

Xun Er was the first among the four people in the hall to discover Xiao Yan in the doorway. However, the one who had the most intense reaction was Lin Yan. One could see him jumping from the chair like a rabbit as his body moved toward Xiao Yan's side in a lightning-like manner. After which, he grabbed Xiao Yan's sleeves under the latter's stunned gaze and frantically scolded, "You, little fellow, are finally back. Hurry up. The 'Ice Spirit Pill' and the 'Marrow Washing Cold Spirit Liquid' have all been used up. I have

already waited for you for three, maybe four days. If you did not return by tomorrow, I wanted to go into the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to look for you."

Xiao Yan used all his might to pull back his sleeve which was pulled by Lin Yan. He rolled his eyes and said, "Why are you in such a hurry? You won't die just because the poison isn't expelled for one or two more days..."

Xiao Yan ignored Lin Yan after he said this. He walked into the hall and sat on a chair before speaking with a smile toward Xun Er and the two others, "How is it? Have there been any problems with 'Pan's Gate' recently? That 'White Gang' did not make any movements, right?"

"Ah, originally, there were still members who said that they had met some people from the 'White Gang' coming to find trouble while they were training in the tower during the first one to two days of your retreat. However, thanks to your recent prestige within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' after that, now the 'White Gang' does not dare to be too presumptuous. They reduced some of those small actions. I think that your deterrence had some effect."

"Moreover, there are currently quite a number of older students who were free agents that want to join our 'Pan's Gate.' After some assessment, the current size of 'Pan's Gate' is around a quarter larger than before your retreat. Moreover, the strength of those older students was not bad. Most of them have the strength of the Da Dou Shi class." Xun Er personally poured a warm cup of tea for Xiao Yan as she pursed her mouth and smiled.

"Oh?"

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He immediately smiled in a stunned manner and said, "I only used Lei Na's matter to serve as a warning because I wanted to make it so that no one would disturb me during my retreat. It is really unexpected that there were these kinds of benefits..."

"Hei, there is indeed some benefit. However, there is also quite a lot of disadvantage. You caused Lei Na to become bald. Now, he will grit his teeth upon mentioning you. Moreover, you even offended Liu Fei, that woman who is all chest and no brains. Originally, offending her is nothing. However, you should not forget what kind of person her older cousin brother is. Tyrant Spear Liu Qing. This name is not some nameless individual within the Inner Academy. Hee hee, if he wants to speak for Liu Fei, perhaps even your green-purple fire lotus could do nothing to his 'Mountain Splitting Spear.'" Seeing Xiao Yan returning, Lin Yan also calmed down his anxiety. He crossed the hall and coldly laughed.

"How strong is that Liu Qing?" Xiao Yan could not help but frown as he inquired upon hearing the name Liu Qing once again.

“You can ask Wu Hao. Recently, he has lingered around the Fighting Arena frequently and should have some understanding of Liu Qing.” Lin Yan shrunk back into his chair. He felt that explaining this kind of thing was the most troublesome. Hence, he merely curled his lips toward Wu Hao.

Wu Hao shook his head helplessly when he saw Xiao Yan’s gaze shoot over. He mused for a moment before saying, “Tyrant Spear Liu Qing is a top expert among the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking.’ One can count the number of students in the Inner Academy who are able to defeat him with one’s fingers. Additionally, in the Fighting Arena, he was one of the few extremely strong people who had once maintained eight consecutive victories. There are quite a number of people in the Inner Academy who view his name with reverence.”

Xiao Yan took a shallow sip of tea from the teacup in his hand and quietly nodded. With Wu Hao’s strength, he still lost more than he won in the Fighting Arena where strong people were as numerous as the clouds. Hence, Xiao Yan could vaguely guess just how difficult the so-called eight consecutive victory was. It appeared... that this Liu Qing was indeed a person that was extremely difficult to deal with.

“However, you can rest assured that that fellow doesn’t have the time to help speak out for Liu Fei for the time being. In another half a year’s time, it will be the Inner Academy Grand Competition that is held once every five years. He is currently spending every day behind closed doors. Even if he occasionally has the time to come out from the tower, it would be to practice his Dou Skill in the Fighting Arena. Thus, he will not come and find trouble with you before the Grand Competition is over. After that, however... hee hee, it will be hard to say.” Lin Yan gloatingly spoke with a smile.

“Inner Academy Grand Competition?” Xiao Yan’s brows formed a straight line as he asked feeling surprised, “There is this Competition? Why is it that I have never heard any news of it before?”

“This Grand Competition has nothing to do with you... this is a competition between the experts on the ‘Strong Ranking.’ Ordinary people can only watch the fun from below. Hence, all of you naturally don’t have the qualifications to know about it.” Lin Yan curled his lips and said, “As long as one is able to enter the top ten in this competition, one will have the qualifications to become someone that can be chosen to become an Elder. Moreover, one would even obtain the qualification for a chance to enter the ninth level and receive the forging of one’s body by the source of the Heart Flame!”

“Do you know what the source of the Heart Flame is? Simply put, if one was to receive the forging of one’s body by the Heart Flame’s source, one would obtain a pass that leads one to advance to the Dou Wang class provided that one was not someone who is so dreadfully unlucky. Do you understand if it is said in this manner?”

“A direct pass to the Dou Wang class?” When these few words entered their ears, the eyes of Hu Jia and Wu Hao became instantly hot. In the training of Dou Qi, the Dou

Wang class was basically a watershed class that nearly opposed the heavens. Countless numbers of people, who had quite good training talent, were stuck at the edge of the Dou Ling class and were unable to take that one step forward for a long time.

“Heart Flame’s source?”

Compared to the two of them, Xiao Yan placed his focus on this other vocabulary instead. Source... could it be that it is saying... the original body of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame?’

The teacup in his head trembled slightly. Some of the tea splashed out. Xiao Yan forcefully suppressed the shock in his heart as he slowly placed the teacup on the table. He raised his head and asked Lin Yan, “What requirement must one have in order to enter the ninth level?”

“You can forget about having such hope.” Lin Yan rolled his eyes and replied faintly, “Putting it simply, it is impossible for the students to enter deep into the ninth or tenth level. Only the Elders of the Academy have such qualifications. Therefore, most of those fellows who can graduate and leave, instead stay in the academy with the intention of becoming an Elder. This is because only by becoming an Elder will one be able to enter the ninth or even tenth level to train. This way... it would enable them to swiftly touch the barrier to the Dou Huang class.”

“A strong Dou Huang...” Xiao Yan gently sighed. He exchanged glances with Wu Hao by his side and saw a shock within the other party’s eyes. This class could enable one to become an imposing authority of a group even when placed within the entire continent. It was really unexpected that some fellows within the Inner Academy actually had such ambition.

“That ‘Grand Competition’... is it a competition that only those who have entered the ‘Strong Ranking’ can participate?” Xiao Yan gently tapped his finger on the table and asked softly.

“Yes. After all, even if one were to lower the competence level, do you hope that some of those new students, the ones who entered the academy recently, are able to possess the qualification to be potentially selected as an Elder?” Lin Yan’s words were still that direct. He appeared to have forgotten that the four people in front of him were novices who had entered the Inner Academy less than two months ago.

Xiao Yan could only helplessly shake his head at the vicious tongue of this fellow. He raised his head slightly and eyed the ceiling. The glow in his eyes was flickering indefinitely. This was perhaps... an opportunity.

**Chapter 493: Earning Fire Energy**

Xiao Yan carefully observed the expression of Lin Yan in front of him within the room. When he discovered that the red glow in his eyes was much better compared to back then, he nodded slightly and softly spoke, "Looks like the consumption of the 'Ice Spirit Pill' and the external application of the 'Marrow Washing Cold Spirit Liquid' have an extremely notable results with the removal of this 'Fire Poison.'"

"Yes, it is indeed very effective. Each time after I train in the water in which one drop of 'Marrow Washing Cold Spirit Liquid' is placed, that water would turn as red as blood. Moreover, I also sensed the Fire Poison in my body swiftly becoming weaker." Lin Yan's face was filled with excitement. This problem which had worried him for a long while could finally be completely cured now. This was undoubtedly extremely good news for him.

"I think that if you use these medicines the way they should be used for another month, the Fire Poison in your body should be completely expelled." Xiao Yan smiled and took out a bottle of 'Ice Spirit Pill' and 'Marrow Washing Cold Spirit Liquid.' These medicines were completely refined by him while he was in his retreat. Hence, he saved the trouble of refining them again at this moment.

Lin Yan snatched the two bottles of medicine from Xiao Yan's hand in a lightning-like manner. He parted his mouth and smiled. He flung his hand and a pale-green-colored shadow was shot toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan dexterously received the green shadow that was shot over. There was a pale warm jade-like item in his hand. Xiao Yan's eyes drifted and he was somewhat surprised to realize that this pale-green shadow was actually the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine.'

"This is?" Xiao Yan held the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' tightly in his hand as he raised his head to speak to Lin Yan, "Aren't you afraid that the medicine that I gave you will not completely cure you and you are giving this to me now?"

"It is not like you are by yourself. Such a big 'Pan's Gate' is present here. Do I need to be afraid of where you can run off to? Moreover, after personally experiencing it, I am even more clearly aware just how good the effect of this thing is than you, the person who refined it." Lin Yan rolled his eyes, curled his lips and said.

"Ke ke, in that case, thank you very much." Xiao Yan cupped his hands toward Lin Yan and carefully stored this 'Green Wood Celestial Vine,' which he had obtained with great difficulty, within his storage ring. He immediately heaved a long sigh of relief in his heart. With this, he was only left with the final two ingredients needed to refine the 'Ground Spirit Pill.' However, the last two were also items that were extremely difficult to obtain...

"Alright, now that I have obtained the thing I need, I should also be going." Lin Yan waved his hand toward Xiao Yan before turning around and walking out of the door. Just before he exited through the door, he turned around and smiled as he said to Xiao

Yan, "Although there is a mixture of a transaction between us, I, Lin Yan still owe you a favor. Don't tell me that this green vine can be used as payment. My life is much more valuable than a withered branch."

Xiao Yan could only smile bitterly when he heard this.

"If that Liu Qing comes and finds trouble with you in the future, you can send someone to inform me. I have not exchange blows with that fellow for a long while. I wonder how much sharper and overbearing his 'Mountain Splitting Spear' is compared to the past?" After saying this, Lin Yan exited the room and his footsteps gradually became distant.

"Although this fellow has a violent temper, he may be considered a person one can befriend." Xiao Yan laughed softly as he shook his head. He stood up, stretched his lazy waist before slowly walking out of the room.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, how much 'Fire Energy' is remaining on your Fire Crystal Card?" Xun Er played with the three green-colored Fire Crystal Cards on her hand within the hall. As she eyed the number on it, she involuntarily smiled bitterly and shook her head. After which, she raised her head and asked Xiao Yan, who had just descended from the upper floor, a question.

"Uh... it appears like there is only thirty plus more... it is not even enough to train for ten days in the fourth level." Xiao Yan was initially startled before he immediately replied helplessly.

Xun Er sighed when she heard this. Her expression appeared a little vexed.

"What is it? Do you all need 'Fire Energy?'" Xiao Yan could not help but be stunned as he asked upon seeing this manner that she displayed.

"It is not that we need but our 'Pan's Gate' needs it..." Hu Jia to the side continued from where Xun Er left off as she said, "It is not like you don't know that some of the rewards of 'Pan's Gate' requires 'Fire Energy.' Now that 'Pan Gate' has just started, those 'Fire Energy' rewards that are required would naturally come from our own pockets. Xun Er's 'Fire Energy' is almost used up. Recently, she did not even enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train even once... I have exchanged for a Dou Technique a while back so I don't have much left. Now, I have handed over all of it. As for Wu Hao... this fellow is fast losing more than he makes in the Fighting Arena."

Wu Hao's face involuntarily turned red when he heard the last couple of words that Hu Jia said. He laughed dryly, "It is because I am not used to it in the past. Recently, my winning percentage is increasing. Not long later, I should be able to earn back my losses."

