

Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 501: Half Finished Product - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 501: Half Finished Product

Chapter 501: Half Finished Product

Han Xian's expression clearly became much uglier when he heard the laughter that sounded in the stadium. A snort that suppressed his anger was emitted from his throat. His eyes stared at the golden-colored flame still rising in the medicinal cauldron. Once again, his palm swiftly grabbed the medicinal ingredients on the stone table and threw them into the medicinal cauldron.

This time around, Han Xian clearly paid much more attention compared to earlier. However, his mind had similarly formed some ripples because of his first failure.

Xiao Yan on the other side had completely shut his eyes at this moment. He did not make even the slightest movement from Han Xian's action. When they saw his strange manner, the crowd in the stadium involuntarily became a little astonished.

In the arena, the medicinal ingredients on the stone table were thrown into the medicinal cauldron one at a time by Han Xian. This time around, he clearly managed to progress further than before. Under his attentive focus, he had refined over twenty medicinal ingredients within a short five minutes. Seeing that his condition this time around was this good, those members of the 'Medicine Gang' which had come to cheer for him could not help but applaud and cheer.

"This Han Xian is indeed worthy of being a tier four alchemist. He does indeed have some foundation... what exactly is that fellow Xiao Yan doing?" Hu Jia involuntarily frowned and asked softly as she eyed Han Xian who had gradually exceeded the number of medicinal ingredients that Xiao Yan had refined in his first attempt. Her voice held a little worry.

Xun Er nodded. Her pupils rested on the closed-eyed Xiao Yan as she softly said, "There is no need to be anxious. There is still a lot of time. Moreover, Xiao Yan ge-ge still has two attempts." Although she spoke in this manner, her heart was a little anxious. Xun Er did not have very deep knowledge about the world of Alchemists. Therefore, she could not maintain her usual strong confidence toward Xiao Yan.

Under Han Xian's increasingly fast refining speed, some of the initial laughter in the stadium was completely annihilated. However, compared with these students, some of the sharp eyed Elders mused for a moment before shaking their heads slightly.

"Refining pills does not stress on speed. Instead, it requires a heart that is not disturbed by other things. Han Xian's heart has already developed some fluctuations from his earlier failure. Although his progress is very good now, but... perhaps it cannot be

maintained for long.” In the arena, Elder Hao placed his hands behind his back. He eyed the extremely busy Han Xian and furrowed his brows a little while sighing softly in his heart.

“Xiao Yan is performing extremely well on this point. Han Xian, however, has fallen into a disadvantage. Xiao Yan is indeed worthy of being a person that the First Elder has requested to take care of by name. He already possesses such a strong mental strength at such an age. His potential is indeed extraordinary.” Elder Hao gaze turned toward the closed-eyed Xiao Yan. From the latter’s increasingly calm breath, he could sense that the earlier failure had not shaken his mind by even a little.

“Puff...”

A low and deep sound suddenly sounded on the arena. Upon hearing this sound, the hearts of everyone suddenly sunk. Their gazes followed the sound and looked over only to see the pale-faced Han Xian with a trembling body. Immediately, they let out a sigh. It was really unexpected that a mistake would actually appear during his refinement, which appeared extremely smooth.

“Why... why did I fail again?” Han Xian expression was pale-white. His eyes stared intently at the medicinal cauldron as his mouth repeatedly muttered. Earlier, he had successfully refined all of the medicinal ingredients that he needed and was waiting to carefully merge them. However, at this juncture, his mood fluctuated quietly. The suppressed flame erupted with a wave of high temperature, completely incinerating the medicinal essence which he had refined with much difficulty into dark black soot. How could this not cause Han Xian to receive a blow?

Han Xian repeatedly muttered in his mouth. Having failed twice consecutively in public had caused Han Xian’s pale-white face to gradually form an angry green.

“Hu...” Just as Han Xian was buried in failure, Xiao Yan to his side suddenly let out a long breath. The former turned his head and took a look. Xiao Yan, who had shut his eyes for over ten minutes had actually opened them at this moment. Moreover, he even stretched his lazy waist; the manner was as though he had just woken up.

Xiao Yan smiled at Han Xian when he saw the latter looking over. After which, he ignored Han Xian’s ugly expression. He waved his hand, and a cluster of green-colored flame poured into the medicinal cauldron. After which, his left hand would occasionally pick up a medicinal ingredient and throw it into the medicinal cauldron. Looking at this calm manner, it was totally different from his earlier manner of appearing like he was facing an enemy. Moreover, the medicinal pill that he was refining in his hand did not seem to feel like a tier five medicinal pill but merely some low tiered medicinal pill.

Seeing Xiao Yan waking up from his closed-eye state, Xun Er’s group sighed in relief . They eyed the smiling face of Xiao Yan and although they did not know what exactly happened, they felt that the current Xiao Yan appeared very different from earlier. While

they felt this, they were unable to voice just what kind of change had occurred with words. It was rather mysterious.

Elder Hao in the arena could not help but let out a somewhat surprised 'huh' sound when he saw this disposition of Xiao Yan. Immediately, his gaze was mingled with the spot where those few old fellows were hiding. All of them managed to sense the shock from the others' eyes. There was no need to mention whether Xiao Yan would be able to successfully refine the pill. Just this state of mind which was like an old well without ripples was sufficient to provide him with quite a great reward.

As Han Xian watched Xiao Yan beginning to refine once again, he once again took a glance at the one set of remaining medicinal ingredients on the stone table. His extended hand suddenly paused for a moment before he immediately withdrew it. He could not continue to carelessly waste this final chance.

Han Xian stopped his actions and once again turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan. He let out a cold malicious laugh in his heart, "A pretentious fellow. Believe me. You will definitely fail..."

Perhaps Han Xian's curse had a certain effect. Just as Xiao Yan threw in the last few medicinal ingredients into the medicinal cauldron, the cluster of red-colored liquid that was merged from dozens of medicinal ingredients essence suddenly began to fluctuate intensely. Immediately, it erupted with an extremely powerful force. With a 'bang', it shot the cover of the medicinal cauldron into the sky. With the rise of the cauldron's cover, the medicinal liquid inside also spilled out before finally being scattered on the ground.

"Ugh..."

Everyone in the stadium eyed the movement on Xiao Yan's side. All of them involuntarily widened their mouths and once again emitted a regretful sigh.

"Hee hee..." Han Xian finally sighed in relief upon seeing Xiao Yan's failure. He turned his gaze toward the final set of medicinal ingredients on the stone table. He spoke in his heart, "Looks like the both of us won't be able to refine the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' I also do not intend to succeed. As long as the failed product that I refine is better than Xiao Yan's, that will do..."

As this thought flashed across his heart, Han Xian once again raised his flame. After which, he began his final attempt at refinement.

However, with this kind of mental state during the refinement of the pill, where he had already adopted the thought of refining a failed product, how would he be able to refine a true medicinal pill?

Xiao Yan was unconcerned about the regretful sigh from the stadium. He extended out his hand and a suction force swarmed out, sucking back the medicinal cauldron's cover

that had fallen on the ground back. After which, he gently covered it over the medicinal cauldron. The reflected green-colored flame in his dark black eyes was dancing slightly.

“So it is like this...”

Xiao Yan’s gaze stared at the rising green-colored flame before he suddenly laughed softly. After two failures, he had faintly grasped where some of the profoundness of this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ lay. Therefore, this time around, he did not rest the slightest or have any hesitation. His right hand controlled the flame in the medicinal cauldron as his left hand slowly moved on the stone table. Suddenly, his hand paused. Soon after, his arm turned into numerous afterimages. Following the appearance of these afterimages, the medicinal ingredients began to be thrown into the medicinal cauldron in an unceasing matter where the end of a medicinal ingredient was in contact with the other. This speed was even faster than his first attempt at refining.

Upon seeing this terrifying refining speed, everyone in the stadium was stunned. Xiao Yan had failed even after carefully refining earlier. Now, he still dared to be this fast? Does this fellow intend to break the pot and give up?

Xun Er’s group was similarly a little stunned by Xiao Yan’s actions. They exchanged glances with one another and could only maintain silence. They did not dare say anything to interrupt.

Under the focus of everyone’s gaze, the two people in the arena, who had poured all their attention into the refining, had begun the final refinement. Moreover, the medicinal ingredients on the table were gradually becoming less...

Time quietly flowed by from between one’s fingers. The short ten plus minutes were extremely long in everyone’s eyes. A green and a gold flame were rising independently in the arena...

Xun Er’s group focused intently on Xiao Yan. Their tightly clenched palms were filled with perspiration without them realizing it. However, just when their gazes did not turn, a faint medicinal fragrance was suddenly emitted from the arena. Everyone was immediately startled. Soon after, their expressions changed slightly. Their gazes followed the direction from which the medicinal fragrance came from, and turned toward the interior of Han Xian’s medicinal cauldron.

The medicinal fragrance similar attracted all the other gazes in the stadium. In a moment, numerous surprised gazes were gathered on Han Xian’s body. He appeared to be about to successfully refine it?

Elder Hao narrowed his eyes. A moment later, he helplessly shook his head. This fellow had actually automatically given up the chance of successfully refining the medicinal pill. Instead, he had in turn aimed to refine a kind of failed product. Elder Hao understood what Han Xian was thinking. It was likely that the later thought that Xiao Yan would also

not be able to successfully refine the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' Therefore, since everyone was unable to successfully refine a medicinal pill, they would compete on whose failed product was better... this kind of thinking... really left one speechless.

“Bang!”

Another two to three minutes passed. Han Xian waved his hand abruptly and the cover of the medicinal pill automatically fell. A mottled-colored medicinal pill with a somewhat rounded shape flew out from the medicinal cauldron, and was immediately snatched by his hand.

Han Xian lowered his head to eye the medicinal pill in his hand which had a mottled color and an abnormal shape. Regardless of how thick Han Xian's face was, some red flush also involuntarily appeared on it. However, the moment he thought it was better for him to have a half-finished product compared to a completely failed product, he felt a little better. He swiftly walked away from the stone table and handed the medicinal pill in his hand to Elder Hao.

Elder Hao felt neither able to laugh nor cry when he received the medicinal pill from Han Xian's hand. Could this thing even be called a medicinal pill?

“Ah...” Elder Hao sighed and carelessly held the medicinal pill. However, he ignored Han Xian and threw his gaze toward Xiao Yan whose entire attention was focused on his medicinal cauldron. A long while later, he suddenly glanced at Han Xian by the side and faintly said, “I'm afraid that Xiao Yan's chances of winning are larger than yours this time around.”

Han Xian's expression was a little ugly when he heard this. His gaze stared intently at Xiao Yan before he coldly said, “That may not be the case...”

Chapter 502: Fortunate Not to Fail One's Expectations

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Following the completion of Han Xian's refinement, some private conversations involuntarily sounded within the stadium.

“Has that fellow successfully refined it?” Wu Hao was extremely familiar with combat, but he totally knew nothing about refining pills. When he saw Han Xian walk away from the stone table, and hand over the medicinal pill in his hand to Elder Hao, his eyebrows were involuntarily knit together.

“I don't think so. It is rumored that when a tier five medicinal pill takes shape, there would be some unusual phenomenons. However, other than a wave of ordinary

medicinal fragrance earlier, not even the slightest unusual phenomenon occurred. Moreover, the expression of that Elder Hao does not appear to be that of someone who has just seen a tier five medicinal pill.” Xun Er mused for a moment before shaking her head slightly as she softly spoke.

Wu Hao and the rest at the side nodded slightly when they heard Xun Er’s analysis. They lifted their gazes, and turned their attention toward Xiao Yan, who was still pouring all his attention into the refinement. They spoke softly, “However, even if Han Xian did not successfully refine it, he does at least have something to hand over. If Xiao Yan’s hands still remain empty like earlier, the victory would still go to Han Xian even if the both of them eventually fail in the refinement.”

“Just pray that Xiao Yan ge-ge can successfully refine it.” Xun Er laughed bitterly. At this moment, she could only speak in such a comforting manner. Xiao Yan appeared to be unaware that he was being attentively watched by all of the gazes in the stadium. His eyes were staring intently into the medicinal cauldron. A large cluster of pale-red medicinal liquid was swiftly rolling above the fiery green flame. Even though Xiao Yan was isolated from it by a thick medicinal cauldron, Xiao Yan was still able to clearly sense the enormous strength contained in this cluster of liquid through the Spiritual Strength which he had extended into the cauldron.

“The refinement is completed. Next... should be the merger...” Xiao Yan’s eyes stared at the rolling pale-red-colored medicinal liquid as he softly muttered in his heart.

The last time, he had failed at this point. Therefore, Xiao Yan, who clearly knew the reason for his failure last time around, split his Spiritual Strength into two and poured all of it into the medicinal cauldron. One of it firmly suppressed the flame while the other wrapped the medicinal liquid in a lightning-like manner. After which, this potion abruptly unleashed an enormous suppressing strength.

Seemingly having sensed the pressure around it, the pale-red-colored liquid began to fluctuate intensely. Each time it fluctuated, there would be an extremely powerful ripple swarming out. Finally, it would collide with the large invisible hand formed by the Spiritual Strength.

“Bang!”

The medicinal cauldron on the stone table abruptly trembled. A clear sound of collision was emitted from within it.

Xiao Yan’s expression also changed slightly as the medicinal cauldron shook. His feet abruptly stomped on the ground. His hand which was some distance away from the medicinal cauldron suddenly moved forward and violently grabbed. That manner was as though it wanted to shatter the air in front of him.