"By the time you earn back your losses, 'Pan's Gate' will have lost credibility due to the problem of not being able to pay some of the internal rewards. Once our credibility is



lost, I'm afraid that those new members who have come after hearing about the 'Fire Energy' will immediately leave." Hu Jia threw a look at him as she coldly snorted.

Xiao Yan could not help but feel some guilt when he heard Hu Jia saying this. He had been merrily training, but Xun Er and Hu Jia had not even entered the tower for even a day...

"Xiao Yan ge-ge need not think too much about it. You are currently the face of our 'Pan's Gate' outside. This face naturally requires strength in order to support it. Without your deterrent effect outside, it would be difficult for this 'Pan's Gate' to rise no matter what kind of measures we used." Xun Er appeared to understand the guilt in Xiao Yan's heart as she spoke gently with a slight smile.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. He mused for a long while before slowly speaking, "Now that the 'Fire Energy' which everyone earned during the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' is about to be exhausted, it is indeed time for us to plan how to earn 'Fire Energy'... Do you know how can one obtain 'Fire Energy' within the Inner Academy?"

"The most inefficient method is to take up some cleaning type of low grade task within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' However, this method would be too slow and it is also quite tiring. Hence, most of the people would wait for the 'Fire Energy' to be distributed by the Inner Academy each month. However, there are also some stronger people who would choose to enter the Fighting Arena and use their fighting results to win some 'Fire Energy.' This method is much faster but not as stable. This is because if there is the event where one meets an even stronger opponent, one would not only be unable to win 'Fire Energy' but would also lose quite a lot of it." Xun Er's delicate hand pulled apart her black hair that had drifted in front of her forehead while she voiced her thoughts.

"There are also some people who enter deep into the mountains to hunt for Magical Beasts to search for various different kinds of medicinal ingredients. Moreover, outside of the Inner Academy are vast mountains that stretch for thousands of kilometers. Such a vast region does not lack some of the caves that the predecessors left behind. If one were lucky to find one, it would be an unexpected windfall. Those high class Dou Techniques, Qi Methods, etc. that were left behind by the ancient people sell very well within the Inner Academy. Moreover, the price usually leans toward the higher end."

Xiao Yan crossed his ten fingers together and quietly nodded. He asked softly, "Will anyone use 'Fire Energy' to purchase medicinal pills within the Inner Academy?"

"One can naturally do so. Medicinal pills are extremely rare items that can be compared with Qi Techniques and Dou Skills." Xun Er smiled and nodded. Her wandering eyes stopped on Xiao Yan's body. Those watery pupils of hers contained a faint smile, "Why? Does Xiao Yan ge-ge intend to sell medicinal pills?"

“This is my area of expertise. Naturally, I cannot abandon it.” Xiao Yan smiled and said, “Are there any other people selling medicinal pills within the Inner Academy?”

Xun Er’s eyebrows were suddenly knit slightly together when this was mentioned. She smiled bitterly and nodded as she spoke, “There are indeed other people doing this. Moreover, it is not a person but a faction.”

“Faction?” Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this.

“This faction’s name is called the ‘Medicine Gang.’ Everyone in the gang is an alchemist that entered the Inner Academy from the Alchemist Department...” Xun Er voiced her thoughts, “This ‘Medicine Gang’ basically has a monopoly of over ninety percent of the medicinal pills being sold in the Inner Academy. Some of the other fragmented alchemists have difficulty contending against them. It is said that the leader of the ‘Medicine Gang’ is even able to refine a tier four medicinal pill.”

“If we are also going to sell medicinal pills, I’m afraid that we will come into direct conflict with this ‘Medicine Gang.’”

“Being able to refine a tier four medicinal pill huh...” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He smiled faintly and said, “Let’s not bother too much. After all, we also need to survive. Competition is naturally unavoidable. I am not afraid of them as long as they don’t use underhanded tactics.” Being only able to refine a tier four medicinal pill. Speaking from the view of Xiao Yan, who had successfully refined the ‘Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill,’ this leader was an opponent that was not too tricky to defeat.

Seeing that Xiao Yan did not shrink back, Xun Er also nodded. She smiled and said, “Since this is the case, our ‘Pan’s Gate’ shall also sell medicinal pills. However, if this is the case, Xiao Yan ge-ge might have to toil a little.”

“As the leader of ‘Pan’s Gate’, I naturally need to contribute a little. Otherwise, won’t I die of guilt when compared to all of you?” Xiao Yan smiled and asked.

“If you want to sell medicinal pills, I suggest that you focus on the Fighting Arena. Everyday, there are people there who are injured because of a fight. Moreover, if you do not need too many materials to refine the medicinal pill that can recover Dou Qi, like the one you gave us to consume during the Hunting Competition back then, it is likely that there would be countless people competing to purchase it.” Wu Hao suggested. Having recently and frequently muddled along in the Fighting Arena, he naturally knew what kind of medicinal pill was valuable and scarce at that place.

“‘Energy Recovery Pill’ huh... It is not very difficult but don’t tell me that the ‘Medicine Gang’ is unable to refine this kind of medicinal pill that can recover Dou Qi?” Xiao Yan mused for a while before he smiled and nodded. With his current refining skills, refining the ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ was an extremely easy matter.

“They can... But the kind of medicinal pill which recovers Dou Qi that they refine does not have the same effect as your ‘Energy Recovery Pill.’ I bought one once, spending two days of ‘Fire Energy.’ Therefore, I can differentiate the difference between the two of them.” Wu Hao shook his head and said.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He leaned his body on the back of the chair. His eyes suddenly brightened as he laughed softly, “Other than the Fighting Arena, perhaps within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ is also a good place to swallow medicinal pills. The people training within it do not dare to train for a long time because they are afraid of the Fire Poison invading their bodies. If there is a kind of medicinal pill that can enable them to ignore the encroachment of the Fire Poison for a period of time, I think that there would likely be many people happy to purchase it...”

“Ignore the encroachment of the Fire Poison?”

“Ke ke, completely ignoring it would naturally be extremely difficult. However, the pill will allow a person to extend their stay of one day to two...” Xiao Yan smiled and explained.

“Ah, this will indeed be an immense attraction for those people who are in a hurry to train...” Xun Er and the other two exchanged gazes and nodded.

“In that case, let us decide it this way. From tomorrow on, I will give all of you a list that contains all the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the medicinal pills. All of you will go around and purchase them. Just leave the matter of refining the pills to me...”

### **Chapter 494: Refining In Bulk**

The next morning, the entire ‘Pan’s Gate’ began to operate like a machine. Early in the morning, Xun Er and the other two brought some people out of the new student area. After which, they rushed about the entire Inner Academy, purchasing the medicinal ingredients on the list Xiao Yan had given to them from all over the place.

After being busy for nearly an entire day, the group of them finally brought back excitement and fatigue as they hurried to the new student area.

Xiao Yan eyed the large pile of medicinal ingredients in front of him in a quiet, secret room in the small pavilion home. He saw the tiredness that remained on the faces of Xun Er and the other two. He involuntarily said with a gently smile, “You have worked hard.”

“These medicinal ingredients spent a total of one hundred eighty plus days of ‘Fire Energy.’ Originally, the four of us were unable to scrape together these ‘Fire Energy.’ However, Atai and the other members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ took the initiative to donate and supplement a little. Now, these medicinal ingredients are basically all the remaining property of ‘Pan Gate.’” Xun Er sighed.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded. He was slightly moved as he said, "You can rest assured. Remember the 'Fire Energy' that Atai and the rest donated will be rewarded. Once the medicinal pills are successfully sold, return double the amount to them."

"Yes." Xun Er nodded. She touched the pile of medicinal ingredients as she knit her eyebrows slightly and said, "The price of purchasing medicinal ingredients within the Inner Academy is a little expensive. I am thinking of forming a group within 'Pan's Gate' or hiring some people from within the Inner Academy to specifically search for the medicinal ingredients that we need deep in the mountains once this batch of medicinal pills is refined. After that, we will pay them a monthly pay according to the number or quality of the medicinal ingredients that each of them hand over. This way, we might greatly reduce our cost."

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He immediately nodded as his gaze swept over the large pile of medicinal ingredients in front of him. There was actually not that many medicinal ingredients. However, the price of which was the painstaking effort of the entire 'Pan's Gate.' Xiao Yan sighed. This burden was a little heavy...

"Ke ke, Xiao Yan ge-ge, we will hand all the matters after this to you. We cannot give the slightest help in the matter of refining pills." Xun Er laughed in a lovely manner.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded seriously. He said in a soft voice, "You can rest assured. I will turn all of these medicinal ingredients into the medicinal pills that we need. I will definitely not betray everyone's expectation."

"That's right, these are the two kind of medicinal pills that I have specially sent someone to purchase from the site where the 'Medicine Gang' sells their medicine. One of them is the medicinal pill to recover Dou Qi that Wu Hao mentioned. The 'Medicine Gang' calls it 'Return Spring Pill.' The other kind is a type of healing medicine which has quite a good effect on external injuries..." Xun Er suddenly took out two small jade bottles from her storage ring, and gently placed them in front of Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He could not help but immediately praise Xun Er's intelligence within his heart.

"Alright, Xiao Yan ge-ge, the things that follow will be entirely up to you." Xun Er suddenly smiled. She waved her hand toward Hu Jia and Wu Hao and the three of them slowly exited the room. After which, she tightly shut the door.

As the three people left, the secret room once again descended into silence. Xiao Yan stared at the large pile of medicinal ingredients in front of him. He let out a long sigh after a while before sitting down cross-legged and waving his hand. The medicinal cauldron appeared in front of him.

After taking out the medicinal cauldron, Xiao Yan smoothly received the two kinds of medicinal pills that Xun Er had purchased. First, he took out the so-called 'Return

Spring Pill.’ It was a green-colored medicinal pill that contained an extremely faint medicinal fragrance. Xiao Yan gently sniffed this faint medicinal fragrance before lifting his eyebrows. He shook his head lightly with some disdain. It was likely that this so-called ‘Return Spring Pill’ did not possess over four kinds of medicinal ingredients. Moreover, they were all extremely common types of medicinal ingredients. In the eyes of Xiao Yan with his extremely rich refining skills, this so called ‘Return Spring Pill’ could merely be considered one of the first tier medicinal pills.

“Looks like these people from the ‘Medicine Gang’ don’t even put in effort without the presence of any competition.” Xiao Yan laughed faintly. He took out the other bottle of healing medicine. This kind of healing medicine was in a salve form and was dark-red in color. Xiao Yan placed it under his nose to sniff. He managed to differentiate the medicinal ingredients that were blended within. He could not help but immediately shrugged his shoulders.

Xiao Yan placed both kinds of medicinal pills back in their original spot. He turned his gaze toward the medicinal cauldron and his expression gradually became calm.

Once Xiao Yan entered into the state before he started refining medicine, he would be in an attentive condition. His gaze calmly stared at the medicinal cauldron in front of him as a thought rolled slightly in his mind. This time around, he planned to refine three types of medicinal pills. One type of the ‘Energy Recover Pill’ that enabled one to recover Dou Qi. This kind of medicinal pill was something that Xiao Yan had already practiced until he had reached the pinnacle. With his current medicine refining standard, he could at the very least maintain his success rate of refining the ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ at around eighty-percent.

The second type was a kind of healing medicine for one to orally consume. Its name was ‘Body Recovery Pill.’ This kind of medicinal pill not only had a certain healing effect on one’s internal injuries, but it also had quite a good healing effect on external injuries. This kind of ‘Body Recovery Pill’ far exceeded that type of salve healing medicine the ‘Medicine Gang’ sold regardless of whether it was in terms of medicinal effect or tier. Moreover, the most crucial factor was that the medicinal ingredients that this kind of medicinal pill needed was even lesser than that salve healing medicine that the ‘Medicine Gang’ sold!

Xiao Yan had absolute confidence in this kind of healing medicine, which had low cost and great medicinal effects. As long as it was not a fool who had his head caught between the door, most people would know which to choose.

The third type of medicinal pill was named ‘Quiet Ice Pill.’ Upon the consumption of this kind of medicinal pill, one would be able to extremely effectively ease the doping of the Fire Poison. If one were to discuss its tier, the ‘Quiet Ice Pill’ could perhaps enter the peak of the second tier. Looking from a certain point of view... it would not be overboard to even say that this kind of medicinal pill was that of a third tier. This was because this

kind of assistance medicinal pill, one that could help people train, had a value that far exceeded healing medicines and other kinds of medicinal pills.