As Xiao Yan's hand tightened its grip, the intense rolling medicinal liquid in the medicinal cauldron suddenly became sluggish. The invisible large hand that was formed from the surrounding Spiritual Strength had instantly soared. The originally large cluster of medicinal liquid was already the size of a ping pong ball at this moment. However, the moment that it was shrunk to this extent, it descended into an intense resistance. No matter what happened, it refused to proceed to the final step.

A flush redness gradually swarmed onto Xiao Yan's white face under the unbudging resistance of the medicinal liquid. He did not expect that this 'Dragon Strength Pill' was actually this difficult to refine. This degree of resistance was something that even the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' could not be compared with. However, Xiao Yan also clearly knew in his heart that if he could successfully refine this 'Dragon Strength Pill' this time around, he would likely be able to advance to the tier five alchemist level.

The change in Xiao Yan's expression was similarly noticed by everyone in the stadium. The earlier situation of the medicinal cauldron was also seen by them. Immediately, they raised their hearts to their throats and their eyes were unblinking.

"Refining a tier five medicinal pill was already this difficult. I really don't know just how tough refining an even higher tier medicinal pill would be?" During the time that Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength was contending with the strength contained within the medicinal liquid, a thought swiftly flashed across Xiao Yan's heart. He immediately inhaled a deep breath of hot air. His face was instantly filled with a flush redness. His right hand which was facing the medicinal cauldron from a distant gradually opened. After which, it once again trembled as it was slowly gripped. A low and deep cry was emitted from his throat, "Merge now!"

As his cry fell, Xiao Yan suddenly clenched his hand tightly. Following the tightening of his grip, the ping-pong-sized liquid within the medicinal cauldron suddenly shook. Immediately, it shrunk at a speed visible to the naked eye. In just an instant, the medicinal liquid actually disappeared. Replacing it was a pale-red-colored embryonic medicinal pill the size of a thumb.

With the medicinal pill taking shape, the most difficult step was over. Xiao Yan's forehead was covered with cold perspiration as he swiftly gulped down a couple of breaths of air. The firmly suppressed green-colored flame also slowly began to release a hot temperature, grilling the irregularly shaped embryonic medicinal pill.

The medicinal pill currently in Xiao Yan's medicinal cauldron was different from the half finished product that Han Xian had taken out earlier. It was the true initial form of a pill. From the outer appearance of this medicinal pill, its initial formation stage may be similarly irregular but its luster was completely different than Han Xian's mottled half-finished product. If one were to consume the half-finished product of the Han Xian, no one would know whether one's strength would surge for a short period of time or whether one's body would be ravaged by the randomly mixed medicinal ingredients until

it exploded and perished. This was because no one would dare to try and eat that thing...

This medicinal pill within Xiao Yan's cauldron may merely be at its initial form but it already possessed some preliminary medicinal effect of the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' If one were to consume it at this moment, the surge in strength that one would experience would definitely be incomparable to a real finished medicinal pill, but it would at the very least not pose a threat to one's life.

From the looks of these few points, the victor could actually be already determined in this match...

Elder Hao smiled and nodded as he eyed Xiao Yan who was panting in a similarly dehydrated manner. He slowly fondled his beard and turned his head to watch the pale-faced Han Xian. From the looks of Han Xian's face, Han Xian clearly understood that with just that half-finished product of his, he could not win against this initial form of the medicinal pill that Xiao Yan had refined.

"Ke ke, Han Xian, I am right, aren't I?" Elder Hao tossed that half-finished product from Han Xian in his hand as he involuntarily laughed.

The corner of Han Xian mouth twitched. His voice was extremely awful as he smiled and said, "Elder, the competition had not reached its end... in the pill refining procedure, condensing a pill is indeed the most difficult step, but there are still quite a number of steps that cause people to have a headache behind. If Xiao Yan were to make even a slightest mistake during those steps, it is likely that he would waste even the final opportunity. At that time... I will at least have a half-finished product."

"In that case, let's continue to watch." Seeing Han Xian, whose mouth was still firm at this moment, Elder Hao smiled. He did not continue to say any nonsense as he turned his body and once again threw his gaze toward Xiao Yan.

The green-colored flame seedling within the medicinal cauldron was repeatedly leaping. The hot temperature caused the medicinal cauldron to be turned into a furnace. The initially formed medicinal pill, whose appearance was a little irregular, was slowly turning into a round shape under this grilling. The luster on the surface of it was also increasingly bright. Looking from afar, it was like a red-colored gem which was emitting a radiant glow within the green-colored flame.

After the initial condensed pill took shape, the remaining steps of grilling, polishing etc. were perfectly finished by Xiao Yan. However, such precise control caused the cold sweat on Xiao Yan's forehead to become increasingly concentrated. His face also had an additional paleness under his harried breathing. All of this indicated that Xiao Yan was fast reaching his limit.

Han Xian, whose expression was originally become uglier and uglier after Xiao Yan had successfully completed one step after another, revealed a cold smile on his face when he saw Xiao Yan's expression. His heart repeatedly cursed for Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength to be exhausted.

This curse of Han Xian naturally would not always come true. Moreover, he had also underestimated Xiao Yan's tenacity. Although the breathing of the latter was rapid, those dark-black pupils were still clear and were not the least bit shaken by external factors.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared into the interior of the medicinal cauldron. A dark red-colored medicinal pill was partially visible under the green-colored flame seedling. At this moment, the medicinal pill had already restrained the earlier dazzle. At a glance, it was an ordinary medicinal pill and did not have even the slightest bit of the prominent outer appearance of a tier five medicinal pill.

Xiao Yan's eyes was unblinking as he stared at that dark-red medicinal pill. At this moment, the medicinal pill was nearly completely spherical. Xiao Yan clearly knew in his heart that this tier five 'Dragon Strength Pill' was about to form a true pill!

The dark-red-colored medicinal pill began to roll and rotate within the flame. Following the increase in its rotating intensity, the high temperature within the green-colored flame was converted into a small distorted energy pillar that was pouring into the medicinal pill unceasingly.

"Clang!"

During the rotation, there was suddenly a circular dark-red-colored energy ripple that surged out from within the dark-red medicinal pill. Finally, it heavily smashed on the inner walls of the medicinal cauldron, emitting a clear sound.

Xiao Yan's face gradually became solemn as he sensed this change of the dark-red medicinal pill. He clearly knew of the chaotic energy that was created from the formation of a tier five medicinal pill. Back then, when he was flying to the Vast Tager Desert from the Jia Ma Empire, this kind of abnormal phenomenon had also appeared when Yao Lao was refining a tier five medicinal pill on the Flying Beast!

"Crack..."

After the clear sound disappeared, there was suddenly an extremely weak quiet sound which appeared like thunder in Xiao Yan's ears.

Xiao Yan's eyes shrunk. His gaze turned toward the surface of the medicinal cauldron, only to realize that a tiny crack line was slowly beginning to spread. Immediately, he involuntarily lamented in his heart. How many times had his cauldron exploded when he was refining a medicinal pill?

“Clang!”

Another energy ripple was emitted from within the medicinal pill. The crack line also swiftly diverged out, and slowly spread to the entire body of the medicinal cauldron.

The crack lines were increasingly dense. At the end, even those people in the stadium came to discover the changes of the medicinal cauldron. As they eyed the faint green-colored flame that seeped out from the cauldron, everyone gently inhaled a breath of cool air. Some of the female students even involuntarily covered their mouths. Who would have expected that at the final moment, there would actually be such misfortune that left one speechless.

Elder Hao's expression also changed at this moment. He knit his eyebrows tightly while his gaze focused intently at the medicinal cauldron. A moment later, he raised his eyebrows and watched the young man behind the medicinal cauldron. The corner of the latter's mouth contained a helpless smile.

At this moment, Han Xian's face was initially stunned before the stunned look quickly changed into a gloating smile. This was especially after he heard the clear cracking sound. That smile of his became much denser after that.

“Cra...”

Under everyone's gazes, the crack lines that were spreading on the medicinal cauldron suddenly came to a slow stop. Seeing this, everyone had just sighed in relief when they once again heard the dark-red medicinal pill within the medicinal cauldron unleashing an extremely violent energy ripple.

The energy ripple spread out and suddenly made contact with the medicinal cauldron. Finally... everyone heard a low explosion sound. The medicinal cauldron fragments flew and shot all over the sky...

“His effort has fallen short...”

Elder Hao sighed extremely regretfully as he eyed the stone table area where a faint white fog had rose because of the cauldrons explosion. If Xiao Yan's medicinal cauldron was of a higher tier, he did not doubt that this fellow would be able to successfully refine this 'Dragon Strength Pill.'

“Ugh...”

Everyone in the stadium let out a long sigh. They felt that the final failure was wasted.

Han Xian was stunned as he watched the sudden explosion of the cauldron. A moment later, the corner of Han Xian's mouth split with a smile. However, just as he was unable to resist laughing out loud, a coughing sound was emitted from within the white fog. The

sound of footsteps immediately sounded, and a black-robed young man with a somewhat miserable appearance slowly walked out.

At this moment, there were some black spots on Xiao Yan's face. His black robes were also burned until there were curled up areas and charred holes. Blood was repeatedly dripping from his tightly clenched fist. The blood fell onto the ground and splashed into a blood flower.

Everyone maintained silence when they saw Xiao Yan's current appearance. In their hearts, they felt that he did not deserve this.

Han Xian similarly felt somewhat stunned at Xiao Yan's outer appearance. However, he quickly recovered. He took a step forward, shrugged his shoulders at Xiao Yan before smiling and saying, "Junior Xiao Yan, failure during the refinement of pills is something common. You should not be bothered about it. Those three medicinal formulas..."

Xiao Yan faintly glanced at the gloating smile filled face of this person. He slowly took a step forward and immediately brushed past him, not paying even the slightest attention to the latter.

Xiao Yan's disregard caused Han Xian's expression to sink. He spread his hands and muttered, "People who fail are always like this..." As he thought in this manner within his heart, he turned his body while wearing a smile. Soon after, the smile gradually became fainter until it disappeared.

After brushing passed Han Xian, Xiao Yan stopped in front of Elder Hao. The latter appeared to be still thinking of how to comfort this young fellow with extraordinary potential when Xiao Yan extended his hand that was covered with blood and finally opened it slowly.

As Xiao Yan's palm opened, a dark-red-colored round medicinal pill, with some blood stains on it, quietly appeared in front of a countless number of shocked gazes!

"Ke ke, Elder Hao. I was fortunate not to fail to meet your expectations."

Xiao Yan held his chest and gently coughed. His soft slow voice slowly reverberated throughout the stadium, causing respect for the black-robed young man to rise in the hearts of a countless number of people.

Chapter 503: Victory

The entire stadium descended into silence because of the dark-red medicinal pill that lay quietly in the hands of the black-robed young man. A long while later, the silence was finally broken by a furious voice. One could see Han Xian swiftly walking over to where Xiao Yan was. His reddened eyes were just like a gambler who had lost until he

was bankrupt, "Impossible, there is definitely some fraud. This fellow must have used the opportunity of the rising white fog earlier to cheat!"

When they heard Han Xian furious roar after losing himself, not only did most of the people in the stadium frown, but displeasure also quickly flashed across Elder Hao's face. Xiao Yan had refined under his very eyes. If one said that Xiao Yan had cheated, did that not mean that person was mocking him, saying his old eyes were muddled.

"Student Han Xian. Please pay attention to your words. It is not up to you to decide whether it is fair." Elder Hao coldly glanced at Han Xian as he cried out.

Hearing Elder Hao snap at him, Han Xian finally recovered from the state where he lost himself. He hurriedly bowed and apologized when he saw the displeasure on the former's face. He clearly understood just what kind of power these Elders had within the Inner Academy.

Elder Hao's expression only became slightly better when he saw Han Xian apologizing. His gaze turned toward Xiao Yan. Those stern eyes contained a praise that was not the least bit hidden. With such talent and mental strength, whoever could take him in as a disciple was really lucky.

"Elder Hao, please verify it. Otherwise, some people might not accept it." Xiao Yan smiled at Elder Hao as he waved his hand.

Hearing this, Elder Hao hesitated for a moment before he immediately smiled and nodded. He extended his finger and carefully took the tier five medicinal pill and placed it within his hand. Those eyes contained some hot fieriness. This kind of tier five medicinal pill had extremely noticeable effects on elite Dou Wangs like himself. If they were to consume one in a fight with others, the sudden increased in strength would obtain a unique effect of catching the other person by surprise.

During Elder Hao's examination, there were suddenly some human figures flashing at the bottom of the stadium. Immediately, a couple of old figures also rushed into the arena. They smiled at Xiao Yan before surrounding Elder Hao. Those eyes of their contained some surprise as they studied the pale-red medicinal pill.

"You old fellows..." Elder Hao immediately rolled his eyes when he saw these few people surrounding him. He helplessly shook his head and raised the medicinal pill in front of him and said, "Take a look. This should indeed be a 'Dragon Strength Pill' that has just come out of a cauldron. This medicinal pill still contains some heat."

"Ah. That cannot be fake. I have seen Old Huo from the Alchemist Department refining this 'Dragon Strength Pill' before. It is indeed this color and scent." An old man, who was wearing an Elder badge on his chest, fondled his beard and nodded slightly as he praised with a smile.

“It is really unexpected that this fellow could actually refine this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ after only entering the Inner Academy for no more than three months. This medicinal pill is something that only extremely few people could refine even within the Alchemist Department.” The other few Elders also spoke praises.

To the side, the expression of Han Xian, who had heard the conversation of these elders, involuntarily became much uglier.

After the few elders had gathered together and muttered for awhile, they turned their bodies and left the arena. However, as they passed by in front of Xiao Yan, all of them paused their footsteps and patted him on the shoulders. Their faces were filled with a warm smile and said, “Little fellow, if we need to refine any medicinal pill in the future, we may need to come and look for you to help out.” These powerful Elders might not take much notice about some tier four Alchemist. However, a tier five alchemist was different. A medicinal pill of this tier would move most of these Elders’ hearts. Therefore, now that they had seen that Xiao Yan was able to refine a tier five medicinal pill, their attitude was naturally much more friendly.

“Ke ke, as long as Elders are able to prepare their own medicinal ingredients, Xiao Yan will definitely do his best.” Xiao Yan naturally did not reject these Elders as he immediately smiled and replied. After which, he flattered the Elders until they left this place full of smiles.

Xiao Yan sighed in relief after watching the last Elder leave the arena. He turned his head only to find the smiling face of Elder Hao. The corner of his mouth immediately twitched as he smiled and said, “If Elder Hao has anything that you need help with in the future, you can just come and find the little me. I will not reject you if it is within my ability.”

“Ke ke, in that case, I will thank you first.” When he heard Xiao Yan speak in this manner, the smile on Elder Hao’s face became much richer. In his heart, he sighed that he was right to be this judge.

“*Cough*, Han Xian, you have also heard the evaluation of those Elders earlier. Do you have any objections now?” Elder Hao turned his head. The smiling Elder Hao’s face immediately turned into an expressionless one as he spoke to Han Xian indifferently.

Han Xian’s expression was like that of a pork liver at this moment. A moment later, he finally shook his head, clenched his teeth and said, “No.”

Elder Hao nodded slightly and turned his head to the stadium. In a deep voice, he said, “The match is over. I announce that Xiao Yan is the victor in this pill refining competition!”

“Oh!”

The moment Elder Hao's voice sounded, the members of 'Pan's Gate' involuntarily cheered out loudly. Being infected by them, the other observers in the stadium also raised their hands high up and used their strength to clap, emitting a loud clapping sound above their heads that could move mountains and flip the seas.

Xiao Yan's gaze met with Xun Er's group at the lower part of the stadium. When he saw them raise their thumbs, he also involuntarily laughed softly.

"Since you have already admitted defeat, you will hand over the five trading areas that you have promised as the stakes to 'Pan's Gate' within three days. Moreover, you have to remove the hidden suppression of 'Pan's Gate.'" Elder Hao turned his head towards the gloomy faced Han Xian, and spoke indifferently after hearing the loud clapping sound.

"Yes." Although blood was dripping in his heart, Han Xian could only shatter his teeth and swallow them since the stakes of the bet had been already released. He replied in a soft voice before flicking his sleeves and walking out of the arena. As he passed by Xiao Yan, he coldly said, "This matter is not over!"

Xiao Yan turned his head over and watched Han Xian walk out of the arena. He led the 'Medicine Gang' to angrily leave the stadium. His gaze also slowly became cold.

"Ke ke, Xiao Yan you can rest assured that since you both invited me to become the judge, I will guarantee that he will completely adhere to your betting agreement." Elder Hao patted Xiao Yan's shoulders and spoke with a smile.

"Thank you very much Elder."

Elder Hao smiled. He played with the dark red-colored 'Dragon Strength Pill' in his hand, hesitated a little before handing it to Xiao Yan. He said, "This is also your victory prize. You should keep it."

Although Elder Hao merely hesitated for a moment, it did not escape Xiao Yan's eyes. Xiao Yan immediately smiled and said, "Elder Hao, the medicinal formula of this 'Dragon Strength Pill' is much more expensive than this one 'Dragon Strength Pill.' As an exchange, this pill is yours Elder Hao."

Elder Hao's heart was moved for a moment when he heard Xiao Yan's words. However, he mused for a moment before shaking his head. He stuffed it into Xiao Yan's hand and said with a bitter smile, "Forget it. The eyes of those old fellows also became fiery hot due to this 'Dragon Strength Pill.' If I were to keep this, I would likely be mocked by them. If you have the heart, you can give the old me one of such pills if you have excess pills from your refinement. I will remember it."

Xiao Yan hesitated when he heard this. He could only take back the 'Dragon Strength Pill' and stuff it into his storage ring. He smiled and said, "As long as I manage to find sufficient medicinal ingredients and refine it, I will give it to Elder at the first opportunity."

"Ke ke, it is fine as long as you have the intention... as for medicinal ingredients, ke ke... the Inner Academy has stored an unknown amount during these years. That medicinal ingredient warehouse is also coincidentally managed by me. Ke. If you have any need in the future, you can come and look around." Elder Hao smiled. There was a couple of twists in his words. After he spoke, he patted Xiao Yan shoulders. The meaning of which was something that only the both of them understood.

Xiao Yan was initially startled when he heard Elder Hao's words before a joy immediately rushed from his eyes. He nodded his head at the former without leaving any traces. With the strength of the Inner Academy, it was likely they had stored quite a few rare and unique medicinal ingredients. These things had quite a great amount of attraction for Xiao Yan.

"Oh, that's right..." After handing the medicinal pill to Xiao Yan, Elder Hao appeared to have recalled something. He frowned and said, "Since 'Pan's Gate' that you manage is already officially selling medicinal pills, according to the rules, you must pay twenty-percent of the total 'Fire Energy' that you have obtained by selling such medicinal pills in bulk within the Inner Academy. In other words, if you have obtained one thousand days of 'Fire Energy' that month, you need to pay two hundred days worth."

Xiao Yan's face was immediately stunned when he heard this. What was this considered as? Paying taxes? Moreover, the tax was actually this expensive? A twenty-percent tax?

"Don't stare at me like that. This is a rule of the Inner Academy." Seeing Xiao Yan's stare, Elder Hao could not help but shake his head, saying: "You know that selling pills is something that is immensely profitable. Thus, the Inner Academy must have some restrictions. If we didn't have such rules, all of the Fire Energy would be in the hands of factions that sell pills. In these past years, the Medicine Gang also had such a tax rate."

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly before saying softly, "Isn't this tax a little too vicious? Elder you should know that the current price of the medicinal ingredients is also expensive. Moreover, it is not as though one would succeed every time one refines a medicinal pill."

"I also know this but the rule is like this..." Elder Hao parted his hand. When he saw Xiao Yan's tightly knit eyebrows, he hesitated for a moment before saying, "Ah, why don't we do this. In the future, your 'Pan's Gate' need only pay up ten percent. However, do not publicize this matter. Otherwise, that Han Xian would definitely be unhappy if the 'Medicine Gang' were to know about this."

“Elder can randomly adjust the tax rate?” Xiao Yan spoke with some surprise when he heard Elder Hao reduce the tax with just his words.

“Ke ke. Coincidentally, I am in charge of all the matters relating to the medicinal ingredients and medicinal pills within the Inner Academy.” Elder Hao smiled. However, in his heart he said, “Moreover, the First Elder has said to take special care of you. I am not going against the rules by doing this...”

“In that case, thank you very much, Elder. In the future, I will definitely hand the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ that I have refined to Elder first.” Xiao Yan quietly sigh in relief in his heart. A decrease of fifty-percent was not a small sum. Xiao Yan immediately hurriedly gave his thanks.

Elder Hao smiled and nodded. He said, “Alright, I’m afraid that you have already reached your limit today due to the refinement of the pill. You should go back and rest first. Tomorrow, send some people to take over the trading area from the ‘Medicine Gang.’ Those are really good places...” Once he said this, Elder Hao took the lead to turn around and walk out of the stadium.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He also descended from the arena and waved his hand toward Xun Er’s group. After which, that large group happily swarmed out of the stadium under the focus of numerous fiery gazes.

Chapter 504: Recruitment

Three days had passed since the pill refining competition. During these three days, Xiao Yan’s amazing and envious medicinal refining skills were spread by word of mouth by most of the Inner Academy students.

At this moment, the reputation of Xiao Yan in the Inner Academy was likely comparable to that of those top experts in the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking.’ An alchemist who could refine a tier five medicinal pill would be able to enjoy the same treatment as a strong Dou Wang or even a Dou Huang no matter where one was. One could get a glimpse of this from the suddenly warm attitude that those Inner Academy Elders suddenly displayed toward Xiao Yan.

In the past, those Elders merely treated Xiao Yan as a student with massive potential due to the quiet orders that First Elder gave to specially take care of Xiao Yan. However, they were now truly treating him as a person on the same level of them when they conversed. There was an additional politeness that was difficult to discern when they spoke or conversed. After all, these Elders clearly knew in their hearts that the value of an alchemist who could refine a tier five medicinal pill far exceeded a strong person of the Dou Wang class.

After clearly comprehending the difference in worth between the both of them. Some Elders naturally no longer displayed that haughtiness of an Elder in front of Xiao Yan.

This was because they knew their status did not contain much suppressing force compared to Xiao Yan's. Since it was useless, what was the point of using their status to speak?

During the three days, Xiao Yan's reputation had soared within the Inner Academy. Moreover, Xiao Yan borrowed the reputation he had forged in the competition to spread the important news to the Inner Academy students that 'Pan's Gate' had begun to sell medicinal pills. After witnessing Xiao Yan's pill refinement in the Northern Stadium, quite a number of people became interested in the medicinal pills of 'Pan's Gate.' Furthermore, quite a number of people began to frequent the region outside of the new student area, wanting to purchase the pills beforehand.

Additionally, the five trading areas that the 'Medicine Gang' had promised were also successively taken over by 'Pan's Gate' due to Xiao Yan's victory in the competition. The 'Medicine Gang' was clearly extremely dismayed. They felt great pain handing over these trading areas with extremely high volumes of traffic, and had repeatedly found excuses to delay handing them over, this little ruse of the other party naturally crumbled after Xiao Yan invited Elder Hao to show his face.

Finally, under the expressionless face of Elder Hao, the 'Medicinal Gang' could only clench their teeth. They watched as members of 'Pan's Gate' removed the 'Medicinal Gang' insignia, engraved in the trading areas, and replace it with their own.

After these five trading areas entered into their hands, Xiao Yan and the rest truly felt what was called having a hot human traffic. In merely one day, nearly two hundred medicinal pills were sold. As they watched the soaring 'Fire Energy' on the Fire Crystal Card, Xiao Yan and the few others were involuntarily a little dumbfounded.

The medicinal pills were completely sold and the lock that the 'Medicine Gang' had placed on the medicinal ingredients had also been removed. Naturally, Xiao Yan needed to get busy. However, Xiao Yan was still unable to meet the demand even after refining for two days, all day and all night. Xiao Yan could only laugh bitterly and shake his hand. After which, he revealed to Xun Er and the rest a suggestion that had been brewing in him for a long while.

"We should go and rope in some alchemists."

Xiao Yan wore dark circles around his eyes as he helplessly spread his hands toward Xun Er and the two others in the hall. "I am unable to undertake such large scale refinement work by myself. Therefore, we must hire people."

"Hire people? In that case, won't we have to leak the medicinal formula to others?" Xun Er was somewhat startled when she initially heard Xiao Yan's suggestion. She mused for a moment before she finally asked softly.

“This is something that is unavoidable. I cannot remain locked up in the house refining medicinal pills everyday, right?” Xiao Yan shook his head with a bitter smile as he spoke, “We cannot keep the medicinal formulas a secret forever. Moreover, all of you view the value of these three medicinal formulas too highly. If there is really the day when the secret is leaked, I will naturally take out an even more outstanding medicinal formula.”

These words were indeed true. The three types of medicinal formula were merely around that of the first or second tier. They could not be considered to be too valuable.

Xun Er and the two others hesitated for a moment when they heard this before nodding their heads. What Xiao Yan said was true. After all, he could not stay holed up in ‘Pan’s Gate’ refining pills everyday.

“I will hand the matter of looking for Alchemist to you. Remember, you must carry this out privately. You must clearly investigate every Alchemist who enters ‘Pan’s Gate’ on whether they have had any relationship with the ‘Medicine Gang’ in the past.” Xiao Yan reminded seriously.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge is worried that Han Xian would send someone to secretly sneak into ‘Pan’s Gate?’” Xun Er asked with a soft laugh.

“That fellow is not someone who is honest with everything. He would not rule out using such methods if it allowed him to obtain the medicinal formulas.” Xiao Yan said faintly.

“Alright. I know. Leave this matter to us.”

The efficiency in which Xun Er’s group did things caused Xiao Yan to be speechless. On the second day after he posed his suggestion, Xun Er had taken the lead to find three Alchemists who were around the third tier. From what Xun Er said, they were not recruited by the Alchemist Department for one reason or another. Therefore, they were not entangled with the ‘Medicine Gang’ within the Inner Academy. Instead, due to them sharing the same occupation, they were frequently bullied by the members of the ‘Medicine Gang.’ Once they heard that ‘Pan’s Gate’ had the intention of absorbing scattered Alchemists, they basically agreed without much hesitation.

If it were in the past, these Alchemists might not pay much attention to a new faction like the ‘Pan’s Gate.’ However, it was different now. Although ‘Pan’s Gate’ did not have any elite Dou Lings, they had an Alchemist who could refine a tier five medicinal pill. This name was sufficient to attract quite a number of people. These Alchemists had come because of Xiao Yan’s reputation as the top alchemist within the Inner Academy.

Xiao Yan did not have much doubt in Xun Er’s ability to distinguish people. After he met with the three Alchemists and saw their faces filled with worship, he felt unable to laugh nor cry. However, he discovered that the three of them had quite a good medicine

refining experience after a test. Therefore, Xiao Yan immediately agreed to accept the three people into 'Pan's Gate.'