This kind of medicinal pill would allow 'Pan's Gate' to surpass the 'Medicine Gang' in one shot, creating a monopoly on the medicinal pill within the Inner Academy. This was because until now, the 'Medicine Gang' did not have a single medicinal pill that could resist the Fire Poison!

The medicinal formula for the three kinds of medicinal pill flashed across his mind. Xiao Yan sighed a deep breath of air. His expression gradually became solemn. He rubbed his fingers slightly and the green-colored flame instantly rose from the tip of his finger.

The curling green-colored flame was like a spirit as it jumped in a lively manner on Xiao Yan's finger. Under the dancing of this fire spirit, the temperature within the secret room was slowly climbing...

Dark-black eyes stared intently at the rising green-colored flame. A long while later, Xiao Yan flicked his finger gently. The green-colored flame drew a distorted arc through the air. It passed through the fire outlet and abruptly burned and soared within. The high temperature grilled the medicinal cauldron until it emitted a slight 'zi zi' sound.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared unblinkingly into the medicinal cauldron. His long finger slowly moved past the medicinal ingredient pile on the left side. Suddenly, his finger trembled. A couple of different types of medicinal ingredients were accurately clipped between his fingers.

With a gentle wave of his hand, a couple of medicinal ingredients were thrown into the medicinal cauldron where the green fire was rising. Following the entrance of the medicinal ingredients into the hot cauldron, the green-colored fire seedling was abruptly extended and it was completely swallowed...

There was not the slightest change in the expression on Xiao Yan's face as the medicinal ingredients were swallowed by the fire seedling. His palm faced the medicinal cauldron in the empty air in front of it. His long finger was flicked slightly. Following the flick of his finger, one could see that the green-colored flame within the medicinal cauldron suddenly began to dance. As the flame rose, a cluster of pure pill liquid was being refined as it was suspended on the top of the fire seedling.

Xiao Yan's eyes observed the suspended pill liquid indifferently. The hot temperature was repeatedly seeping out, expelling some of the remaining impurities within the pill liquid...

At this moment, Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength had already penetrated the medicinal cauldron. Under the micromanagement of his Spiritual Strength, the temperature of the green-colored flame would rise and fall according to his thoughts. Under this perfect control, the pill liquid was culled until it was becoming increasingly pure...

Xun Er and the two others were sitting within the spacious hall. They were somewhat distracted while conversing with one another. Occasionally, their gazes would sweep toward a tightly shut door on the floor above. There was a faint anxiety in their eyes.

“It is fast approaching one and a half days... why has Xiao Yan not come out yet?” Wu Hao, who had become restless because of the pressuring atmosphere, finally could not resist as he took the lead to open his mouth to speak.

“Let’s wait a little longer. We are all not alchemists. Therefore, we are also uncertain about the sequence for refining medicinal pill. However, we must not disturb Xiao Yan ge-ge no matter what...” Xun Er shook her head and spoke softly.

Hu Jia by the side could only helplessly sigh. The only thing that they could do was wait. Currently, nearly the entire ‘Pan’s Gate’ was waiting for Xiao Yan to come out. If he were to fail, it would be an extremely great blow for the morale of the members of ‘Pan’s Gate.’ After all, since they had come to be acquainted with the Xiao Yan, who had always appeared in the form of an ever victorious general in front of them, the latter had never failed... hopefully, this time around would not be an exception.

“Creak...”

The sound of a door opening suddenly rang out in the hall with an oppressive atmosphere. The three of them were startled. They immediately raised their heads and turned their gazes toward the originally tightly shut door, which was being slowly opened at this moment.

Xiao Yan slowly walked out under the gaze of the three people. That delicate and handsome face may be filled with fatigue, but the joy between his brows did indeed cause the three people in the hall to quietly relax their hearts, which were as tense as a cord. They exchanged glances with one another before sighing in relief.

Xiao Yan stood on the second story, and smiled toward the three people down in the hall. He swiftly walked down the stairs and came to the table in the middle of the hall. With a wave of his hand, a few hundred jade bottles instantly flashed and appeared, filling the entire table until it was full.

“Three types of medicinal pills. Eighty-three ‘Energy Recovery Pill,’ sixty-two ‘Body Recovery Pill,’ and thirty-six ‘Quiet Ice Pill.’ In total, there are one hundred eighty-one pills.” A brilliant smile surfaced on Xiao Yan’s face as he laughed out with a clear voice.

“So many...” The faces of the three people were shocked as they eyed the table which was filled with jade bottles. This was especially so after they heard the numbers that Xiao Yan had reported. A joy involuntarily surfaced between his brows.

“It is fortunate that I did not fail my orders. I can only rely on all of you for the matter of selling it after this. I am really burned out...” Xiao Yan sat down on the soft chair. His face was filled with a tiredness as he spoke softly to the three of them.

Xun Er and the other two nodded excitedly. The three of them swarmed to the side of the table and carefully counted the jade bottles.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge...” Xun Er turned around after discussing the selling procedures with the other two. She had just called out but was stunned when she eyed Xiao Yan, who was sleeping with his eyes tightly shut and had his hand supporting his head. She took out a soft blanket from beside her and covered it over Xiao Yan’s body. In a gentle voice, she said, “Sleep. Xiao Yan ge-ge, when you have awoken, Xun Er will report to you the good news...”

### **Chapter 495: Plentiful Gains**

The sky had gradually become dark by the time Xiao Yan had woken from his deep sleep. The setting sun descending in the west scattered the pale-red light into the window, forming a dense light spot on the ground.

Xiao Yan sat up in the chair, and eyed the blanket that covered his body. His heart felt a slight warmth. He stood up and walked a little to move his body a little. After having slept until he was satisfied, the earlier tiredness had vanished. Replacing it was a face filled with energy.

“Creak...”

While Xiao Yan was walking back and forth, the door was suddenly gently pushed open. A human head was carefully extended inside. Upon seeing that Xiao Yan had woken up, he finally sighed in relief. He laughed and said, “Chief, you can really sleep. You have slept all the way from morning to night.”

“Ke ke, so it’s Atai.” Xiao Yan could not help but laugh softly when he saw the person who stuck his head out. He beckoned with his hand to ask the latter to come in and smiled as he asked, “Has Xun Er and the others not returned yet?”

“Ke ke, that’s right. Senior Xun Er and the others brought nearly everyone away from ‘Pan’s Gate.’ Looking at the time, however, they should be back soon.” Atai rubbed his head and smiled as he replied.

“It is really thanks to all of you this time around.” Xiao Yan lifted a cup of cold tea beside him and took a shallow sip before softly speaking to Atai with a smile.

“Chief, you are being too polite. Now, everyone is a member of ‘Pan’s Gate.’ All of the members have received your protection, how can we not do anything?” Atai responded awkwardly. He was shocked at the favor he felt when Xiao Yan voiced his thanks.



“Since I have decided to establish this ‘Pan’s Gate’ back then, I naturally need to take responsibility of all these matters. Once the medicinal pills are sold, I will let Xun Er repay all of you twice the ‘Fire Energy’ that you all have donated. Business issues are business issues and personal issues are personal issues. They cannot be mixed.” Xiao Yan shook his head and voiced his thoughts.

Hearing this, Atai was just about to defer the matter when he suddenly heard the sound of a large number of footsteps outside the door. His face immediately rejoiced. “Senior Xun Er and the rest are back!”

His words had just sounded when the door was once again pushed opened. A large group of joyous people swarmed in. Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were leading them. From the looks of their happy faces, it appeared that they had quite a good result.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, you have awoken?” Xun Er chided everyone to be quiet upon entering the room when she saw Xiao Yan sitting in the chair. She immediately spoke happily.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded as he said, “Take a seat and rest first.”

Seeing that Xiao Yan was still calm, Xun Er curled her lips into a shallow smile as she, along with the excited faced Wu Hao and Hu Jia, sat down beside Xiao Yan. The other members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ sat on the ground because there were insufficient seats. In an instant, the originally spacious large hall was immediately packed until it was full.

Seeing that everyone had sat down, Xiao Yan finally turned his gaze toward Xun Er and smiled as he asked, “How was it?”

“Not bad...” Xun Er laughed softly before speaking, “We have sold thirty ‘Energy Recovery Pills’ and thirty-five ‘Body Healing Pills.’ As for the ‘Quiet Ice Pills,’ we have sold a lot less. We only sold fourteen of them... As there is the problem of credibility initially, we have decided that the ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ is priced at one day of ‘Fire Energy’ each, a little cheaper than the ‘Return Spring Pill’ of the ‘Medicine Gang.’ The ‘Body Recovery Pill’ is also priced at one day of ‘Fire Energy’ each. As for the ‘Quiet Ice Pill,’ it is priced at three days of ‘Fire Energy’ each. By counting in this manner, we have sold the pills for a total of one hundred seven days of ‘Fire Energy.’ We are fast reaching the capital that we have taken out. Selling medicinal pills is indeed lucrative. No wonder alchemists are ultimately the most admired and envious occupation in the entire continent.”

Xiao Yan brows were slightly knit when he initially heard the amount that was sold. His heart immediately felt relief as he spoke softly, “It is indeed considered not bad. Our ‘Pan’s Gate’ is selling medicinal pills for the first time and does not have any credibility. It is very difficult for other people to trust the effects of the medicinal pills that we sell. The price does indeed need to be a little lower. As for that ‘Quiet Ice Pill,’ its price is a little high and an ordinary student would really be reluctant to purchase it.”

Xiao Yan quietly laughed at the last few words that Xun Er spoke. If it was not because he had the help of the 'Heavenly Flame,' which greatly increased the success rate of forming pills, an ordinary alchemist would have difficulty obtaining this kind of profit even though they might be able to earn something.

"Originally, we never hoped that everyone would be able to purchase it..." Xun Er smiled and said, "Those ten students who purchased the 'Quiet Ice Pill' were quite strong. Moreover, they do not lack these three days of 'Fire Energy.' Therefore, they purchased it skeptically to try it. However, I think that after we wait one to two days, these medicinal pills might be snapped up in an instant."

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded his head. As long as their credibility and the effect of the medicinal pill was spread around, it was likely that there would be people automatically coming to purchase even if they did not go out and sell.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, I suggest that we should first purchase the medicinal ingredients with all of the 'Fire Energy' that we have earned through the first batch... currently, the 'Medicine Gang' has not had a reaction due to our sudden actions. However, once they discover them, it is likely that they will take action." Xun Er hesitated for a moment before suggesting.

"You are afraid that the 'Medicine Gang' will quietly purchase all of the medicinal ingredients?" Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. His brows were immediately tightly knit together.

"No matter how one put it, the foundation of the 'Medicine Gang' is much firmer than ours. After selling medicinal pills for so many years, they have become so fat that they are overflowing with oil. If they really want to cut off the source of our medicinal pills, we would really have some trouble. After all, they... really have the financial ability. Hence, we must take precautions." Xun Er voiced her thoughts.

"Ai, you are right." Xiao Yan nodded heavily as he said in a deep voice, "We really cannot underestimate this 'Medicine Gang.' From tomorrow on, send everyone out to purchase the medicinal ingredients that we need!"

"Yes!"

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled a breath of air as he stood up. His gaze swept across the members of 'Pan's Gate' within the hall. He smiled and said, "Everyone has worked hard. All the members that have participated in today's sale will each be able to obtain five days of 'Fire Energy!' Once we have sold the medicinal pills! I, Xiao Yan, will do what I say and will not eat my words!"

"Long live the Chief!"

All the members of 'Pan's Gate' in the hall were initially startled when they heard Xiao Yan speak of such a grand and great reward. Immediately, their faces were filled with a wild joy. Their excited roars nearly tore apart the ceiling. There were nearly forty to fifty members within 'Pan's Gate'. If each person was to be rewarded with five days of 'Fire Energy,' that meant that one had to take out over two hundred days of 'Fire Energy.' This generosity could be considered extremely lavish even if it was placed in the entire Inner Academy.