Xiao Yan did not immediately hand the medicinal formula to them after accepting the three Alchemists. Instead, he quietly observed the conversation and conduct of the three people before calling all three of them to a secret room two days later. He then handed out three complete medicinal formulas for the three medicinal pills to the three people, and sternly instructed them not to leak them out.

The three Alchemists were shocked at Xiao Yan's generous act of imparting the medicinal formulas to them after merely three days. Only then did they bow to Xiao Yan with excited faces. There was no need to mention anything else. Just the trust of Xiao Yan alone was sufficient to cause these people, who had muddled along quite miserably due to the suppression of the 'Medicine Gang,' to feel a gratitude in their hearts.

Xiao Yan finally quietly sighed in relief within his heart after seeing the joy and gratitude on the faces of the three people after handing the medicinal formulas to them. At the very least, these three people could be trusted based on the looks of things now.

With three helpers, Xiao Yan became much more idle. During the short few days he stayed at 'Pan's Gate,' he would occasionally give pointers on refining medicinal pills to the three of them. He had finally escaped from the miserable life of refining day and night just a few days earlier.

Although the price of the medicine from 'Pan's Gate' was a little cheaper than that of the 'Medicine Gang,' it could not be bought everyday. Hence, after the first few days of fervent sales were over, the fiery situation where the medicinal pills that were on display being completely purchased within an hour rarely occurred again. However, the current situation of the sales was already enough to break the monopoly of the 'Medicine Gang' and contend with them.

Humans were ultimately a forgetful living creature. Hence, after one week, the high atmosphere caused by the medicinal pill competition had also began to become weaker. At this moment, Xiao Yan also sighed in relief. Now, there were much fewer hot-glowing needle-like gazes and people pointing at him when he went out.

Only at this moment did 'Pan's Gate' completely come on track. Xun Er and the others also began to take some time to enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train. The training effect that they obtained also caused Xiao Yan to feel somewhat surprised. According to this training speed, it was likely that Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao would be able to breakthrough and enter the Dou Ling class within half a year. At that time, the strength of 'Pan's Gate' would take a great leap and soar!

Perhaps it was because Xiao Yan had been in retreat within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' for a long period last time but he did not want to enter that underground

tower with tightly shut air to train. Moreover, he also clearly understood that for him, who had just broken through a short while ago, the effects of entering the tower to train would not be very great.

During his free time, Xiao Yan accompanied Wu Hao to go to the Fighting Arena a couple of times. The extremely fiery hot combat atmosphere within basically caused every person who entered to possess an extremely passionate feeling. Everyone hoped that they could become the main actor in any place. In this Fighting Arena, as long as you entered the arena, you would become the most dazzling main character.

Xiao Yan's hand held a railing unmoving as he lazily eyed the extremely intense fight below. As powerful Dou Qi spread, sand flew and rocks were thrown. Occasionally the attacks would land on the tough wall and rock fragments would splash all over the place.

Xiao Yan indifferently watched the elegant Agility Dou Techniques that the competitor in the arena displayed. His heart suddenly moved as his finger slowly rubbed the storage ring. Within it was a scroll that was sufficient to cause many people's eyes to redden. It was the Di class Agility Dou Skill: Three Thousand Lightning Movement!

"It appears... it should be about time to start practicing it." Xiao Yan muttered softly. His heart had suddenly become fiery hot.

"Looks like I need to enter the deep mountains alone..." Xiao Yan laughed softly. After which, he did not wait to greet Wu Hao, who was waiting to enter the arena. Instead, he walked out of the Fighting Arena. After having rested for nearly half a month, he should add a heavy bargaining chip to his own strength.

It was obviously not possible to practice the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' within the Inner Academy. Therefore, Xiao Yan intended to enter the vast deep mountains alone and stay there until he had successfully learned the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement!'

Chapter 505: Training, Three Thousand Lightning Movement

The lush green color extended to the edge of his vision within the vast deep mountains. It was like a borderless green-colored sea. When one stood within and the wild wind blows, the sea of trees would sway, and a green-colored wave that was over a thousand feet long would come sweeping over from afar. The sight was so spectacular that one would be left speechless.

A rushing wind sound suddenly sounded above the sea of trees. Immediately, a figure rushed over from the distance. Finally, his pair of wings flapped slightly, and his body was suspended in mid-air. He eyed the boundless sea of trees below and laughed bitterly. It was really unexpected that the forest outside the Inner Academy was actually

this vast. Moreover, speaking from a certain point of view, the Magical Beast Mountain Range that spread horizontally over the Jia Ma Empire could not compare with it.

Xiao Yan sighed. He felt a little helpless as he recalled the harsh training environment that Yao Lao had mentioned. Where was he going to find a swampy area within these vast mountains?

Xiao Yan's gaze searched all around him. He heard some low and deep Magical Beast roars and hisses deep in the forest. Finally, he gently flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back as his body once again turned into a black shadow that shuttled past the unbroken mountain range.

In order to search for the training ground that Yao Lao requested, Xiao Yan wasted an entire day roaming all over the mountain ranges. However, it was fortunate that his luck was not so bad to the point that it left one speechless. Around noon on the second day, the training area he was looking for finally appeared in front of him while he was shuttling through the forest.

It was a spot caught between two mountains. Perhaps it was because the mountain streams converged down the middle, but this area was exceptionally wet. Moreover, the further one ventured into it, the wetter the mud under one's feet became. This was especially apparent when he entered the middle area. This place had nearly been completely transformed into a swampland that was covered by green grass.

Xiao Yan's body borrowed the suspension from the Purple Cloud Wings to remain above this swampland. He randomly threw a stone into it, and eyed it as it broke through the grass and spluttered the mud water. Some joy surfaced on his face. The size of this swampland also met what Yao Lao had requested.

The dark-black ancient ring on his finger fluctuated slightly as Yao Lao's illusionary spirit floated out. His gaze swept over the swampland that was hidden under the green grass and a satisfied look appeared on his face. He smiled and said, "Not bad. This place could not be a more suitable to practice the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.'"

"There appears to be some Magical Beast hiding within the swamp?" The occasional green grass that sunk into the swamp did not escape Xiao Yan's notice. He immediately frowned and spoke about the matter.

"They are just some small fellows. They are no problem. You also require them to practice your Agility Dou Technique." Yao Lao laughed softly. His body gently landed on a large tree by the side before speaking to Xiao Yan, "Try and see if you can shuttle past this swamp without being blocked by them."

Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment when he heard this before nodding slightly. His body descended slowly and his shoulders trembled a little just as he was about to land in the

swamp. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back withdrew. Having lost the suspension of the Purple Cloud Wings, his body fell into the swamp.

The instant that his feet made contact with the muddy water of the swamp, a ferocious charging force erupted from his feet. A clear energy explosion resounded unceasingly above this swamp.

“Puff.”

A large cluster of black mud exploded under his feet. However, Xiao Yan’s body did not charge forward like it did in the past. Instead, Xiao Yan’s body sunk due to a black mud swirl appearing under his feet.

Xiao Yan’s feet were wrapped with black mud, and his expression changed slightly. There was quite a strong suction force within the black mud that pulled his body into the deep regions of the swamp with all its strength.

Xiao Yan lifted his hands vertically. He immediately patted them down on virtual space. A powerful invisible force swarmed out, and one could see that two sunken holes appeared on the surface of the swamp. Xiao Yan borrowed the force from the ‘Fire Palm’ to pull his legs out of the swamp. His back shook and the Purple Cloud Wings appeared in a lightning-like manner. After which, he hurriedly flapped them and maneuvered his body in such a way, it became suspended in mid-air.

The instant Xiao Yan’s feet left the swamp, the surrounding area suddenly churned violently. Numerous dark black water arrows viciously shot out from the swamp. The target of those water arrows was Xiao Yan, who was in mid-air.

The sudden attack caused Xiao Yan’s heart to be extremely surprised. However, it was fortunate that he was not totally without preparation. His hands once again violently pushed down. A shapeless wind collided with the water arrows in mid-air. It immediately shook the place until black water spread over the sky.

Xiao Yan’s flapped his wings swiftly. His body was lifted over ten meters from the swamp before it slowly stopped. His eyes observed the swamp only to see that there were quite a number of serpent-shaped creatures swimming within the swamp. Among them, a black serpent had coincidentally extended its savage head out from the swamp at this time and a foul smelling black muddy water arrow was shot out aimlessly...

“Hee hee, how is it?” Yao Lao involuntarily teased when he saw Xiao Yan. One of the latter’s legs had already been stained with black mud.

“Explosive Step is not suitable for this kind of terrain...” Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head. In this kind of terrain, the ‘Explosive Steps’ was clearly firmly restrained. Not only did it not achieve its usual effect, it actually hindered him to the point where he fell into the ground, because of how soft the swamp terrain was.

“This so-called ‘Explosive Steps’ of yours cannot be considered a brilliant Agility Dou Techniques. It merely borrows the push force that is formed from the explosion on the ground to increase your speed.” Yao Lao smiled and spoke indifferently, “If you successfully learn the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement,’ this swamp would basically be like flat ground to you. If you practice it until you reach its pinnacle, the technique could even allow you to perform short distance flying and mid-air suspension by just relying on this Agility Technique.”

“Back then, the head of the Wind Lightning Pavilion had once relied on this ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ to successfully escape from the combined attack of three elite Dou Zongs. Moreover, he had relied on the brilliance of this Agility Technique to counter attack and seriously injure one of the elite Dou Zongs while fleeing. From this, one can see the strength of this Agility Dou Technique. Although it is merely at the Di class Low level due to some reason, if one were to discuss its speed, it would be able to contend with that of a Di class Middle level Agility Dou Technique.”

“If you really master this thing, you would be able to run away in one piece, even if it was a strong Dou Wang chasing you...”

Xiao Yan’s heart became much hotter when he heard this. If he managed to successfully learn this ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement,’ it would undoubtedly increase his chances of success when he snatches the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ in the future.

Xiao Yan’s finger gently flicked his storage ring. Immediately, a silver-colored scroll appeared in Xiao Yan’s hand out of nowhere. His palm gently rubbed the body of the scroll. The scroll was a lightning-like color, and he appeared to be able to faintly hear some sounds of wind and lightning.

“Teacher, how can I successfully learn this ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement?’” Xiao Yan’s gaze shifted toward Yao Lao as he anxiously asked.

“The ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ is an Agility Dou Technique that would cause a countless number of people to covet it, even when it is placed in the entire Dou Qi continent. Back then, I once had the intention of borrowing this Dou Technique from the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion’ to take a look. However, I was still turned away in the end.” Yao Lao smiled faintly and said, “This is one of the Safeguarded Pavilion Treasures of the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion.’ The creation of each scroll consumes a great amount of effort. This is because there is a thread of wind-lightning strength that the Pavillion Head seals within it. Only by absorbing this thread of wind-lightning strength will one be able to truly learn this unique ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement.’ Therefore, only some people of the Elder level or extremely outstanding disciples who had great contributions to the Pavilion would have the qualification to practice it.”

“Wind-lightning strength...” Xiao Yan softly muttered in his mouth before he continued with a gentle smile, “No wonder I can hear some wind-lightning sounds when I hold this scroll. It is actually due to this.”

“This wind-lightning strength is the most important factor for the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion,’ allowing them to be able to endure on the Dou Qi Continent for a long time without declining. It is said that only if one sat on the peak of a mountain when the sky is completely covered in dark clouds with lightning flashing will one be able to barely absorb a thread of wind-lightning strength that is flowing through the empty space. However, this wind-lightning strength is extremely overbearing. If one’s mental strength is not strong, it is likely that it would be difficult to control. Moreover, there is the risk of a backlash if one is not careful. There have been an unknown number of outstanding disciples of the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion’ whose spirits were torn into pieces at this step... However, once one is successful, the attacking strength of one’s Dou Qi ends up being something that even lightning affinity Dou Qi, which is known for its powerful attacking strength, cannot compare with. On this point, it has some similar effects, via different means, to the ‘Flame Mantra’ swallowing the ‘Heavenly Flames,’ enabling the strength of the Dou Qi to soar.” Yao Lao smiled and explained, “Currently, your Dou Qi, which contains the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame,’ is undoubtedly much stronger than an ordinary fire affinity Dou Qi. You should have already sensed this, no?”

“Yes...” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He secretly remembered the name ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion’ within his heart. After which, he waved the silver-colored scroll in his hand toward Yao Lao and once again spoke with a smile, “How should I train now?”

“Wait!” Yao Lao replied with a smile.

“Wait? Wait for what?” Xiao Yan asked in surprised.

Yao Lao raised his head to eye the somewhat dark sky. He smiled and said, “Wait for the wind to rise and the lightning to flash... After which, absorb the wind-lightning strength within the scroll. Only through this can you begin the initial step of practicing the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement.’ From the look of the color of the sky, it should be soon...”

Xiao Yan was a little surprised when he heard this. He immediately understood something. As he raised his head, he threw his gaze toward the dim, borderless sky and nodded slightly.

The weather changed in an unpredictable manner within the mountains, making it difficult for one to fathom it.

This wait did not last for very long. On the second night since Xiao Yan came to this mountain range, the sky, where the setting sun hung a moment ago, was suddenly covered by dark clouds that appeared from an unknown direction. The wild wind blew down from the dark clouds, causing the mountain forest to emit a ‘hua hua’ sound.

Dark dense clouds covered the sky. Low rolling thunder was slowly emitted. Under the face of the might of the Heavens and Earth, the entire mountain range descended into a panicked silence.

“Chi!”

Lightning shot from the dark clouds, and an eye-piercing glow brightened the mountains until it was like daytime.

.....

A black-robed young man was seated cross-legged on the peak of a mountain. He sat without moving like a rock regardless of how the wild wind blew. As the lightning fell, it flickered and revealed a delicate, handsome, calm face.

Xiao Yan raised his head slightly. He eyed the dark mass of clouds above his head only to smile slightly. With a rotation of his palm, a scroll with a color similar to that of lightning flashed and appeared. The ancient words on the scroll radiated a faint lightning-colored glow under the lightning.

“Three Thousand Lightning Movement!”

Chapter 506: Wind-Lightning Strength

The thick, dark clouds piled layer upon layer and blanketed the entire sky. Occasionally, there would be flashes of lightning around ten feet long winding through the dark clouds, much like a giant silver-colored python. It would tear through the sky, and its eye-piercing intense glow would cover the entire mountain range under the brilliant might of the Heavens. Under this kind of extremely wild environment, even the indigenous Magical Beasts of the deep mountains did not dare to carelessly appear. All of them shrunk within their caves. There were some faint low roars that followed this wind as it spread throughout the mountain range.

A small tree was uprooted, without reason, not far from Xiao Yan’s body. After which, it was heavily thrown down the mountain peak. There was not the slightest sound being transmitted from below even after a long while.

Xiao Yan sat cross-legged on a green rock. His hands were tightly holding the silver-colored scroll. Under this kind of terrible weather where lightning occurred simultaneously, this scroll, which usually appeared old and ordinary, gradually emitted a faint warmth. Occasionally, Xiao Yan would even be able to see threads of extremely small silver-colored lightning flickering from within when his gaze glanced over it.

Xiao Yan lifted his head. He eyed the sky covered by dark clouds and lightning. He exhaled a long breath of air as he supported his right hand on his thigh. He could sense the slight tremble of his hand. In this kind of weather and environment where extremely

frightening lightning could come smashing down at any moment, his heart was clearly not as calm as what he displayed on the surface.

“Teacher, when should I begin?” Xiao Yan held the silver-colored scroll in his hand. At this moment, the four ancient words, ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement,’ on the scroll appeared to want to leap out of it, repeatedly releasing a faint silver crackle.

“You can begin. Be careful. This wind-lightning strength is not as terrifying as that of the ‘Heavenly Flame,’ but it is also extremely overbearing. If you are not cautious, your life might be in danger.” Yao Lao’s serious voice sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. In his heart, he clearly knew that if he wanted to obtain strength, it would naturally be impossible for everything to be smooth. Although he had obtained the ‘Flame Mantra,’ a kind of mysterious Qi Method that could swallow a ‘Heavenly Flame’ after meeting Yao Lao back then, he would need to use his life to gamble time and time again during the evolution of the Qi Method. Therefore, these dangers no longer scared him.

He believed that since that frightening ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ did not burn him to death, this current wind-lightning was insufficient to cause Xiao Yan to withdraw midway even though it was extremely overbearing.

“Open the scroll and place it on your legs. During this time, the force of the wind-lightning is the strongest. You need not direct it. The thread of wind-lightning hidden within the scroll will automatically surge out. At that time, you will grab it when it flashes out. After which, all you need to do is absorb it into your body and refine it.” Yao Lao spoke of all the refining steps in one go.

Xiao Yan repeated it once in his heart. After realizing that nothing was lacking, he finally nodded heavily. Both his hands held the scroll and pulled open the surface of the scroll, where a special medicinal water with some sealing properties had been pasted on it in a sudden manner.

As the scroll was opened, an eye-piercing strong silver glow shot out explosively and abruptly. Immediately, it turned into a large rough silver-colored lightning energy pillar that shot into the thick dark layer of clouds. The powerful light pillar made it such that one could still clearly see the area over fifty kilometers away.

The strange action that suddenly erupted from the scroll caused Xiao Yan to be greatly shocked. His expression also paled. However, it was fortunate that the lightning pillar did not last for long before it swiftly shrank back from the dark clouds with a ‘chi’ sound. Finally, it once again returned completely into the scroll.

Seeing that the scroll had returned to normal, Xiao Yan finally quietly sighed in relief. He rubbed some cold perspiration on his forehead. This place was not too far from the ‘Black-Corner Region.’ If he was to alarm someone, it was likely that some unexpected

and undesirable situation would occur again. Xiao Yan clearly understood the degree of greediness of those fellows within the 'Black-Corner Region.' Of course, the thing which caused Xiao Yan's inner heart to feel somewhat guilty was that this scroll of Agility Dou Skill had a shady origin. After having done the act of blocking the path and snatching the treasure in the 'Black-Corner Region,' Xiao Yan clearly knew that he and the 'Blood Sect' had already quietly reached a point beyond reconciliation.

Xiao Yan did not believe that the father would easily let him off after he had killed his son. Currently, that leader of the 'Blood Sect' was still unaware that he was the secret murderer. Otherwise, it was likely that the fellow would forcefully ferret him out and kill him, even if he was a student within the Jia Nan Academy.

Xiao Yan withdrew his thoughts as his gaze turned to the scroll that was placed in front of him, only to be slightly startled. Perhaps it was due to that unusual acton earlier, but the silver-colored scroll was currently already wrapped in a faint silver-colored glow. The surface of the glow had a vague, strange shape materializing. However, if one were to carefully look at it, one would have no clue as to what it was.

When he recalled Yao Lao's instructions earlier within his heart, Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air, and began to sink his mind within his body and calm his heart. His Spiritual Strength broke from his body and firmly covered this green rock. Even a sand particle falling within this region would not be able to escape Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception.

Not long after Xiao Yan entered a focused condition, the silver-colored glow on the scroll became increasingly stronger with the flashing lightning in the sky. In the end, the scroll actually slowly floated, reaching Xiao Yan's chest level before it came to a stop.

As the silver-colored glow became increasingly intense, the picture that was vaguely visible on the surface also became increasingly clear. When one looked at it in this state, it was actually like numerous human figures in various kinds of running form. Although the stances were different, their legs were all covered by silver-colored, lightning-like, tiny, electric pythons. The glow moved slightly, causing the human figure to appear like it was alive. With a slight fluctuation of the air, the numerous energy human figures broke through the restraints of the glow and rushed directly toward the distant sky.

The speed of the illusionary human figures was so fast that it was frightening. It was as though it totally ignored the distance in space. In a mere instant, these human figures charged out from within the area covered by Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception.

Although Xiao Yan had long since entered a focused condition and had sensed those energy human figures the instant that they rushed out from the glow, him having the ability to stop it was altogether another matter from having sensed it. The moment the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan's body spurt out from his palm, those energy human figures had

already rushed out of his attacking radius. Xiao Yan's face was immediately filled with some shock.

“Coagulate!”

Just as Xiao Yan was feeling shocked and upset, Yao Lao's familiar voice suddenly sounded. There was a powerful Spiritual Strength contained within this old voice. Moreover, the wind would even come to a sudden stop in all the regions where the voice passed.

The wild wind became still. Those energy human figures which were about to charge into the sky also became still. In an instant, these energy human figures were stagnant in mid-air while forming various different kinds of strange posture.

“Return!” Yao Lao's low and deep voice sounded once again. The powerful Spiritual Strength which basically completely covered this entire mountain peak rushed back ferociously. Following the shrinking back of the Spiritual Strength, those human figures appeared to have received an extremely powerful pulling force as they were thrown and sent flying until all of them were poured into Xiao Yan's head.

Xiao Yan's heart was still shocked at that overly frightening Spiritual Strength of Yao Lao when his wide awake mind shook. Immediately, a giddiness surged. He could see some of the extremely strange human figures flashing images in a vague manner. However, he did not remember much of them in his dazed state.

His drowsiness merely lasted for a while before the human figure images that surfaced in his mind also gradually disappeared.

Xiao Yan gradually woke up from his drowsiness. Lightning was still flashing in the sky. The dark-black, dense clouds appeared to be suppressing one's heart, causing one to have some difficulty breathing.

“Teacher's Spiritual Strength is really powerful. If we were to just discuss about Spiritual Strength, it was likely that there aren't many people on this Dou Qi continent who could compare with him. No wonder he was able to contend with an elite Dou Zong with just this Spiritual Strength.” Xiao Yan once again recalled the Spiritual Strength, which had basically caused space to become stagnant earlier, and an astonishment involuntarily flashed across his mind.

“Stop having random thoughts. The wind-lightning has already moved along with those images and entered your body. Hurry up and refine them!” Yao Lao's low cry suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan's heart.

Yao Lao's cry had just sounded when Xiao Yan's body suddenly became still. His face was flushed purple-red. A thread of tiny lightning that had been shrunk countless times actually flashed across his eyes.

Xiao Yan's hands swiftly formed the training seal. He was so proficient at forming it that it was ingrained in his bones. His mind entered his body in a lightning-like manner. Following the entrance of his mind into his body, the Dou Crystal within the vortex in his body also swiftly trembled. A powerful green-colored Dou Qi erupted out. A turbulent flow that was like a flood water flowed into his numerous Qi Paths. Finally it turned into a capsule-like form that surrounded a thread of silver-colored obscure energy at an intersection of veins.

Since Yao Lao had reminded him in time, the various wind-lightning strengths that were secretly hiding within his body were surrounded by Xiao Yan before they could form any powerful destructive force. Xiao Yan could not help but feel fortunate when he saw the increasingly stronger fluctuations that were spread out from the areas where those threads of silver-colored energy lingered.

"Hiss, hiss!"

The obscure silver-colored energy repeatedly twisted and let out a strange unceasing hissing sound, much like an entrenched enormous python.

Under the strange sound emitted by the silver-colored energy, Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised to discover that the Dou Qi that surrounded the former had actually begun to tremble faintly. That manner seemed to have some fear. At one glance, it was like a large group of sheep surrounding an incomparably vicious, enormous python, fearing that the other party would retaliate and cause its death at all times.

Those threads of obscure silver-colored energy also appeared to have sensed the trembling of the surrounding Dou Qi. In an instant, they suddenly surged. Wherever the powerful silver glow passed by, the green-colored Dou Qi would hurriedly shrink back. Upon seeing this dodging action of the Dou Qi, the hissing sound within the silver glow also became increasingly intense. It was as though the silver glow was laughing arrogantly. This kind of human-like reaction caused Xiao Yan to be greatly shocked.

However, on top of being shocked, Xiao Yan also had a faint cold smile. A thread of wind-lightning was actually this arrogant?

"Hmph!"

A low snort sounded within his body. Following this snort, the Dou Qi that surrounded the silver-colored energy suddenly fluctuated intensely. Immediately, the Dou Qi became slightly distorted and wisps of green-colored flame quietly spread out from within it.

Following the appearance of the green-colored flame, the silver-colored energy appeared to have received a shock. Its bright glow swiftly shrank back.

Faced with the withdrawal of the silver-colored energy, the green fire Dou Qi appeared to have turned from a sheep into a ferocious and hungry wolf in this instant. It closed in hard, one step at a time, preparing to eagerly leap powerfully forward at any time!

Chapter 507: Successful Refinement

Following the appearance of the green fire, the green-colored Dou Qi instantly turned from a gentle sheep into a ferocious hungry wolf. It immediately began to form a capsule-like shape as it surrounded the threads of vague silver-colored energy that were lingering in the middle.

“Hiss hiss!”

Faced with the swarming green fire Dou Qi, the silver-colored energy was somewhat unresigned as it once again erupted with a powerful glow. It was like a hedgehog which had sensed danger, erecting the spikes on its body with the intention of frightening away the enemy.

However, after the green-colored fire mixed with the current Dou Qi, the certain coercion contained within the silver-colored energy no longer posed the slightest pressure on the former. Instead, when the silver-colored intense glow soared, the green-colored flame within the Dou Qi appeared to have been provoked as it swarmed out with a chi sound.

The first brush of the two kinds of energy caused an energy ripple to be swiftly emitted. However, there was Dou Qi blocking all around it, which prevented it from causing much damage to the interior of the body.

The green fire and silver-colored energy intertwined with one another. In merely a short while, the strong silver-colored glow began to show signs of defeat as the glow repeatedly shrank back...

In less than a minute, the silver-colored energy ended up in complete defeat in its fight with the green fire. Under Xiao Yan's control, the green fire chased after the silver-colored glow after it won before surrounding it and shrinking it into a small ball that was only around the size of two hands. The essence wind-lightning strength appeared within the ball!

At this moment, this thread of wind-lightning strength had its strong outer glow incinerated by the green fire. When it lost the cover of the silver-colored glow, its actual body appeared clearly under the focus of Xiao Yan's mind.

It was a thread of extremely tiny, silver-colored lightning. Perhaps it could be said that it was a silver-colored lightning with a shape that was only slightly different from a small snake... this thread of lightning was merely around half an inch long and was extremely tiny. If one were to take a rough glance over it, it was likely that this thread was not even

as thick as Xiao Yan's finger. Having lost the protection of the surrounding energy, this thread of silver-colored lightning carefully lingered in the body, twisting itself into a tiny lightning snake. When the snake widened its mouth, there was actually a vague wind-lightning sound that was emitted.

"This is the wind-lightning strength huh... it is indeed different than ordinary energy. Although it does not possess an intelligence, it could rely on a thread of instinct somewhere to do things." Xiao Yan's mind watched this lightning small snake which appeared to be surrounded by a group of hungry wolves as he spoke in a somewhat surprised manner within his heart.

"Ah. After all, it is a strength that is formed between the Heavens and Earth. A kind of energy that is formed from human cultivation like Dou Qi, would really have difficulty contending with this type of natural energy unless one already cultivated to an extremely deep degree." Yao Lao's laughter also sounded in Xiao Yan's heart.