If it was in the past, Xiao Yan would naturally not be able to take out such a large sum. However, now that they were selling medicinal pills, and with his refining skills, 'Fire Energy' would sooner or later flow in endlessly. Hence, he naturally did not need to be stingy.

"As for Atai and the others who donated 'Fire Energy' to purchase medicinal ingredients, they will be repaid twice the amount at that time. Remember, everyone is not allowed to refuse!" Xiao Yan once again turned his gaze toward Atai and the others as he spoke in a clear voice.

Those members of 'Pan's Gate' could only smile bitterly and nod their heads after being blocked by Xiao Yan's words. However, they were also a little moved as they smiled bitterly.

Xun Er and the other two could not help but exchange glances with one another as they eyed the high morale displayed by the members of 'Pan's Gate' under Xiao Yan's hefty reward. The morale was so high that it could not become any higher. After which, each of them quietly gave Xiao Yan a thumbs up.

On the second day, the members of 'Pan Gate' divided their workforce. Xun Er and the other two still led some people to sell medicinal pills while Xiao Yan led some people to the Exchange Area. He basically spent all of the 'Fire Energy' in his hands to purchase the necessary medicinal ingredients to refine the three kinds of medicinal pills. He then led everyone back to the new student area after he had bought enough.

The sale situation on Xun Er's and the other's side was nearly double what it was yesterday. Some of those people who had consumed the pleasantness of the medicinal pills quietly and secretly told their friends about it. Although they severely told the others not to spread around in their selfishness, the name of the three types of medicinal pills had already transmitted throughout the entire Inner Academy within just a short night. This was especially the case for the 'Quiet Ice Pill.' The effect of it, enabling one to increase the time one could train in the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower,' caused some people's eyes to turn red on the spot.

By the time Xun Er and the rest returned after the second day, most of the first batch of medicinal pills that were refined had already been completely sold. The large amount of 'Fire Energy' that had reached their hands caused the entire 'Pan's Gate' to descend into excitement.

Over ten people were seated in the spacious, luxurious large hall. The atmosphere was somewhat depressing, and had some faint dark waves flowing around. A man wearing an alchemist robe was sitting in the chair at the leader's position of a large table. There was an ancient medicinal cauldron drawn on his chest. The surface of the cauldron had four flashing ripples. The eye-piercing glow from it caused the other ten plus people in the room to lack the courage to look at him directly.

"Who can tell me just when an alchemist appeared in this 'Pan's Gate?'" The man finally opened his mouth slowly after the silent atmosphere continued for a long while. His low voice contained some anger. At this moment, three medicinal pills were placed in front of him. It was the three types of medicinal pills that Xiao Yan's group sold.

"Rumor has it that their leader, who is also that Xiao Yan, refined them..." A person below softly replied.

"He is actually also an alchemist?" The man knit his eyebrows and questioned.

"Ai... from the looks of it, he should be one."

"Each of these three types of medicinal pills is better than any of those that we sell. They are also cheaper..." The man stared at the medicinal pills in front of him and said in a dark and cold voice, "If we allow their reputation to spread completely, I'm afraid that our monopoly on the sale of medicinal pills will be directly overturned."

"What should we do now? We cannot just sit here and watch while they become stronger, right?" A person said in a somewhat fiery manner.

The man ignored the noise below. His finger gently tapped on the surface of the table. After a long while he finally said in a dark and cold voice, "Investigate the medicinal ingredients that they are purchasing. We will use twice the price to buy whatever they bought... Our 'Medicine Gang' does not have many things, but we do have a lot of 'Fire Energy.'"

"Yes sir!" Upon hearing their leader speak, the noisy people below immediately responded in unison.

"That's right. 'Pan's Gate' seems to have some conflict with the 'White Gang', right?" The man appeared to have recalled something as he said faintly.

"Yes, it is rumored that Xiao Yan had once defeated Fu Ao. Moreover, he publicly had a conflict with Bai Cheng..."

"Ke ke, what a group of arrogant new students... Go and find someone to invite Chief Bai Cheng over. I have some matters that I wish to discuss with him... This 'Pan's Gate' really doesn't know the immensity of the Heavens and Earth. Can one Xiao Yan overturn the sky?"

## Chapter 496: Conflict

Xiao Yan eyed the number that had reached a high of three hundred forty-eight on his green Fire Crystal Card within the large hall. He was involuntarily a little absent-minded, and was filled with emotions. Now that they had this route of selling medicinal pills, the matter of being frustrated and distressed over 'Fire Energy' could be considered to have been thrown far behind him.

At this moment, Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were also seated in the large hall. After two days of selling medicinal pills, their medicinal pills had also gained some reputation. Therefore, the current 'Pan's Gate' could be considered to have gradually got on track. Therefore, they did not need to personally show their faces during the sale. Instead, they simply just announced a specific selling place and let the members of 'Pan's Gate' wait there. All they needed to do was wait to collect the 'Fire Energy' at the end.

Seeing Xiao Yan's emotional manner, Xun Er laughed softly, "Although selling medicinal pills is indeed very lucrative, if we did not have Xiao Yan ge-ge's speed and success rate in refining medicinal pills, we would also be unable to achieve our current success. I have heard that even with the entire 'Medicine Gang' refining pills, their results after a day was only just a little better than the result of Xiao Yan ge-ge. Let's not even talk about the material resources first. Just the efforts of those people would have consumed a lot of human resources."

Xiao Yan smiled. He merely relied on the effects of the 'Heavenly Flame' and the help of Yao Lao by the side. He got up and stretched his lazy waist and began to feel a little bored. He had been refining medicinal pills unceasingly these few days. Now, the reserve medicinal pills that 'Pan's Gate' had was sufficient enough for them to sell for a week. Therefore, the current him had more resting time. This caused Xiao Yan, who was used to training, to feel a little uncomfortable. However, he had just broken through to the eight star not long ago. If he were to undertake a retreat again, it might be overkill and would yield poor results.

"Have the people that we sent out to purchase medicinal ingredients today not return?" Xiao Yan stuffed a cake into his mouth as he asked in a vague voice. The refining these few days had also used up most of the medicinal ingredients that they had purchased earlier.

"Ai, but they should be back soon." Xun Er nodded slightly. However, her words had just sounded when a hurried knocking sounded outside. Immediately, a couple of human figures ran in.

"What is it? Atai?" Xiao Yan asked with some surprise as he saw Atai and the others panting.

"Chief, something happened!" Atai took in a deep breath. After he calmed his hurried breathing, he finally spoke with a gloomy expression.

“What happened?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly. He swallowed the food in his mouth and his voice had also slowly become cold.

“The people who went to purchase medicinal ingredients today have all return empty-handed.” Atai said furiously.

“As expected... looks like the ‘Medicine Gang’ has taken action. However, the speed of their retaliation was so fast that it exceeded my expectations.” Xun Er bunched up her eyebrows and spoke coldly.

Xiao Yan’s eyes narrowed. Some cold glints flashed across them.

“Moreover, the brothers that we had sent out to sell medicinal pills were also blocked by other people. There were even some fiery-tempered brothers who wanted to resist, but were beaten by the other party until they were injured. Now, it is likely that the selling points were already destroyed.” Atai grit his teeth as he spoke of the final matter that caused him to be extremely furious.

TL: brothers here does not refer to blood brothers. Instead they are people from the same group

“What!?” The moment these words were spoken, the expressions of the four people in the room immediately became angry. Xiao Yan slammed the table on the spot and stood up. His expression was so dark and cold that it was like the prelude to a great storm.

“This ‘Medicine Gang’ actually dares to be so arrogant? Do they really think that our ‘Pan’s Gate’ is fun to bully?” Hu Jia’s pretty face was dark and solemn as she roared angrily.

“They are not people from the ‘Medicine Gang.’” Atai shook his head. He clenched his teeth and said, “According to the report by our brothers, those people that had come to create trouble appeared to be those fellows from the ‘White Gang!’”

“White Gang...” Xiao Yan was initially startled. A coldness immediately flashed across his face. Xiao Yan said thickly, “Those bastards. They certainly refuse to stop.”

“Chief, what should we do now? We cannot endure this matter!”

Xiao Yan’s expression was dark and solemn. He sensed the numerous fiery gazes looking at him within the large hall. A long while later, he waved his hand and said in a dark, cold voice, “Atai, go and gather everyone. Follow me to look for the ‘White Gang!’ Since they want to step on the head of our ‘Pan’s Gate,’ I must force them to take a beating too!”

“Alright! Chief, let’s finish them off!” Upon hearing that Xiao Yan did not cower once again, A wave of hot blood and flushed redness swarmed onto Atai’s face. He nodded heavily before dashing out of the pavilion house. After which, everyone heard his loud cries.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, are you planning to fight with the ‘White Gang’ now?” Xun Er mused for a moment before asking.

“Let’s just fight. During this period of time, ‘Pan’s Gate’ has received quite a lot of bullying from the ‘White Gang.’ If we continue to ignore it, it would not only increase their prestige but would also cause the heads of ‘Pan’s Gate’ to be pointed at and condemned as weak.” A fierceness flashed across Wu Hao’s face as he laughed coldly.

“Wu Hao is right. Even if we cannot defeat them, we would also let them know that our ‘Pan’s Gate’ isn’t meant to be trifled with!” Hu Jia’s almond eyes glared angrily as she cried out. Her character was originally that of someone who was afraid of nothing. During this period of time, she had held back a lot because she had only just entered the Inner Academy. However, she could not allow the ‘White Gang’ to provoke and insult them repeatedly in this manner.

“The ‘White Gang’ has gone overboard this time around. If we still remain silent and do nothing, it would likely cause those injured brothers to become disillusioned.” Xiao Yan’s expression carried an angry green color as he nodded. A moment later, he turned toward Xun Er and said, “Xun Er, your suggestion of forming or hiring a group to harvest medicine that you proposed the last time might have to be brought forward. With the financial strength of the ‘Medicine Gang,’ we would have no strength to retaliate if they want to block our path of obtaining medicinal ingredients. Hence, we can only rely on ourselves.”

“Yes!” Xun Er nodded slightly and said, “I will begin preparing for this tomorrow!”

Xiao Yan nodded. His expression was dark and cold as he said, “As for now, everyone will put down everything they are doing and follow me to the ‘White Gang.’ We will let those bastards in the ‘White Gang’ know that if they want to step on ‘Pan’s Gate,’ which is full of thorns, it would be wishful thinking if their feet did not leave behind bloodstains...”

“Yes!”

The passersby coming and going on the spacious large road lined with trees eyed the large group of humans with steaming murderous auras. They involuntarily ceased their footsteps with faces filled with stunned looks. Most of this large group of people were holding shining weapons in their hands. The fierce look on their faces caused the people to the side to feel cold.

Only after they watched this large group of humans disappear from the edge of their sight did the road, which was shocked until it was completely silent, release waves of private whispers.

“What are these fellows planning to do? Their manner is like they have profound hatred. Are they planning to hack someone?”

“From the looks of the badge on their chest, they appear to be members of ‘Pan’s Gate,’ right?”

“Uh? The ‘Pan’s Gate’ that recently started selling medicinal pills? Don’t tell me that the black-robed young man leading them is that Xiao Yan, who is rumored to have refined those medicinal pills?”

“I heard that the members of the ‘White Gang’ had made a mess of the ‘Pan’s Gate’ selling places. From the looks of it, ‘Pan’s Gate’ should be charging toward the ‘White Gang’ right? Hee hee, this time around, there is great fun to watch...”

The calm Inner Academy had become a little noisier because of ‘Pan’s Gate,’ which had suddenly become bloodthirsty. Many students adopted the intention of taking a look at the fun as each of them ran around and told one another. In a short while, it attracted most of the curious people as they swarmed over to where the ‘White Gang’ was. After all, this kind of large scale great faction battle was extremely rare despite there being quite a lot of fights in the Inner Academy.

“Bad news, Chief!”

The door to a room bursting with unceasing laughter was suddenly pushed open. A human figure rushed in somewhat hastily as he shouted loudly.