"It is really unexpected that the 'Heavenly Flame' is actually this ferocious. Even the overbearing wind-lightning strength is a little afraid of it. With the suppression of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' it would not be too difficult for you to absorb it... Therefore, make the most of the time you have."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His mind slowly became focused. The green flame surrounding the silver-colored energy suddenly shook. Immediately, it pounced over in a turbulent manner. With one mouth, it swallowed the latter...

.....

Xiao Yan sat cross-legged on the peak of the mountain. His body would occasionally have a thread of seemingly substance-like lightning flash over it. At this moment, there was much less lightning in the sky. However, bean-sized heavy rain came splattering down furiously under the cover of the dark-black night sky. In an instant, the entire mountain range was covered within this wild wind and violent storm.

Although it was raining extremely hard in the outside world, the area within a three-foot-radius around Xiao Yan's body was as dry as summer. All the rain would be vaporized into fog by the high temperature that shrouded nearby. This fog would immediately rise before being directly shattered by the raindrops falling down.

Xiao Yan's face was tense as his hands, which had formed the training seal, trembled slightly. Occasionally, there would be a thread of lightning that would shoot from his finger before quickly disappearing.

Time swiftly flowed by in his training state. The dark-black, dense clouds had become much fainter unknowingly. The violent storm raged for a night before it gradually appeared to tire. It would take long breaks before there a wave of scattering rain droplets came down. It no longer had the momentum that it did earlier.

Dark clouds slowly swam in the deep, black sky. Suddenly, a thread of light passed through the dark clouds, and shot toward the endless sea of trees. Following the appearance of the first thread of light, thread after thread of light began to scatter down swiftly not long after that, appearing as though the first thread of light had started a chain reaction. The threads shot through the dark clouds until they were filled with holes. Finally, the clouds could not bare it any longer as the threads completely tore the clouds open. In an instant, a warm eye-piercing light scattered down, covering this forest, which had endured the destruction of a night of bad weather.

Warm sunlight shone onto the black-robed young man, who was seated cross-legged on the mountain peak. Seemingly having sensed the change in the weather of the outside world, the young man's tightly shut eyes moved slightly. A thread of silver-colored lightning lingered on his finger before quietly entering his body and finally disappearing.

Following the disappearance of the silver-colored lightning, the shaking of the black-robed young man's eyelashes became increasingly intense. A moment later, they finally appeared to have escaped from a restraint as they opened abruptly. Immediately, a substance-like silver-colored lightning carried some overbearing sharpness as it shot out from his eyes and reached a total distance of over ten feet!

The silver-colored lightning merely lasted for an instant before it suddenly disappeared. Following the disappearance of the silver-colored lightning, that pair of dark-black eyes once again descended into a calmness.

The seal that Xiao Yan's hands formed loosened as he raised his head slightly and eyed the warm sunlight that radiated from the sky. His chest rose and fell. Finally, muddled air moved along his throat before being spit out. Following the spitting out of this muddled air, Xiao Yan's face immediately had an additional faint radiance. Under the shine of sunlight, it appeared like jade, which greatly attracted the attention of others.

Xiao Yan's body quivered slightly and without . His body, which was seated cross-legged, stood up like a spring. He twisted his body and the cracking sound emitted from between his bones caused the smile, lifted on the corner of his mouth, to quietly expand a little.

Xiao Yan slowly extended his palm. His finger rubbed gently. Immediately, a thread of extremely faint silver-colored lightning that carried a slight hissing sound surfaced from his finger.

"Have I successfully refined it?" Xiao Yan eyed the tiny thread of lightning as joy involuntarily leaped from between his brows. This refinement of the wind-lightning strength was not as difficult or dangerous as he had imagined. Did those outstanding disciples from the 'Wind Lightning Pavilion' halt their progress at this step?

“Do you really think that everyone has the ‘Heavenly Flame’ to help suppress the wind-lightning strength?” Yao Lao snappy voice suddenly sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart. The wind-lightning strength was extremely overbearing. How could an ordinary Dou Qi suppress it? If Xiao Yan did not possess the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame,’ it was undoubtedly the ravings of an idiot if he wanted to refine the wind-lightning strength for his use in such an easy manner.

Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly when he heard Yao Lao’s reprimand him. He dispersed the wisp of energy from the tip of his finger as he rubbed his head and said, “Teacher, since I have already refined the wind-lightning strength, I think that I should be able to practice the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement,’ right?”

“Naturally.”

Joy once again surfaced on Xiao Yan’s face when he heard this. He lowered his head to pick up the silver-colored scroll on the green rock only to be slightly startled. At this moment, the scroll had already become black. Forget about the pictures within it, even the four words ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ on the surface of the scroll had disappeared.

“Where are the things?” Xiao Yan hurriedly asked as his expression changed slightly when he eyed the completely blank scroll.

“The things have already entered your head. How can it still remain on the scroll? Remain calm and recall those images from yesterday night. They are the key part of practicing the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement.’ Now that you have the wind-lightning strength, practicing it is just like water falling into the drain. As long as you practice hard and possess sufficient talent, you will be able to enter the complete mastery level sooner or later.” Yao Lao helplessly explained.

Only after he was reminded by Yao Lao did Xiao Yan come to a sudden understanding. He let out a bitter laugh. It appeared that he had become much more stupid after training in the storm for an entire night.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of fresh morning air. He raised his eyes to look at the sea of greenery that made up this vast forest. After a wash from an entire night of heavy rain, this forest appeared to give people a feeling of being completely new. Xiao Yan’s gaze slowly swept over it. His somewhat fluctuating heart also gradually become peaceful.

Following the peacefulness of his mind, Xiao Yan’s eyes were once again gently shut. However this time around, darkness did not appear after he shut them. Instead, it was as though he had entered into a silver-colored region. In front of him, numerous, flashing, vivid human figures with strange postures swiftly surfaced. Although the flashing of the images were extremely fast, they would firmly imprint themselves in Xiao

Yan's heart each time they did so. They no longer had the kind of trance-like feeling where he was thought that he would forget the moment he stopped looking at them..

Xiao Yan's gaze swept across these flashing human figure images and realized that threads of silver-colored glow were being emitted from under their legs. These glow were like an accelerator that was carrying these human figures in their flight.

"Turning one's body into lighting, using one's heart to drive it!"

After Xiao Yan firmly remembered the final image, the images in front of him suddenly aggregated swiftly together. It agglomerated into eight glowing and flashing ancient words.

Xiao Yan gaze focused firmly on the eight large silver words in front of him. It was a long while later before Xiao Yan appeared to have understood it. As his heart moved, the thread of wind-lightning strength that was refined began to seep out of his body. Finally, it formed into threads of lightning that wrapped around the surface of his body. As the light surfaced, it finally automatically began to surge down. In merely an instant, it agglomerated into a cluster of silver-colored glow that completely wrapped Xiao Yan's body.

Xiao Yan lowered his head and eyed the silver-colored glow that completely covered his legs. His right leg carried a threads of a strange arc as it was gently raised. Finally, it formed into a posture that was completely the same as that in an image earlier.

The posture was maintained for an instant before Xiao Yan's feet gently landed. Following the landing of his feet, he suddenly felt a giddiness in his mind. The silver-colored space was also suddenly shattered. When his gaze once again roamed around him, he was somewhat astonished to discover that his body was currently in mid-air around the mountain peak. That gentle stride he took earlier actually caused him to charge from the mountain peak to the sky.

Xiao Yan lowered his head slightly. He eyed the bottomless deep abyss under the peak of the mountain and his face suddenly paled. He turned his head feeling somewhat shocked, but he did not see the Purple Cloud Wings extending from his back. In this empty space, the flashing silver-colored glow under his feet appeared to have insufficient energy. After trembling for a moment, it suddenly dissipated. His body also fell toward the deep abyss at this moment much like a bird whose wings were broken...

"Ah... save me!"

A miserable wail suddenly resounded during the cheerful morning, deep within the mountain.

Chapter 508: Lightning Flash

A faint white-colored fog spread over the swamp that was covered by tiny, emerald-green grass blades. A gentle wind blew over and the white fog surged slightly. Finally, it followed the wind as it surged up toward the sky, causing the swamp to become much clearer.

“Chi!”

A slight ‘chi chi’ sound suddenly sounded within the calm swamp. Not long after the sound appeared, a black human figure suddenly flashed over, carrying a silver-colored, bright glow. Each time his footsteps landed on the swamp, the lightning that repeatedly stretched out and appeared would cause the mud within the swamp to begin to boil just like boiling water. That ‘chi chi’ sound was also emitted from the contact.

The speed of the black shadow was extremely frightening. As he ran, he directly gouged out a two foot wide gully within the swamp. It was a long while later before this long gully was restored to its original form by the creeping of the swamp. Behind the person, a large group of closely packed black-colored, poisonous snakes repeatedly broke through the water. They would widen their savage mouths and numerous stench-filled water arrows would create a sharp wind that shot viciously at the person’s back. However, it was obvious that the speed of these water arrows were far inferior to the quick movement of the human figure. Therefore, not a single arrow managed to hit the body of the human figure.

“Boom!”

The swiftly rushing human figure suddenly came to a stop. His feet twisted slightly and his body was inclined into a strange arc. After which, he shot explosively into the sky under a deep sound. His feet immediately shook, and he stayed in mid-air in this manner without relying on any objects!

Although the black figure could maintain his act of stopping in mid-air for less than ten seconds, an outsider would definitely be completely shocked if he or she were to see this. Staying in mid-air for a short while without the help of Dou Qi Wings or some other object would require at least the strength of a Dou Huang. Only if one became an extremely strong Dou Zong would one possess the ability of staying in mid-air for a long time.

After the body of the black figure paused for a couple of seconds in mid-air, a silver glow flashed from under his feet. His body twisted and he appeared on a large tree over ten meters away from his original point with a ‘suo’ sound. If part of a vague black line was not still visible in the air, one would think that this speed had already broken through the resistance of the air and reached the frightening stage of teleporting.

“Ha ha, good. It is worthy of being a Di class Agility Dou Technique. This speed is indeed smooth and fast!” A surprised laugh sounded as the feet of the black figure landed steadily on a tree branch.

"This 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' is divided into three levels. Lightning Flash, Instant Lightning, and Three Thousand Lightning... When one practices until the final level, the realm of the 'Three Thousand Lightning,' one will be completely silent while one crosses a certain space. It is basically no different than teleporting. That kind of speed is something that even an elite Dou Zong would not dare to underestimate. Just look at you now. You are no different than a lustful bull plowing the field as he rushes over. Forget about Three Thousand Lightning, it is likely that you have not even truly entered the first level of Lightning Flash." Yao Lao's figure slowly drifted on a tree branch as he faintly spoke while glancing at Xiao Yan, who had an excitement-filled face.

Xiao Yan could not help but roll his eyes when his enthusiasm was dampened by Yao Lao in this manner. He himself felt that it was quite good. The speed earlier was something that the 'Explosive Steps' would not be able to reach even if it was displayed at its peak. After having only practiced the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' for only three days and already having this success, was that not considered not bad?

"You should take a look under your feet..." Yao Lao involuntarily shook his head when he saw Xiao Yan's manner as he helplessly chided.

Xiao Yan lowered his head when he heard this. The corner of his mouth immediately twitched. He could see that his feet were actually already covered with mud. The mud was sticky and thick with some grass stuck to it.

"The 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' is as quiet as rock and moves as swift as lightning. It does not request for beauty and only desires surprise, borrowing it to hurt the enemy." Yao Lao said faintly, "However, look at the movement that you have created earlier. Your body is still over a hundred meters away, but the sound had already been transmitted over. It clearly does not match the purpose of practicing the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.'

Xiao Yan rubbed his head and smiled awkwardly when he saw Yao Lao's expression, which carried a faint sternness. He did not dare interrupt.

"Due to your Spiritual Strength being powerful, your control over the energy in your body is also extremely outstanding. Therefore, such a mistake, one only made by a beginner, is considered to be somewhat foolish to be made by you. Remember. Suppress the wind-lightning strength that is being emitted without any lapse in control, and let it gather at a single point. Using the explosive strength that is emitted, it will increase your speed quickly so much so that you would become the fastest person under the Dou Wang class. Moreover, if you are able to reach this stage, you would be considered to have truly stepped into the first level, Lightning Flash, of the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.'" Yao Lao shook his head and said in a deep voice.

"Of course, the explanation that I have given with my mouth is indeed very simple. However, there are some things in between that will require you to grasp by yourself. I

can only direct you to take the most effective path...” Yao Lao gradually relaxed his tone as he softly spoke.

“Ah.” Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. His expression was serious as he cupped his hands toward Yao Lao. Immediately after, he took a step back and sat cross-legged on the tree branch. The ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ may be able to cause his speed to soar greatly, but its consumption of Dou Qi also reached an amount that was quite frightening. Xiao Yan had quietly gauged the consumption rate by himself. With his current strength of an eight star Da Dou Shi, it was likely that he could merely hold out for three to five minutes if he were to use the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ without rest. After which, he would have difficulty displaying it because of the exhaustion of his Dou Qi.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had closed his eyes to train and recover his Dou Qi, Yao Lao quietly heaved a sigh of relief within his heart. A faint smile also spilled out from the corner of his mouth. In merely three days, Xiao Yan was already able to barely display the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’. Although he had merely mustered the wind-lightning strength in an extremely crude manner, the speed which he had displayed could already catch up to the ‘Explosive Steps,’ when the latter was used at its maximum potential. This kind of training progress was already at a very gratifying speed. However, in order to not let an arrogance surface within Xiao Yan’s heart because he had just obtained this kind of rare treasure, Yao Lao could only be a black-faced individual for a while in order to allow Xiao Yan to calm his heart and train...

Of course, the effect of this action of Yao Lao was indeed not bad. After Xiao Yan had finished recovering his Dou Qi, the wind-lightning strength that had brewed on his feet when he once again practiced the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ was clearly much more restrained compared to before. Moreover, the damage he created when he rushed over the swamp had also gradually become smaller.

The black shadow flashed up and down the vast swamp. The silver-colored lightning was like a lightning snake that repeatedly shuttled swiftly through his feet.

Following this tough training of Xiao Yan’s and the flow of time, the rushing ‘chi chi’ sound that was emitted from the swamp also became increasingly weaker. The sound may have weakened, but the speed of the black shadow above the swamp became increasingly frightful. In the end, one couldn’t even see a black line shuttling passed. If it were not for the countless number of black snakes swimming within the swamp, it would really be difficult to determine Xiao Yan’s exact position.

Under the gradual flow of time, the ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ that the black-robed, young man practiced had clearly advanced from being unsmooth to having truly entered into basic mastery. When the day he successfully masters it comes, he would be just like the lightning from far in the sky, exploding out of nowhere and shocking the continent.

Nearly one month hurriedly passed by. Time did not leave any trace in that swamp. However, from the looks of the black-robed, young man, who had his hands held behind him as his feet walked over the swamp as though it were flat land, it was easy to tell that there had indeed been something left behind during this one month.

Xiao Yan's hands were held behind his back as his feet stepped on the swamp that was filled with strange suction force. However, he appeared to be stepping on firm flat ground and did not show any traces of sinking. This strange scene caused people to feel surprised. If one were to examine carefully, one would realize that on his feet there were actually two clusters of silver-colored light the size of a palm. The clusters of light flickered and numerous hand-like lightning glows repeatedly extended out. They would occasionally enter the mud, causing the mud at that spot to seeth.

The swamp moved slightly. A few black-colored poisonous snakes with bodies that were entirely dark-black quietly moved and concealed themselves under where Xiao Yan stood. However, just as they were about to reach their destination, with savage mouths open, the silver glow under Xiao Yan's feet shook slightly. A few silver-colored threads of lighting exploded out, and inserted themselves into the swamp, easily piercing through the heads of these few poisonous snakes.

Xiao Yan glanced at the snake corpse that surfaced from the swamp. The corner of his mouth curled slightly as he raised his feet slowly. He hesitated for a moment before he inhaled a deep breath of air and heavily stomped his feet down.

Following the stomping down of Xiao Yan's foot, he could see that the silver-colored cluster of light under his feet suddenly shrank explosively to less than half its size. It was merely maintained for less than a second before the shrunken silver-colored light clusters suddenly surged forth as Xiao Yan's right leg was placed down. Immediately, a low and deep wind-lightning sound spread out, shaking the area a couple of meters around until it fluctuated slightly.

"Chi!"

The silver light flickered as Xiao Yan's foot fell. An illusionary feeling suddenly and strangely appeared on his body. At this moment, a sharp-eyed person would be able to see that the instant Xiao Yan's body became illusionary, a black-colored light flashed past the space...

Around twenty meters away, the swamp was suddenly depressed, forming two small swirls. The black human figure appeared like a ghost as he quietly surfaced.

The first thing that Xiao Yan did after his body appeared was to hurriedly turn around. His gaze saw that there was an extremely faint black-colored illusionary shadow twenty meters behind him. When looked upon carefully, it was actually an afterimage!

"Have I succeeded?"

A joy involuntarily appeared on Xiao Yan's pale-white face as he eyed that extremely faint black-colored shadow. In over fifty days of training where he forgot to sleep, he had eaten an unknown amount of black mud and his body had been bitten by poisonous snakes an unknown amount of time. However, the shocking toughness of the young man did not allow him to withdraw even a little. Now... it was finally the time for him to reap the reward.

Yao Lao's illusionary body was suspended in mid-air. He lowered his head to eye the black-robed young man whose face was filled with wild joy. His indifferent face involuntarily revealed a small smile. In over fifty days, Xiao Yan had managed to achieve the realm of the first level of the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement,' Lightning Flash. This speed was something that would place him among one of the best even within the 'Wind Lightning Pavilion.' However, only his heart clearly knew just what kind of tough training this stubborn little fellow had to undergo...

Possessing talent, possessing toughness, and possessing a willingness to work hard, Yao Lao could not think of any paths other than success for Xiao Yan, who possessed these three qualities.

Chapter 509: Comprehension, Ruler Technique

A black-robed, young man sat cross-legged on a mountain peak. His hands formed training seals and his breathing was calm and long. Moreover, there would be a slight fluctuation in his surroundings each time he inhaled and exhaled. Threads of energy that leaned toward a fiery hot form seeped out. Finally, they moved along his breathing and entered the interior of his body.

The silent training continued for nearly two hours. The clothes on the black-robed, young man, which were flapping in the absence of wind finally slowly fell down, and his eyes opened with a slight tremble.

"I have gained quite a lot from training deep within the mountains for two months..." Xiao Yan twisted his neck. He sensed the bubbling spring water like Dou Qi that was flowing unceasingly, and a smile involuntarily spilled from the corner of his mouth as he softly spoke.

During the two months of tough training, Xiao Yan had not only trained his 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' until he reached the level of the first stage, 'Lightning Flash,' but the Dou Qi in his body had also increased, combined, and purified deep within the mountains where he ate in the wind and slept outdoors. According to his guess, the current him had already unknowingly reached the peak of the eight star Da Dou Shi class while practicing the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.' Of course, he took two months in order to enable himself to reach the peak of the eight star Da Dou Shi class. This kind of speed was something that could not be in the same category as training within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' However, Xiao Yan already felt quite satisfied with regards to this. Being able to practice the 'Three Thousand Lightning

Movement' until he reached the first stage had already exceeded his expectations. On top of achieving this aim, he was also able to advance his Dou Qi. This could be considered an additional thing to rejoice. Hence, he did not feel depressed.

Xiao Yan stood up from the green rock. He held his hands behind him as his gaze wandered over the vast sea of trees. A gentle breeze coincidentally blew through the trees at this moment. Immediately, the sea of trees swayed and an enormous tree wave that was nearly a thousand feet long undulated from afar. One wave followed another in an unceasing manner. It was nearly no different than the waves of the ocean. It caused people to sigh at the might of nature, which was vast and majestic...

Xiao Yan was startled as he eyed the monstrous tree wave as he stood on the mountain peak. Perhaps it was because of the calm atmosphere between the heavens and the earth at this moment, but somewhere within his heart was quietly stirred a little. Xiao Yan's current thoughts were fast and sensitive, and they toughened immediately as a strange feeling flashed past him in a lightning-like manner.

Xiao Yan's hands started to stretch behind him. His eyes, however, slowly narrowed. A long while later, his back shook and Purple Cloud Wings shot out. As his wings flapped, his body drew an arc across the sky before his feet steadily landed on the vast borderless sea of trees.

The Purple Cloud Wings shrank and returned within. Xiao Yan stood alone within the sea of trees. He overlooked the trees and was greeted with an emerald-green world. His body was an inky-black dot within the emerald-green. He appeared very small but he stood out.

Xiao Yan's hands slowly parted. The wave of trees whizzed from afar before finally carrying a loud 'hua hua' sound, like a thunderbolt in transit, as it swept past Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan's feet were like eagle claws as they firmly grabbed the top of the tree. His body was like a leaf drifting with the wind within this nearly endless rattling tree wave. It swiftly drifted but was ultimately never torn into pieces by the powerful strength generated by the tree waves.

The thousand foot wave of trees swarmed over, continuing for over ten minutes before it gradually became distant.

The wave of trees swept past, leaving behind a black-robed young man who had a pale face. However, his eyes contained an extremely great excitement. He turned around and eyed the monstrous tree wave that had become distant and was swiftly disappearing from the edge of his sight. A certain part of his heart was violently stirred.

"This kind of artistic conception..."

Xiao Yan slowly raised his right hand. An enormous dark black ruler flashed and appeared. He held it tightly in his hand and muttered, "If I can get my attack to be like the waves that appeared one after another in an endless manner, it would definitely be a kind of exquisite attacking method, no?"

Xiao Yan's hand held the Heavy Xuan Ruler as he tilted his head slightly. His dark-black eyes were filled with a strange loss and deep thoughts. His body also appeared to be completely stilled at this moment. If there was a sharp-eyed person, he or she would be able to faintly discover that Xiao Yan's right hand, which held the Heavy Xuan Ruler, appeared to be trembling with a very small arc. That manner was as though it was adjusting something...

The stiffening of Xiao Yan lasted nearly an entire hour. He himself, however, appeared to be totally unconscious of this. The earlier aura that suddenly appeared with the wave of trees was repeatedly replayed within the deep region of his mind. Time appeared to have stopped in this kind of strange condition. Xiao Yan also felt an increasingly large glow suddenly appear, and felt some intriguing trace that swarmed in between the wave of trees.

The tree wave swept past and disappeared before once again sweeping past and disappearing. It repeated in this manner, forming a cycle that did not rest for a long while.

The time in the outside world continued to flow by. Although over an hour had passed, Xiao Yan had already felt the instantaneous strange feeling from the countless number of simulated tree waves passing by within this one hour by borrowing that strange condition.

As he sensed this feeling in this manner a countless number of times, an abrupt understanding began to unknowingly appear within Xiao Yan's dark-black pupils...

"Huh?"

As Xiao Yan was in this strange condition, an extremely surprised low sound quietly sounded from Yao Lao. This voice may have been soft but it still contained astonishment and shock. From the looks of it, this condition of Xiao Yan had exceeded his expectations.

Yao Lao's surprise 'huh' sound did not break this strange condition that Xiao Yan was in. The extremely experienced Yao Lao naturally knew what kind of opportunity this strange condition meant to people in training. If one were unfortunate enough to have this condition broken due to the outside world, it would undoubtedly cause that person to feel regret for the rest of one's life.

A powerful Spiritual Strength quietly spread out from the dark-black ancient ring on Xiao Yan's finger. It embraced all of the nearby space within a dozen of meters. Following

this action of the Spiritual Strength, the low roar of a Magical Beast that would occasionally be transmitted over from afar completely disappeared. This region had descended into an absolute calm due to Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength. There would no longer be any event in the outside world that would force Xiao Yan out of this strange condition.

Time slowly flowed by. Nearly three full hours had already passed from the moment Xiao Yan entered the quiet condition. During these three hours, Xiao Yan's body appeared to have turned into a rock statue that did not move. If it were not for the arc of the shaking black ruler in his hand becoming a little larger, anyone would have thought that this was a black-colored rock statue that had lost any sign of life. However, this rock statue was a little too life-like.

The black-robed young man, whose body was completely stiffened, suddenly began to tremble gently in the sealed area of the calm sea of trees. Following the shaking of his body, the glow within his dark-black eyes and the deep thoughts also swiftly disappeared. A clear realization came to light...

Xiao Yan's right hand held the ruler's hilt. His body was as straight as a spear. A sharp aura quietly spread out and Xiao Yan's face tightened. The black ruler in his hand was slowly lifted. After which, with an extremely slow motion, it was gently hacked, lifted, swung, and swept...

The foundation attacking method of a heavy ruler was completely displayed by Xiao Yan at this moment. As his hand shook, the speed at which the ruler was wielded also became increasingly faster. In the end, Xiao Yan's entire body was nearly completely wrapped within a black-colored ball. This kind of exquisite ruler skill was something that Xiao Yan did not possess in the past.

The whirring of the wild wind sounded from the sea of trees as a large black ball was swiftly rolling above it. The leaves would wither wherever this black ball passed. Occasionally, some would fall into the black ball and instantly be shattered into pieces.

The swinging of the heavy ruler became increasingly faster. However, at a certain instant just when Xiao Yan was about to achieve the highest speed, the heavy ruler suddenly became slow. This abrupt change was like butterflies in one's heart, causing one to feel extremely terrible.

A soft muffled groan was emitted from the human figure that was vaguely visible within the black ball. In an instant, one could see that the expression of the young man had become much paler.

Although Xiao Yan's expression was pale, he did not immediately stop. The abrupt spark repeatedly flashed within the deep region of his mind. In addition, as the heavy ruler in his hand waved, an extremely subtle change in the trajectory and angle was made without him knowing.

Xiao Yan's mind was tightly shut as he began to give up taking the initiative to wave the ruler. Instead, he gave the control to the abrupt light, located somewhere in his mind.

The sharp ruler wind gradually became slow. Replacing it was that extremely slow waving ruler's body... The speed of the heavy ruler was slow. From the point of view of an outsider, this ruler technique was basically filled with openings. If one were to just randomly attack, one would be able to cause the person waving the ruler to be forced back after suffering serious injuries.

As the ruler danced, a strange glow once again swarmed into those dark black eyes. Xiao Yan's originally somewhat stiff waving speed had suddenly become much smoother. Following this change, the ruler technique, which was originally filled with openings, suddenly changed drastically. As the ruler was waved, the ruler's body was bounded everywhere from up until down. When it danced, it was actually like a ball that was so firm that it could not be broken. There was nowhere in which one could attack.

This ruler technique was undoubtedly vastly different from the earlier disorderly ruler technique of Xiao Yan, which only relied on his body's strength and speed to attack!

Ever since Xiao Yan had obtained the Heavy Xuan Ruler, he had never practiced any kind of complete ruler technique. When he fought with an enemy, he would mostly rely on his great strength. Although a strength can break a thousand techniques, this so-called strength must reach a certain powerful level in order to achieve this kind of overbearing effect. If he were to meet a person who had similar strength, how would he break through the latter? At that time, it would undoubtedly be determined by the exquisite techniques of both parties.