“What is the matter that causes you to be so panicked?” Bai Cheng, who was in the leader’s chair, frowned slightly as he spoke unhappily. Yesterday, the ‘Medicine Gang’ offered a price that caused him to be extremely attracted merely to get him to cause trouble with ‘Pan’s Gate.’ He originally had great dislike for ‘Pan’s Gate.’ How would he not be happy now that there was someone who was willing to pay a hefty price to get them to strike? Therefore, he had promised to undertake it the moment the other party opened its mouth.

As long as they got the support of the ‘Fire Energy’ of the ‘Medicine Gang,’ Bai Cheng would be able to exchange it for the scroll of a powerful Dou Technique from the Dou Technique Hall. At that time, his position on the ‘Strong Ranking’ would likely be able to move up a little. Having his thoughts interrupted by the shouting of someone at this moment naturally caused him to not have a nice expression.

“Xiao Yan has led the members of the ‘Pan’s Gate’ to come charging over toward us, the ‘White Gang!’”



Bai Cheng was initially slightly startled when he heard this. An instant later, however, his expression suddenly changed drastically after he recovered. He suddenly stood up and coldly laughed, "It is really unexpected that this brat has such a bloody character. However, it is like a chicken egg colliding with a rock. He is simply asking for it!"

"'Pan's Gate,' which does not even have a single 'Dou Ling,' wants to have a big fight with us, the 'White Gang?' Chief, the last time it was because of me that caused us to not be allowed to touch them for half a year. Now that they have come and looked for us by themselves, this bet would naturally be useless!" Fu Ao's face was flushed red as he stood up and laughed out loud.

Bai Cheng glanced indifferently at the extremely happy Fu Ao before he coldly laughed, "You should also not be too careless. It is rumored that that fellow's fire lotus Dou Technique is something that even Lei Na is no match for. I'm afraid that even in a head on fight, you would be unable to defeat him."

Fu Ao's face slightly reddened when he heard Bai Cheng's words. His mouth remained tough as he spoke, "That kind of Dou Technique may be strong, but it appears that with his strength, using it once a day is perhaps his limit. As long as I can endure one wave, won't he be like a cluster of soft clay without any resistance, allowing me to mold as I please?"

"What is the use of saying this now. Immediately gather our people. Since 'Pan's Gate' has come and looked for trouble with great fanfare, our 'White Gang' cannot show even the slightest sign of being timid. Otherwise, how will we survive in the Inner Academy?" Bai Cheng scolded once before he let out a sharp cry.

"Yes!"

Everyone in the room immediately responded in unison upon hearing Bai Cheng's order. They immediately charged out of the room. They began to shout out loud to gather the members of the gang.

A cold aura drew over Bai Cheng's face as he heard the chaotic noisiness outside. He said with a cold smile, "Since you have come looking for us yourself, you should not blame me. This time around, if I do not cause all of you to lose your reputation in the Inner Academy, I would disgrace my ranking on the 'Strong Ranking.' A group of novices who do not know the immensity of the Heavens and the Earth!"

Once he said this, Bai Shan brushed his sleeves. His face contained some cold ridicule as he strode out of the room...

**Chapter 497: Han Xian of the Medicine Gang**

Not far from the entrance of the 'White Gang' was a spacious open area. At this moment, this open space that was empty for a long time was being surrounded by a crowd that came from every direction until it was bustling.

Numerous gazes that contained various emotions were emitted from the crowd. There were also numerous private whispers, eyeing the people from the two groups which were facing off against each other.

One of the two groups present in the open ground had more people than the other. There were at least forty to fifty people clustered together. Just this imposing presence without mentioning any other thing was sufficient to let others feel surprise. The other side, on the other hand, had fewer people. From a rough count, they had around thirty people. However, regardless of whether it was in terms of aura or their expression, these thirty plus people did not show any sign of being frightened just because the other side had more people. Instead, each of them was more arrogant than the other. The intention to provoke within their eyes was extremely rich.

"Xiao Yan, are you thinking of giving the 'White Gang' a blow by leading so many people over today?" Bai Cheng hugged his arms and laughed mockingly at Xiao Yan from the leader's spot in front of the 'White Gang.' Behind him stood Bai Shan, Fu Ao, and the two others. From the looks of the aura of the other two people, it seemed that they were all elite Dou Lings with similar strength as Fu Ao.

"Bai Cheng, our 'Pan's Gate' has never provoked you, but you have stopped our 'Pan's Gate' from selling medicinal pills. Isn't this going too far?" Xiao Yan's face was somewhat gloomy. The coldness in his voice was something that anyone could easily identify.

"The Inner Academy has never restricted fighting. These kinds of small troubles happen everyday. What is there to make a fuss about? If you want to blame someone, then blame yourself for not having strength." Bai Cheng rolled his eyes and spoke indifferently.

"From the looks of this situation, the 'White Gang' is intending on taking the lead in destroying the agreement back then. Ah. I really did have some wishful thinking. I naively thought that even with your terrible character, you would at least be able to keep your promises... from the looks of it now, you are actually all just a third rate gang without any integrity, credibility, or face." Xiao Yan spread out his hands and softly laughed. His laughter was filled with ridicule that the people around could hear. Immediately, laughter burst from the crowd around. After all, quite a number of students in the Inner Academy had heard of the promise that Fu Ao had given to Xiao Yan back then.

Bai Cheng's face became much uglier after hearing the laughter from around him. His eyes were dark and cold as he eyed Xiao Yan and said, "Looks like other than being remarkable at relying on women, your mouth is also eloquent. Back then, the

agreement did indeed state that we would not randomly find trouble with the 'Pan's Gate.' Hei. However, this does not include being requested by another person to teach you, this group of arrogant new students, a lesson..."

"Being requested by another? Who is giving you the request?" Xiao Yan's eyes solidified as he coldly laughed.

"I have nothing to say." Bai Cheng still laughed coldly. He twisted his neck slightly as his eyes harbored malicious thoughts as he eyed Xiao Yan's group. He said thickly, "Since you have all come here today, I think that the agreement is already useless. Since that is the case, don't blame my 'White Gang' for using its bigger strength to bully the weak!"

"Why don't you come and try?" Xiao Yan's eyes were as dark and cold as a snake. He moved his right hand slightly and an enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler flashed and appeared. Today, he had already made up his mind. If it really reached that stage, he would beat this bastard until he was seriously injured even if he had to display the 'Flame Splitting Tsunami.'

"Oh... how lively?"

However, just as the anger in Xiao Yan's heart gradually surged, a familiar mocking voice was suddenly emitted from the human crowd. Immediately, a gray figure flashed and appeared like a ghost before finally appearing in front of Xiao Yan's group.

"Lin Yan?" Xiao Yan was startled when he saw the person who had come. He immediately frowned slightly. "Why have you come?"

"Such a lively matter has basically spread throughout the entire Inner Academy. I naturally needed to come and take a look..." Lin Yan shrugged his shoulders toward Xiao Yan as he smiled and replied. He had just completed his adherence to the procedure to expel the Fire Poison today when he heard of the rumors. Moreover, he had always claimed to owe Xiao Yan a favor. Therefore, after he hesitated for a moment, he hurried over toward the 'White Gang.'

Lin Yan's appearance naturally invoked a commotion within the surrounding crowd. With his status within the Inner Academy, there was nearly no one who did not know him. Moreover, from the looks of this situation, it appeared that he was on quite familiar terms with Xiao Yan. In an instant, private conversations involuntarily began to spread. Those gazes which were originally filled with pity toward the 'Pan's Gate' had become much dimmer. With Lin Yan's help, it was likely that the 'White Gang' would not have such great courage... after all, the name of Crazy Axe Lin Yan was not someone that Bai Cheng could compare with.

Bai Cheng's expression had similarly changed when he saw Lin Yan, who had suddenly appeared. This was especially the case after he saw him smile while conversing with Xiao Yan. Bai Cheng's expression became extremely ugly after that. Lin Yan was a top

expert who was ranked tenth in the 'Strong Ranking.' His strength naturally far exceeded Bai Cheng's, who was ranked thirty plus.

"Lin Yan, this is a private matter between my 'White Gang' and 'Pan's Gate.' You..." Bai Cheng's expression may be ugly, but he was unwilling to shrink back just like this. He immediately took a step forward, cupped his hands toward Lin Yan and spoke in a deep voice.

"There is no need for any nonsense. I owe Xiao Yan a favor. Naturally, I will need to help them. If you want to touch them, you can only ask the 'Distant Fire Axe' in my hand." Lin Yan curled his lips and did not say any courteous words. He flicked his hand and a red-colored giant axe that was five feet long appeared in his hand. As the giant axe was randomly waved, the sharp blade of the axe cut open the air, leaving behind a faint red glow.

"You..." Being blocked by Lin Yan's words, Bai Cheng was momentarily dull. His heart wanted to be angry, but when he thought of Lin Yan's strength, he could only swallow the words that had reached his throat. He could only turn his gaze toward Xiao Yan and speak with a furious smile, "Xiao Yan, when can you not rely on others? The last time it was Han Yue. This time it is Lin Yan. Who will you invite the next time?"

"Do you even want your face? How long has it been since you entered the Inner Academy? How long has it been since Xiao Yan's group entered the Inner Academy? You act as though you are so strong and arrogant in front of 'Pan's Gate,' which was just established. If you have the ability, you can go and fight with Lin Xiuya's 'Wolf Teeth' now. If you dare to go, I would also not stop you from getting rid of 'Pan's Gate' in whichever manner you want. Should you not have the guts, you can just get lost. You are still debating here and there. Are you trying to provoke Xiao Yan to fight one-on-one against you? If the both of you have stayed in the Inner Academy for a similar period of time, I would not be creating trouble for you here." Lin Yan's expression sunk as he scolded Bai Cheng in a somewhat sarcastic manner until the latter's expression turned green.

The observers around the open ground were also choked quite badly by these words. In their hearts, they quietly said that this fellow was worthy of being the craziest person in the entire Inner Academy. When he spoke, he actually did not give anyone face. Asking Bai Cheng to go and find trouble with Lin Xiuya. It was likely that Bai Cheng would rather give himself a tight slap than to be foolish enough to perform such a thing.

Xiao Yan was neither able to laugh nor cry as he was protected by Lin Yan. This fellow's words were quite vicious. However, he felt such comfort after hearing them.

"Yo, it is indeed Crazy Axe Lin Yan. This realm of scolding people and finding trouble is indeed something that no one in the Inner Academy can match." A somewhat cold ridiculing laugh was suddenly emitted. Everyone turned their gazes only to see that an empty path had been formed from the parting of the human crowd. A large group of

people wearing Alchemist robes swaggered into the open ground. At the front of this group of people was a man who had some ridicule hanging on the corner of his mouth. The earlier cold laughter should have been emitted by him.

“Huh? Isn’t this the ‘Medicine Gang?’ Why have they also become involved?”

“Is the one leading them the chief of the ‘Medicine Gang,’ Han Xian? It is really unexpected that he has also appeared.”

“From Han Xian’s tone, it appears that he is here to help brace the power of the ‘White Gang.’ Now, there is a really good show to see. ‘Pan’s Gate’ has Lin Yan while the ‘White Gang’ has Han Xian...”

Bai Cheng’s green face immediately revealed some joy upon seeing this group of Alchemists who had walked into the open ground. The ‘Medicine Gang’ possessed quite a high position in the Inner Academy. There were usually many experts on the ‘Strong Ranking’ who had some relationship with them. Hence, if one was to discuss factions which were not to be trifled with, it was undoubtedly the ‘Medicine Gang’ besides the few factions established by those abnormally strong fellows in the top spots of the ‘Strong Ranking.’

“Hei, so it’s you, the one who has been selling fake medicine...” Han Xian’s appearance similarly caused Lin Yan to frown slightly. However, a similar voice full of ridicule was emitted soon after.

Han Xian was not too concerned about Lin Yan’s ridicule. His gaze leaped passed the later before colliding with Xiao Yan’s gaze behind. The four eyes interacted and some sparks were shot out.

“Ke ke, this person must be the chief of ‘Pan’s Gate’, the Xiao Yan who refined the three types of medicinal pills, right? It is really unexpected that you are also an Alchemist.” After they looked at each other for a moment, laughter was emitted from Han Xian’s mouth.

Xiao Yan stared at the Han Xian in front of him indifferently. His gaze swept over the four silver-colored ripples on the latter’s chest. Surprise flashed across his face. It was really unexpected that this fellow was really a tier four alchemist. After the surprise flashed passed, a cold smile surfaced, “Senior Han Xian. I think that the person who hired the ‘White Gang’ to find trouble with us ‘Pan’s Gate’ should be the ‘Medicine Gang,’ no?”

Xiao Yan’s words caused Han Xian’s eyebrows to be lifted slightly. The latter did not admit to it, but merely said in a slow and orderly manner, “Why doesn’t ‘Pan’s Gate’ think about what taboo actions they performed which resulted in having such an ending? Since you are all new students, you should be law-abiding during your first year. If your appetite is too big, you will only eat to your death.”

“Senior, thank you for your reminder. However, whether I eat to my death or I grow fat because of it, one will only know after one does it.” Xiao Yan coldly laughed in the face of the little hidden threat and warning of Han Xian.

“Unfortunately, you don’t have the chance to eat until you become large. The ‘White Gang’ is sufficient to cause ‘Pan’s Gate’ to lose all its reputation, yet you still want to eat until you become bigger?” Han Xian laughed softly.

“Han Xian, after hearing the meaning behind your words, are you truly the ones who got the ‘White Gang’ to attack ‘Pan Gate?’” Lin Yan frowned and asked to the side.

“Lin Yan, I advise you not to meddle in the affairs of others. Although you are ranked tenth in the ‘Strong Ranking,’ you should clearly know that the tenth is not the first. There are still the nine people in front of you who are stronger. If you really want to forcefully stand up for someone else, I can only invite the people in front of you to come and finish you off. Although the price is expensive, our ‘Medicine Gang’ can still afford it!” Han Xian’s expression sunk slightly as he coldly cried out.

Hearing this, Lin Yan’s expression similarly became dark and solemn in an instant. He had just opened his mouth to curse when Xiao Yan stopped him.

“Big Brother Lin Yan, leave these matters to me.” Xiao Yan smiled at Lin Yan. He slowly took a step forward in front of everyone’s gazes and looked directly at Han Xian. He said in a faint voice, “I know that you are afraid that I will sever your lucrative source of revenue. However, by just relying on this suppression of yours, it will merely have a temporary effect. As long as I, Xiao Yan, have my hands and legs, I will be able to continue refining. Moreover, there will naturally be people who will distinguish the medicinal pill advantage that ‘Pan’s Gate’ has over the ‘Medicine Gang.’ At that time, these measures of the ‘Medicine Gang’ will still be useless.”

“Is that so?” The corner of Han Xian’s mouth was raised slightly. His eyes were increasingly icy-cold.

“However, it is also possible for our ‘Pan’s Gate’ to completely give it up and not get involved in the sale of medicinal pills! That is as long as you agree to a suggestion of mine.” A cold smile suddenly surfaced on Xiao Yan’s face as he eyed Han Xian on the opposite side.

### **Chapter 498: Compete**

“Suggestion? What suggestion?”

Han Xian was startled for quite awhile upon hearing these words of Xiao Yan. It appeared that it was totally beyond the former’s expectations. It was a long while later before he asked in a somewhat cautious manner.

“Since all of us are Alchemists, it does not really suit our status for us to fight openly with real weapons like ordinary people... Therefore, if Senior Han Xian has the ability, we can use the Alchemist’s method of doing things and have a showdown. If I lose, ‘Pan’s Gate’ will not even be slightly involved in the sale of medicinal pills. However, if you are to lose, please withdraw all the covert things. How about it?” Xiao Yan flicked his sleeves, looked directly at Han Xian and laughed clearly

“You want to compete with me in terms of refining pills?” Han Xian was once again startled as he involuntarily mocked. His pill refining skills could be considered among the top not just within the entire Inner Academy, but even within the entire Alchemist Department. The rank of a tier four alchemist was sufficient for him to look down upon the alchemists in a similar age group as him.

“Of course, if Senior Han Xian likes to use Dou Qi to compete, I will also not reject.” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth was lifted into a cold smile as he spoke. Although Han Xian’s strength was of the Dou Ling class, he was at the most around that of Lei Na from the looks of his Qi. If they were to really fight head on, if Xiao Yan used a small scale ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame,’ which had shocked Lei Na into losing his fighting spirit, this Han Xian would likely be not much better.

Han Xian had similarly heard rumors of Xiao Yan’s shocking fighting strength. Therefore, he would naturally not agree to use Dou Qi to fight with Xiao Yan. He was not afraid if they were to compete in pill refining skills. However, he could not help but take some precaution since this suggestion was first spoken from Xiao Yan’s mouth. For a moment, he was actually not very certain of how to reply.

“The ‘Energy Recovery Pill,’ ‘Body Recovery Pill,’ and ‘Quiet Ice Pill’ may have quite good medicinal effects. However, his techniques appears somewhat coarse. If the medicinal formula for these three medicinal pills are given to me, the medicinal pill that I would refine would likely be of better quality compared to him.” A thought swiftly circulated in Han Xian’s heart. However, he had forgotten that Xiao Yan had refined so many medicinal pills by himself. Regardless of how exquisite the refining techniques was, they would all become much more coarse.

“Why? Do you not dare to accept, Senior Han Xian? Ke ke, if word were to be spread around, I’m afraid that it would not be very good for the reputation of your ‘Medicine Gang’...” Xiao Yan could not help but laugh coldly and mock when he saw Han Xian changing his expression as he hesitated.

“You need not incite me. It is useless.” Han Xian coldly glanced at Xiao Yan. He was not a fool and could see Xiao Yan’s intention with a glance.

“It is fine if you want to compete pill refining skills with me. However, the stakes are too small.” After a few thoughts flashed across his heart like lightning, Han Xian suddenly spoke, “How about this? If you are to lose in the competition, not only is ‘Pan’s Gate’ not allowed to sell medicinal pills, but you also have to hand over the medicinal formula for

the 'Energy Recovery Pill,' 'Body Recovery Pill,' and 'Quiet Ice Pill.' If I lose, not only will I not block your sales, but I will also hand over the five exchange sites with the highest human traffic within the Inner Academy to your 'Pan's Gate'! Our 'Medicine Gang' has spent around eight hundred days of 'Fire Energy' in total in order to purchase these five sites from the Inner Academy. It is far better than those random exchange sites of yours. Therefore, you will not lose out."

"Ah... it is really unexpected that Senior Han Xian has taken a fancy to the medicinal formula in my hands. What good calculations." Xiao Yan mocked laughingly.

"Do you dare, or do you not dare?" Han Xian was not angry despite having his thoughts exposed. He simply cried out with a cold laugh.

"Alright, since Senior Han Xian has such a fierce will, I, Xiao Yan will likely carry the name of a weakling if I am to shrink back." Xiao Yan waved his hand and spoke faintly, "It is just that I do not know how Senior Han Xian wants to compete?"

"Follow the same medicinal formula and take out the cauldron to refine at the same time. Let's see whose medicinal pill quality is better after the pill is formed!" Han Xian spoke in a deep voice.

"Alright. However, whose medicinal formula will we use?" Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and asked.

"If we use each other's medicinal formula, it is likely that both of us will have doubts in our hearts." Han Xian said calmly, "Therefore, I suggest that we use a medicinal formula that is stashed within the Inner Academy. Coincidentally, I have met Elder Hao, the elder in charge of medicinal formulas. This time, we can borrow a medicinal formula from his elderly self. We can also invite him to become the judge at the same time. What do you say?"

"Elder Hao? Someone acquainted with you?" Xiao Yan frowned slightly as he spoke.

"You need not suspect that this elder might collude with me. I don't have that kind of ability. Lin Yan by your side could not know any better about the character of this Elder Hao. Within the entire Inner Academy, it is likely that this Elder is the most impartial one." Han Xian clearly knew about Xiao Yan's doubt as he opened his mouth to laugh coldly.

"Yes. What he said is true. That Elder Hao is indeed a good choice. Deceptions and fraud are the things he hates the most." Lin Yan nodded and explained when he saw Xiao Yan looking over.

"This... alright." Xiao Yan mused for a moment before raising his head and smiling as he spoke to Han Xian, "Let's go and find that Elder Hao after this. Once we have



negotiated everything, let us compete to see who is better at the northern stadium tomorrow. What do you say?"

"I really anticipate your three medicinal formula." A faint disdain was lifted from the corner of his mouth. He waved his hand and walked out of the open ground.

"I also anticipate the selling locations of your 'Medicine Gang.'" Xiao Yan smiled coldly. His gaze suddenly turned toward Bai Cheng and said faintly, "Senior Bai Cheng, our 'Pan's Gate' will remember your 'favor' of smashing the selling area of our 'Pan's Gate.' We will get everything back in the future."

"Hee hee, as long as you do not rely on anyone at that time, I will take you on anytime." Bai Cheng rolled his eyes and mocked.

Xiao Yan smiled faintly. Now that he had the instigator of the entire incident, he would naturally need to find him to take revenge. This 'White Gang' could be put behind...

After Xiao Yan and the others left the open ground, they went to the medicinal formula management and storage area together with Han Xian's group. After telling Elder Hao about the competition, the latter displayed quite a bit of interest. Openly fighting with real weapons was basically something that happened everyday within the Inner Academy. However, something like this kind of pill refining competition was extremely rare. Therefore, upon hearing that Xiao Yan and Han Xian needed to borrow a medicinal formula from that place, Elder Hao agreed to it without even the slightest hesitation.

However, this Elder Hao had similarly raised a condition. That was that the medicinal formula would be personally selected by him. Xiao Yan and Han Xian were initially a little stunned by this condition, but they finally could only helplessly nod their heads. After which, each of them returned to their residence. They had already agreed to see who was better at the northern stadium the next day.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, that Han Xian appears to have some confidence..." Xun Er said with some worry on the way back.

"He naturally has some confidence. As a dignified tier four alchemist, he would be able to enjoy the treatment of a strong Dou Wang no matter where he is at. Moreover, with his ability, he would be among one of the best when placed among the Alchemist Department. After arriving in the Inner Academy for three years, there is seldom anyone who can invite him to refine pills now. This was after the initial two years in which he frequently refined medicinal pills." Lin Yan curled his lips and said.

"Yes. By being able to reach a tier four alchemist at such an age his training talent can indeed be considered outstanding." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He did not refute it.

“Do you have any chance of winning?” Wu Hao frowned slightly and asked. Now that they had tasted the pleasant flavor of the fiery profits from the medicinal pills, they were naturally unwilling to give up this enormous cake.

Xiao Yan merely curled his lips under the observation of everyone. He placed both hands behind him and slowly stepped forward. It was a long while later before he laughed and softly said, “Isn’t it just a mere tier four alchemist? What is there to be afraid of? Wait and see his expression tomorrow.”

The footsteps of Lin Yan and the rest paused when they heard these words of Xiao Yan, which contained a confidence that was borderline arrogant. They exchanged glances with one another, and could only shake their heads with a bitter smile. What other methods did they have now that things had developed to such a stage? In just one short night, the news of Xiao Yan of ‘Pan’s Gate’ competing with Han Xian in refining pills appeared to have grown wings as it spread throughout the entire Inner Academy.

The Inner Academy immediately filled with interest and excitement under this shocking news. Similarly, the Inner Academy may have students fighting daily, but something like this pill refining competition was extremely rare. Therefore, nearly all the students had great curiosity for this competition. Moreover, some of the Elders in the Inner Academy who were bored from having nothing to do had also become a little curious after hearing about this competition. The name Xiao Yan was something that they had heard until they were familiar with during this period of time...

The first rays of sunlight in the morning finally slowly scattered down from the horizon under the expectations of countless people. They wrapped around the entire enormous Inner Academy hidden deep in the mountains...

The Inner Academy had four stadiums, namely the North, South, East, and West. Each stadium could accommodate thousands of people. The location of Xiao Yan’s and Han Xian’s competition was placed in the Northern Stadium.

Today, the Northern Stadium, which usually had hardly anyone, was packed with a large crowd of people until it was full. The noisy sound was nearly even more fiery than that of the Fighting Arena. As they eyed the black clusters of heads in the arena, some Elders who had secretly come to watch involuntarily sighed. The Inner Academy’s Trading Area, Fight Arena, and other special places did not appear to be this lively,

“Dong!”

A clear gong sound suddenly, but slowly resonated throughout the stadium. Following the sound of this gong, the surrounding noise immediately became much quieter.

As countless numbers of gazes focused in the arena at the center of the stadium, an elderly human figure flashed and appeared. From the looks of his appearance, he was that Elder Hao.

Elder Hao's gaze slowly swept over the black masses in the stadium. His gaze would occasionally pause at some areas. Immediately, a smile involuntarily surfaced in his eyes, "These Elders are really unable to restrain themselves any longer..."

“\*Cough\*”

A hoarse coughing sound was emitted from Elder Hao as he immediately suppressed all the noise in the stadium.

Following the quieting noise, a human figure wearing an Alchemist robe suddenly flashed onto the platform. After which, he stood beside Elder Hao without moving. One could see the extremely flashy four silver-colored ripples on his chest. Clearly, he was the leader of the 'Medicine Gang,' Han Xian.

The moment Han Xian showed himself, waves of cries sounded from the audience. It appeared that this fellow did indeed possess quite a great reputation in the Inner Academy.

Not long after Han Xian ascended onto the platform, a pathway suddenly opened up in the crowd. A smiling black-robed young man slowly walked forward under the numerous bizarre gazes around him. Finally, he got into the arena alone and bowed toward everyone. His posture was calm and indifferent, causing some people who were quietly watching him, to praise him in their hearts.

### **Chapter 499: The Competition Topic : Dragon Strength Pill**

Under the countless gazes in the audience, the two human figures in the arena stood and raised their heads proudly. They straightened their bodies as they set off different auras. It was clear that they both had an imposing presence. The eyes of quite a number of females of the Inner Academy in the audience flickered slightly.

Elder Hao was wearing plain clothes as he stood between Xiao Yan and Han Xian. Although his hair was white, his other aspects had a sturdiness that did not lose to a young person. He may possess a smile on his face due to the atmosphere today, on a face with some wrinkles, but from the looks of the faint sharpness in his eyes, this Elder Hao really did give off the impartial feeling that Lin Yan had mentioned.

As Elder Hao coughed softly once again, his voice which contained powerful Dou Qi suppressed the voices in the entire stadium. His gaze looked over the entire stadium before he took out a slightly yellowed ancient scroll from his storage ring in a slow but orderly manner. He smiled faintly and said, "The old me has always had great interest in the refining of pills. However, due to the harsh conditions of an alchemist, I could only quietly give it up. Today, I am extremely happy to come and be the judge of this extremely rare pill refining competition that has appeared in this Inner Academy. However, everyone also knows about the usual reputation of this old me. Therefore, you can throw away those doubts about the fairness of this competition."

Everyone in the stadium immediately emitted waves of responding voices upon hearing Elder Hao's voice. Clearly, the impartial reputation that he possessed in the Inner Academy was something that everyone knew about.

"The topic for today's competition is personally chosen by this old me. Until this moment, Xiao Yan and Han Xian are still unclear what they need to refine." The response from the stadium caused the smile on Elder Hao's face to increase a little. His hand gently patted the scroll. After which, he turned his head and smiled as he said to Xiao Yan and Han Xian, "I will say this beforehand. This test question is a little difficult... I wonder if the both of you dare to accept it?"

Xiao Yan and Han Xian were slightly startled when they heard this. They exchanged glances with one another before Han Xian took the lead in cupping his heads. He smiled and said, "I will definitely do my best no matter what kind of test question Elder Hao has chosen." He believed that he, as a tier four alchemist, could barely and forcefully refine a tier five medicinal pill when he was at peak condition. Of course, his chances of success were a little too low. Moreover, even if the test question that Elder Hao had chosen belonged to the kind of extremely difficult level, he believed that even if he lost, he would definitely be better than Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan to the side smiled slightly. He similarly nodded without any objections.

"Good. The both of you have quite a strong pride. As the manager of the Inner Academy's medicinal formula storage, I also have the right to take out the medicinal formula. Today, in order to thank the both of you in displaying refining skills that will be an eye-opener for all of us, this medicinal formula will be given to the both of you as a gift." Elder Hao stroked his beard and smiled. He waved the scroll at the two of them and smiled as he asked, "Who will be the first to read?"

"I will allow Senior Han Xian to be first." Xiao Yan smiled and said.

"Since that is the case, thank you very much, Junior Xiao Yan." Han Xian smiled faintly and did not reject the offer. He received the scroll from Elder Hao and slowly opened it. His eyes were gradually shut as his Spiritual Strength broke out of his body and invaded the scroll, obtaining the extremely complicated medicine refining information.

Under the gazes of everyone, the smile on Han Xian's face was gradually withdrawn as the information on the medicinal formula was imprinted into his mind. At the end, there was even an ugly look within it.

Waves of private whispers immediately sounded within the stadium upon seeing the change in Han Xian's expression. The many gazes were filled with doubts. Clearly, they were unclear just what had happened.

"It appears that there is something wrong..." Hu Jia, who was in the stadium, frowned as she spoke to Xun Er and the others by her side.

“Let’s watch first...” Some uncertainty also flashed in Xun Er’s heart. However, she still forcefully remained calm as she replied and smiled.

In the arena, Xiao Yan also knit his eyebrows together at the sight of Han Xian’s expression. Looking at the situation, it appeared that there was some problem with the medicinal formula... was the medicinal formula really extremely difficult as Elder Hao had said? Moreover, it was so difficult to the point that even Han Xian, this tier four alchemist, would reach the point where his expression became extremely ugly?

Under the countless numbers of doubtful gazes in the open ground, Han Xian finally withdrew his Spiritual Strength from the medicinal formula after a while. He returned the medicinal formula to Elder Hao as he forcefully smiled and said, “The test question that Elder has chosen is indeed difficult. Han Xian can only do his best.”

“Young people always need to challenge their limits.” Elder Hao smiled. There was a faint craftiness in his smile. He held the medicinal formula before turning around and handing it to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan received the medicinal formula. He did not hesitate as he opened it. His Spiritual Strength swiftly encroached upon it.

Seeing Xiao Yan take the medicinal formula, an involuntary cold smile flashed across the eyes of Han Xian at the side. This medicinal formula was something that he could only helplessly smile at, much less just you, Xiao Yan.

Han Xian eyed Xiao Yan somewhat gloatingly. He anticipated the scene of his expression becoming ugly. However, after two minutes had passed, the ugly expression similar to his earlier did not appear on Xiao Yan’s face. There was merely an additional solemnness and surprise.

“This fellow is extremely shrewd. He is actually able to hide so ingeniously under this kind of shocking situation. Humph. However, this kind of illusionary action will naturally break without any need for an attack when it comes to refining the pill.” The calmness that Xiao Yan displayed caused Han Xian to frown a little. He could only mock with a cold smile in his heart.

“Looks like the situation isn’t very terrible...” At the bottom of the stadium, Xun Er sighed in relief within her heart as she smiled and spoke when she saw the solemnness that surfaced on Xiao Yan’s face.

To her side, Hu Jia, Wu Hao, and Lin Yan spread their hands. It was pointless to say anything more, since the pill refinement had yet to reach the end.

Under the focus of all the gazes in the stadium, Xiao Yan also withdrew his Spiritual Strength from the medicinal formula after a couple of minutes. He rubbed his somewhat swollen head from being stuffed with such a large amount of information before

returning the medicinal formula to Elder Hao. He smiled and softly spoke, "Elder Hao really makes things difficult for us. This tier five medicinal pill is something that even an ordinary tier five alchemist would not have a high success rate with."

"Tier five medicinal pill?"

All the audience in the stadium involuntarily let out a surprised 'wow' when they heard the words from Xiao Yan's mouth. Only at this moment did they understand why Han Xian's expression turned so ugly earlier. A tier five medicinal pill. It was a tier that only a tier five alchemist could encroach on. Although he was a tier four alchemist, he would undoubtedly have a failure rate of over seventy-to-eighty-percent when refining this kind of medicinal pill.

"Ke ke, since you are going to compete, it is natural that you want to compete with something bigger... This tier five medicinal pill is indeed a little difficult to refine. However, if it is really not possible, you would at the very most fail in your refinement." Elder Hao smiled and replied.

Xiao Yan was speechless. The medicinal pill that was recorded in the medicinal formula was a tier five medicinal pill named 'Dragon Strength Pill.' This kind of medicinal pill could allow the person consuming it to possess an extremely great strength for a short period of time. This kind of strength had nothing to do with the increase in Dou Qi. Instead, it was an extremely pure physical strength. Therefore, this 'Dragon Strength Pill' belonged to the type of medicinal pill that could be used to increase one's strength. Thus, it was a little more difficult to refine compared to an ordinary tier five medicinal pill. Forget about Hao Xian, even Xiao Yan felt that it was a little troublesome to refine this kind of medicinal pill. He did not expect that this Elder Hao would actually choose such a difficult test question. It was likely that the people who could refine a medicinal pill of this tier were as rare as a phoenix feather and unicorn horn even in the entire Alchemist Department.

Elder Hao smiled faintly. He ignored the expression of the two people and pulled open the scroll. After which, he read out some of the introduction on the tier of the 'Dragon Strength Pill' as well as some brief information on it.

The eyes of everyone in the stadium involuntarily glowed when they heard that this medicinal pill actually possessed the ability to increase one's strength. They quietly spoke in their hearts. This was indeed worthy of being a tier five medicinal pill. It actually had such a unique effect.

"This old fellow, is he actually here to ensure fairness or here to create trouble? He is actually asking two people of the younger generation to refine a tier five medicinal pill..." Some of the Elders in the stadium, who had come to watch the competition, involuntarily muttered quietly when they heard the test question for the competition.

“Since the both of you already know of the test question for the competition, please go ahead.” Elder Hao stored the scroll properly and waved his hand. A wild wind swept past two black cloths within the arena, which were sent flying. They revealed two stone tables under them as well as various medicinal ingredients placed on them.

“Three sets of medicinal ingredients have been prepared for each of you. Hence, each of you has three chances. Within these three chances, whoever manages to successfully refine the pill first will be the victor.” Elder Hao slowly spoke. He pointed at the stone platform and said.

“What if the both of us fail? Don’t tell me we will end up in a draw?” Han Xian knit his brows slightly when he heard this. He also did not have much confidence in this so called ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’ However, if he failed in the refinement, would it not be the case where he and Xiao Yan would be at the same level? This was undoubtedly a little unfair toward him. Although that was merely his own assumption...

“If the both of you fails to successfully refine it, there would at least be the failed product right? From that, we can also discern some clues about both parties skills.” Elder Hao said. As he had great interest in refining skills, he was also extremely clear about the steps of refining medicine.

Han Xian only sighed in relief when he heard Elder Hao saying this. He believed that even if he was unable to refine a true pill, his failed product would definitely be more outstanding than that of Xiao Yan’s.

“Xiao Yan, do you have any objections?” Elder Hao asked Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He turned his head and glanced at Han Xian. He could see a faint cold smile from the latter’s eyes. Immediately, he lifted his eyebrows slightly, turned his body toward the stone table in the arena and walked over.

Behind him, Han Xian bowed slightly and handsomely toward the entire stadium before he turned around and walked to the other stone table. When he passed by Xiao Yan, he paused his footsteps and softly spoke with a smile, “Brat who is pretending to be calm. I await your failure.”

“Likewise.” Xiao Yan smiled and stepped behind a stone table.

Xiao Yan’s calmness caused the cold smile on Han Xian’s face to become a little denser. He curled his mouth and did not continue speaking. His body flashed behind a stone table.

Seeing that both parties were prepared, the smile on Elder Hao’s face also became much richer. He turned his body around, faced the black masses in the stadium as his clear voice reverberated throughout the stadium.

“The match will now begin!”

### **Chapter 500: Illusionary Golden Flame**

The moment Elder Hao announced that the match had begun, the gazes of the entire stadium suddenly turned toward the two people behind the cauldrons. The noisiness had also gradually become much quieter.

Xiao Yan’s gaze slowly but carefully swept across the medicinal ingredients on the stone table. Upon realizing that there was nothing missing, he finally nodded slightly and waved his hand. A dark red medicinal cauldron appeared on the stone table in front of him.

The medicinal cauldron which Xiao Yan was using was not some high grade item. Moreover, he had used it too many times during this recent period of time. Hence, it resulted in the color on the surface of the medicinal cauldron appearing slightly dimmer. At a glance, it was seemed like a normal stove.

“Che...” Xiao Yan’s medicinal cauldron had just appeared when Han Xian who had been looking over from the side not far away could not resist laughing out loud. He quietly shook his head and said with a laugh in his heart, “Looks like I have overestimated this fellow a little...” In the Alchemist world, a good medicinal cauldron was like a sharp weapon in the hands of a warrior; it could enable one’s refining success to increase greatly. Now that Han Xian saw that the medicinal cauldron Xiao Yan was using was actually this worn-out, there was naturally some disdain in his heart.

After the words in Han Xian’s heart appeared, he also waved his hand. Immediately, a medicinal cauldron with a golden-yellow-colored surface flashed and appeared. When the sunlight shone on its body, it would reflect eye-piercing light, causing people to have no choice but to shift away their gazes.

From just looking at the external aura of these two medicinal cauldrons, there was undoubtedly an enormous difference between them. One of them was like a tattered dog in the fields while the other was completely covered with gold and silver, like an extremely bright and ostentatious pet dog.

Xiao Yan ignored those somewhat mocking gazes from everywhere. His gaze swept over the medicinal cauldron in front of him before his finger touched a superficial crack on the surface of the medicinal cauldron. He involuntarily furrowed his brows slightly as he helplessly said in his heart, “The strength of the ‘Heavenly Flame’ is really too great. This low grade medicinal cauldron has difficulty enduring such temperature. After this is over, I should think of a way to get a medicinal cauldron that can handle it. Now, hopefully this thing can still endure until I finish the refinement...”

Xiao Yan quietly sighed in his heart. He suddenly sensed a hot undulation and lifted his eyebrows immediately. When he turned his head over, he saw that Han Xian was



dragging a cluster of flame with his hand. The color of the flame was similar to that of his medicinal cauldron. It was a shiny golden color and was extremely attractive to the eye. Moreover, if one were to take a careful look at it, one could see that there was gold-colored lava flowing within the flame, appearing very strange.

“Huh?” Xiao Yan’s eyes stared at the cluster of golden-colored flame as his heart softly voiced out an exclamation. It was really unexpected that this fellow actually possessed such a flame treasure. When Xiao Yan used his Spiritual Strength to look at it, this golden-colored flame may be far incomparable to that of a ‘Heavenly Flame,’ but it could be considered a type of extremely unique flame. Moreover, from the looks of the heat that seeped out from the air, this flame might well be one level better than the Purple Flame he had just by comparing the degree of heat.

“This Han Xian is not someone without any ability...” Xiao Yan was somewhat startled as he swept over Han Xian’s face. However, he found a proudness within those eyes. Immediately, Xiao Yan helplessly smiled and quietly thought to himself that he should withdraw the words.

In the eyes of Xiao Yan who was an expert in this field, the flame in Han Xian’s hand may not appear to be overly surprisingly, but in the view of the students in the stadium, it was very exotic. An essence flame could also be materialized by just relying on Dou Qi, but that would at least require the strength of a Dou Wang. Moreover, no matter how Dou Qi materialize, it still lacked some authenticity when compared to a real flame. Moreover, this cluster of golden-colored flame possessed an extreme amount of entertainment value. The flowing gold-colored lava within it caused the people around to feel that it was inconceivable.

“This flame of mine is called the ‘Illusionary Golden Flame.’ It is named after the baby Magical Beast of the rank seven ‘Illusionary Fire Scorpion Dragon Beast’ that breaks out of its shell. However, this ‘Illusionary Golden Flame’ would remain within the shell and the shell would be incinerated by this additional flame within three days. If one wants to obtain this kind of ‘Illusionary Golden Flame,’ one can only help to find the shell of the baby ‘Illusionary Fire Scorpion Dragon Beast’ during these three days...” The numerous strange gazes from the stadium caused the vanity in Han Xian’s heart to actually be unable to control himself as he laughed in a clear voice.

“Rank seven ‘Illusionary Fire Scorpion Dragon Beast?’” The moment these words left Han Xian’s mouth, not only did the expressions of the students below change drastically, but even the faces of Elder Hao and the other Elders also moved slightly. Rank Seven. That was an ultimately strong being that could be comparable to the Dou Zong class. It is really unexpected that this extremely beautiful and coquettish golden-colored flame actually had such an origin.

“No wonder it is even fiercer than the Purple Flame on the body of the Amethyst Winged Lion. It is actually from an ‘Illusionary Fire Scorpion Dragon Beast’ that is one rank higher... this fellow is really lucky.” Surprise involuntarily flashed across Xiao Yan’s eyes

when he heard Han Xian's words. In this vast world, there were all sorts of strange things. The various kinds of flames could cause people to be dazzled and surprised. Just this kind of Magical Beast flame was so beautiful. One really did not know just what kind of elegant demeanor the flames on the 'Heavenly Flame Ranking' possessed.

As Xiao Yan recalled the so-called 'Heavenly Flame Ranking,' his heart quietly became a little fiery. He laughed softly. His finger shook slightly and a cluster of green-colored flame appeared in his palm. It flicked within the flame, and the flame drew an arc in mid-air. Finally, it rushed into the medicine cauldron. In an instant, the whirring flame began to rise and burn within the medicinal cauldron.

The 'Green Lotus Core Flame' naturally attracted the attention of Han Xian who had been paying attention to Xiao Yan's side. Surprise immediately passed through Han Xian's eyes. It was indeed just like what the information had stated. Xiao Yan was in control of a green-colored flame of unknown background which was extremely overbearing. Now that Han Xian had seen it, he may not have witnessed it being overbearing, but from the color of its outer appearance, he could at least tell that it was the flame from his information.

"The flame is merely just an aid. The most important thing is a person's medicine refining skills." Han Xian smiled faintly. He waved his hand and the golden-colored flame also flashed into the golden yellow medicinal cauldron. In an instant, the golden medicinal cauldron with the golden-colored flame deposited in it became the spot which attracted the most attention within the entire stadium. On the other hand, there was hardly anyone who was paying attention to Xiao Yan's tranquil side.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the interior of the medicinal cauldron. His finger slowly passed through the medicinal ingredients on the stone table. Occasionally, his finger would randomly tap once and there would be a medicinal ingredient with a strange outer appearance being clipped between his fingers.

While Xiao Yan's eyes were staring intently, his mind was swiftly reading and flipping through the various information that was recorded on the medicinal formula. There were many medicinal ingredients needed to refine this 'Dragon Strength Pill.' If all of the many big and small ingredients were added, there would be over forty of them. The degree of fusion between the various medicinal ingredients were mixed with one another. It was really troublesome like dough that was kneaded together. If it were not for one being able to follow the medicinal formula and refine it step by step, the chances of success of one trying to refine it by stumbling randomly were extremely small...

However, even though Xiao Yan and Han Xian both looked at the medicinal formula and had remembered the information firmly in their heads, they still felt somewhat unfamiliar. After all, a tier five medicinal pill was not an ordinary object. A medicinal grade of this tier would also be able to be auctioned off for a sky high price. Hence, it would naturally be extremely difficult for one to refine it. This was especially even more difficult for Xiao

Yan and Han Xian, both of whom were members of the younger generation who had yet to reach the level of a tier five alchemist.

Therefore, some of the Elders who knew a little about medicine refining, adopted a mentality of watching the fun. Han Xian's alchemist skill was around that of a tier four alchemist. His failure rate when asked to refine a tier five medicinal pill was so high that it would leave one speechless. As for Xiao Yan, although these Elders knew that this little fellow possessed a type of green-colored 'Heavenly Flame,' possessing a 'Heavenly Flame' did not represent how outstanding his medicinal refining skill was. Therefore... asking these two little fellows to refine a tier five medicinal pill was an extremely terrible decision. Did one think that those rare medicinal ingredients were free?

Of course, Xiao Yan and Han Xian did not know just what these Elders were thinking in their hearts. Otherwise, they would naturally feel dispirited and speechless. At this moment, both of them had taken their first steps into the problem which was determining which process to proceed with first due to the complicated steps.

For a moment, everyone in the stadium could only watch the two fellows in the arena staring foolishly at the flame in the middle of the cauldron. Some of the students who did not understand the reason for it actually treated this as an initial step in refining pills...

They were in a daze for nearly two to three minutes before Xiao Yan became the first to recover. He frowned slightly and inhaled a breath of air. His fingers, which were full of medicinal ingredients between them, shook slightly. Two kinds of medicinal pills which were like withered leaves were thrown into the cauldron.

Xiao Yan right hand aimed at the medicinal cauldron with a gap between them as his fingers danced agilely. Following this movement, the rising green-colored flame within the medicinal cauldron repeatedly became distorted. The temperature that it emitted was high at certain moments and low at other moments.

Xiao Yan's face was solemn. His right hand controlled the intensity of the flame while his left hand began to dance on the stone table, forming a shadow that caused people to be dazzled. One kind of medicinal ingredient after another was tossed into the air before forming a parabola as it fell into the medicinal cauldron. Finally, they were swallowed by the flame.

The tossing and dancing of the medicinal ingredients in the air above the stone table never paused. When they saw Xiao Yan's action of finishing everything in one go, shocked voices began to appear in the stadium. Being attracted by the shocked sound, even Han Xian, who was deep in thought by the side also turned his head over. When he saw Xiao Yan's nearly unceasingly refinement of the medicinal ingredients, his face involuntarily became instantly dull.

The eyes of Elder Hao, who was standing with his hands behind his back in the arena, flickered at this moment. This technique that Xiao Yan displayed appeared to be as natural as the moving clouds and flowing water. There was not even the slightest pause between them. There was much to admire when one looked at it.

“Puff...”

Under the focus of all the gazes in the stadium, an extremely depressing sound was suddenly emitted from the stone table. Immediately, Xiao Yan’s hand paused abruptly. He frowned slightly as his hand grabbed a medicinal ingredient that was about to fall into the medicinal cauldron in a lightning-like manner. He glanced at the empty medicinal cauldron and could not help but shake his head. Earlier, he had split his attention into two and was a little careless. The temperature of the flame was slightly higher, resulting in the medicinal liquid, which had completed half of the merger, to be vaporized.

“What a pity...”

Xiao Yan’s first failure immediately caused the crowd in the stadium who were looking at him without turning their eyes away to sigh.

Han Xian finally laughed coldly by the side when he saw Xiao Yan’s first failure. In his heart, he said quietly, “Keep showing off...”

After mocking quietly in his heart, Han Xian ignored Xiao Yan who was deep in thought. He turned his head and threw his gaze to his medicinal cauldron. His expression gradually became solemn. A moment later, he inhaled a deep breath of air. With a wave of his hand, he threw a medicinal ingredient into his medicinal cauldron.

Following Han Xian throwing a medicinal ingredient into the medicinal cauldron. The focus of everyone in the stadium was involuntarily gathered around him. The corner of his mouth was lifted with pride when he sensed the gazes which were thrown over. However, the proud smile had yet to spread open when it suddenly solidified at the slight ‘Pu Chi’ sound emitted from within the medicinal cauldron after the eighth medicinal ingredient was thrown into it.

“Ai...” Everyone in the stadium initially widened their eyes to watch Han Xian’s stiffened expression. A moment later, they involuntarily emitted some mocking laughter. In this first round of merging the medicinal ingredients, it was obvious that he was more of a failure compared to Xiao Yan. At the very least, Xiao Yan had refined over twenty medicinal ingredients before he was distracted, causing his effort to come to naught. Han Xian, however, had failed when he had just refined the eighth medicinal ingredient. This gap was something that even these people, who were laymen that did not know about refining medicinal pills, could tell.

In this first refinement, the both of them ended up in failure. However in this failure, it appeared that Xiao Yan was a little more handsome.