If one were to discuss the exquisiteness of one's technique, the ruler technique that Xiao Yan had used may be a little coarse compared to the lance technique that Bai Shan had used back then but in terms of speed and strength, Xiao Yan was stronger. However, this exquisiteness in techniques had been his weak point. If he were to meet an opponent with a strength that was similar to his in the future, he would definitely suffer some disadvantage. Moreover, this sudden realization appeared to completely remedy this weakness of his.

"Chi!"

The waving of the heavy ruler suddenly became sluggish. A sharp wind shot out explosively from the tip of his ruler. He could hear a 'ka cha' sound and a large tree, over ten meters in front of him, had its top completely broken off.

Xiao Yan maintained the stance of the heavy ruler hacking down as the glow within his eyes swiftly withdrew. An instant later, a clear brightness surfaced. His face carried a thread of surprise as he eyed the heavy ruler in his hand. The trajectory and angle on how the heavy ruler was swung earlier actually lingered without being removed from his mind as though it was an imprint.

“This...”

Xiao Yan widened his mouth. He did not really know what to say. In merely a few hours of being in some stance, he had discovered that he had grasped an extremely exquisite ruler attacking technique. Although this ruler technique had merely entered its embryonic stage, its strength had already secretly shown that it was just the tip of an iceberg. If it was to be honed in the future, it was not difficult to imagine just what great help it would be for Xiao Yan!

“There is no need to be surprised. This is not an accidental gain during training but a kind of lucky opportunity. You are lucky to be able to meet it and even more fortunate to grasp hold of it.” Yao Lao’s voice slowly sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart, “This kind of lucky opportunity is something that many people can meet, but are unable to grab hold of. Being able to grab it proves your ability and talent. Gaining things without effort is but a joke.”

Xiao Yan nodded gently when he heard this. The stunned feeling in his heart slowly became fainter...

“This ruler technique had a thread of wave-like unceasing conception to it. I think that it has something to do with the tree waves earlier, no? It may currently be a little weak, but you need not be disheartened. This is only a start. As long as you properly hone it in the future, I think that you might be able to create a new ruler technique Dou Skill that belongs to you.” Yao Lao laughed. His laughter contained some gratification. The start of everything was difficult. Now that Xiao Yan had already started, it was likely that it was only a matter of time before he succeeded. Although creating a Dou Skill was very difficult, Yao Lao had unusual confidence in this little fellow where miracles frequently occurred.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He flipped his hand and placed the heavy ruler onto his back. After which, he took out an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ from his storage ring and stuffed it into his mouth. He sensed a thread of heat rise in his body, and was just about to search for a spot to rest when a deafening monster roar suddenly sounded from a distant mountain like a thunderclap.

“What a powerful roar. Just from hearing its voice, it should be a Magical Beast that is at least at the Dou Wang class, no?” Xiao Yan was similar shaken by the sudden roar until he was blank. He hurriedly raised his head and eyed the distant mountain as he asked in surprise.

“Yes. It is indeed a Dou Wang class Magical Beast. There are also some similarly quite strong auras in that region. Both parties should be fighting.” Yao Lao said with a faint smile.

“There are actually people who dare to have some intentions toward a Dou Wang class monster?” Surprise flashed across Xiao Yan’s face. His heart was somewhat curious as he smiled and suggested, “Shall we go and take a look?”

“Yes, up to you.” Yao Lao was indifferent at this moment.

Xiao Yan smiled when he heard this. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back shot out. With a gentle flap, his body began to rise before finally flying toward the location where the monster roar came from.

Chapter 510: Core Quenching Body Milk

After summoning out the Purple Cloud Wings, Xiao Yan rushed as fast as lightning toward the spot where the beast’s roar was emitted from. In less than ten minutes, he was already near the place where the beast’s roar resonated from. Moreover, he appeared to be able to sense a few powerful auras on top of hearing the roar. These auras were strong and were even around the same as Lin Yan. There were perhaps even one or two among them who were stronger than Lin Yan.

Surprise quietly rose in Xiao Yan’s heart as he sensed these auras. That Lin Yan was a strong person who had entered the peak of the Dou Ling class. By being stronger than him, did that not mean... this place actually had elite Dou Wangs?

Xiao Yan became slightly cautious as these thoughts flashed in his heart. He carefully suppressed the fluctuation of Dou Qi within his body, and his breathing had also gradually slowed. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back flapped slightly, and his body quietly rushed into the lush green forest.

Xiao Yan swiftly withdrew the Purple Cloud Wings upon entering the forest. After which, his hands flashed in an agile manner just like a monkey. After being careful in this manner for a long while, the view in front of him suddenly broadened. This was especially so when Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across a small mountain valley outside of the forest. The surprise on his face involuntarily became much denser.

Outside of the forest was a small mountain valley that was overlooked by a mountain. The entrance to the mountain valley was like a gourd. At this moment, there was a strongly built giant white-colored ape around thirty to forty feet in size standing at the entrance to this mountain valley. The entire body of the white ape was emitting an extremely sharp icy-cold aura. The heavy and coarse breaths emitting from its large nostrils came out as two tendrils of white fog. Its two arms were also quite long with each of its claw hands about twice the size of a human head. When the claw hands were occasionally swung, there would be a couple of wind blades that violently shot out which were powerful enough to shatter the enormous rock beside it which sent the rock fragments flying in all directions. A pair of blood-red eyes were filled with a wild and fierce killing intent. At this moment, this pair of blood-red eyes was viciously staring at the six human figures around it.

“It is actually a ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ These people are really quite bold. The strength of an adult ‘Snow Monster Sky Ape’ is sufficient enough to shatter gold and split mountains. Although this large fellow in front appears to have just entered the adult stage, it could at least be comparable to a three star Dou Wang...” Xiao Yan immediately spoke with surprise in his heart as soon as he saw that extremely eye-catching, enormous ape at the entrance of the valley.

“Those few fellows aren’t weak.” Yao Lao’s voice sounded faintly.

Xiao Yan hurriedly swept his gaze over the six people surrounding the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ When his gaze swept over the badge on the chest of one person, his expression involuntarily changed a little. “These fellows are all students from the Inner Academy? Why are they this strong? Huh? Senior Han Yue is also here?”

At the end of his words, he suddenly let out a ‘huh’ sound. This was because he suddenly saw a graceful lady standing on the leftmost side. That obviously cold but alluring silver-colored dress and long, bright silver-colored hair was none other than Han Yue who could be considered to have quite a good relationship with Xiao Yan back within the Inner Academy.

“Why have all of them gathered here?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly. Although he did not know the rest of the people other than Han Yue, he was able to gather some clues from their badges. In this Inner Academy, which students, other than the experts ranked within the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking,’ would have the courage and resolution to come and lay siege to a Dou Wang class Magical Beast?”

“Hei, this large fellow is really formidable. Han Yue, is there really that thing that you have said inside? You better not lie to us in order to get us to be your free fighters. This ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ is a beast that even some of the Elders in the Inner Academy cannot defeat. If anyone of us were to fight it alone, no one would be able to beat it. Once it becomes crazy, we would be faced with quite a bit of trouble.” While Xiao Yan was feeling doubt in his heart, a rough and crude sound suddenly appeared. His eyes glanced over and discovered that the person who had spoken was a man with a strong build and some stubbles on his face. The latter’s strong build was such that he was taller than ordinary people by two heads. His large body caused others to feel an unusual suppression. However, the thing that people paid the most attention to was an enormous metal hammer in his right hand. Under the shine of the sunlight, the black color of the metal hammer reflected a thick and deep glow.

Looking at the green veins bulging on the man’s hand, the weight of this dark, black metal hammer was likely not light.

“Senior Yan Hao, you can rest assured about this. I am clear about the danger involved, and would not joke around with this kind of thing. If any error occurs after this, Han Yue will not shrink from any denouncement of Senior Yan Hao.” Han Yue softly said. Her

voice was as clear as an icy mountain spring, causing people to have a strange feeling of icy water flow through their hearts.

“Ha ha, Yan Hao. Han Yue knows how to weigh things when it comes to such matters. You need not be overly suspicious. If there is really that thing in the valley, the benefit that we will gain will be quite great. The grand competition will begin after another four months. If we could advance our strength during this time, the position of an Elder is something that we can anticipate.” A clear laugh sounded. Xiao Yan’s gaze followed the voice and looked over. His heart involuntarily praised a little. The person who spoke was a handsome, young man wearing green-colored clothes. The young man’s age was around twenty-six to twenty-seven years old. At this age, most people had already begun to lose the wild arrogance of a young man. Moreover, it was also due to this smiling manner of his that caused other people to have a good opinion of him. He wore his green garment well and carried an elegant demeanor that caused people to be endlessly surprised.

“Yan Hao?” Xiao Yan quietly muttered this name in his heart. He vaguely felt that it was a little familiar.

“Lin Xiuya, it is easy for you to say. This is a Magical Beast that could rival an elite Dou Wang. Even with our strength, it is possible for us to be seriously injured and die if we are not cautious. Moreover, Yan Hao only wants to confirm things. After all, no one wants to spend so much effort and end up in a situation of being empty-handed.” A man whose face was a little dark rolled his eyes as he explained.

“Lin Xiuya? It is really unexpected that he is Lin Xiuya that Lin Yan spoke of. Looking at his disposition, it is little wonder why even the wildly arrogant Lin Yan would have a faint fear when mentioning him.” Xiao Yan’s heart leaped slightly. This name was something that he had heard of quite a number of times. Most of the students within the Inner Academy would carry slight admiration and respect when mentioning this name. Perhaps this person may not be the strongest in the Inner Academy, but if one were to discuss charm, it was likely that no one in the entire Inner Academy could stand shoulder to shoulder with him.

“Ke ke, there is no useless person who could entire the top ten of the ‘Strong Ranking.’ Although our true strength may not be comparable to the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape,’ the beast would likely be at a disadvantage if we were to really fight.” Lin Xiuya laughed. His long finger gently flicked a green-colored longsword he held in his other hand. A clear sound was immediately but quietly emitted. Following the emission of the sound, threads of nearly substance-like rotating wind suddenly appeared around his body out of nowhere, rotating non-stop while emitting ‘hu hu’ sounds.

“All of you, it is a little childish to have such a pointless argument now. Since all of you have already followed me here, it means that the thing similarly possesses a great attraction to all of you. Therefore, the most important thing now is to first defeat this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’... all of you clearly know about the value of that thing. Once

news spreads, it is likely that there would be quite a number of people from the 'Black-Corner Region' coming over to steal it. At that time, it would be too late to regret." Han Yue knit her brows slightly as she spoke in an indifferent, cold voice when she heard the somewhat non-uniform opinions.

The few people by the side laughed when the words left Han Yue's mouth. They shrugged their shoulders and did not continue arguing. Instead, they turned their gazes toward the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' in the middle.

"Later, the five of us will act to stop it. Everyone should just use whatever skills they have. This fellow is not something easy to deal with. Han Yue's strength is a little weaker and it is better for her not to participate in this kind of siege. Instead, you should help us pay attention to the movements around." Lin Xiuya tilted the longsword in his hand and pointed it to the ground as he spoke with a smile.

"Yes." Han Yue hesitated a little when she heard this before gently inclining her chin. Her toes pressed onto a huge rock and her figure withdrew in a light manner. Finally, her lovely body stood straight on the top of a tree with a wide unobscured view.

"Ke ke, everyone. We have not joined hands for a long while. I wonder if you have had any improvement." Lin Xiuya laughed faintly when he saw Han Yue withdraw. His green clothes shook slightly as a powerful aura suddenly surged out from his body. Feeling the strength of this aura, it faintly felt like it exceeded that of a Dou Ling.

"It is really unexpected that even you have one step to go into the Dou Wang class. You are really worthy of being the champion among our batch of new students back then." The large Yan Hao involuntarily sighed in surprise as he sensed the powerful aura seeping out from Lin Xiuya.

"Haven't you also touched that boundary layer..." Lin Xiuya rolled his eyes at Yan Hao as he spoke.

"I have only touched it extremely vaguely, and cannot be compared with you." Yan Hao laughed bitterly and shook his head. He held the jet-black metal hammer in his hand and violently rotated it in front of him. Immediately, a frightening aura tore the air and emitted a sharp sound.

The other three people also allowed their Qis to erupt to their limits after Lin Xiuya and Wu Hao. These people were actually strong people who were at the peak of the Dou Ling class. From the looks of their Qis, they were actually not the least bit weaker than Lin Yan.

"This Inner Academy is indeed worthy of being a place in the continent where the talented gathers. All of these people are merely around twenty-five years old but they are fast reaching the Dou Wang class. This kind of talent could be called great. Geniuses who even the Heavens would indulge upon no matter where one placed

them..." Xiao Yan involuntarily sighed in surprise within his heart as he sensed the five powerful auras.

Appearing to have sensed the fighting atmosphere that had spread over from the surroundings, the bright redness in the enormous eyes of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' in the battleground became much denser. His black metal-like claws heavily smashed on his chest which was covered with white-colored fur. Immediately, a ripple with underlying strength that was visible to the naked eye suddenly spread out. Wherever the force spread to, the surrounding enormous rocks would emit 'ka cha' sounds and would be about to break, producing numerous crack lines.

"Foolish humans. Do not have delusions of snatching the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' If you leave now, I will spare your lives!" The 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' lifted its enormous head. Its blood-red gaze stared intently at the few people. After being silent for a while, a low, deep, arrogant, wild, thunderclap-like voice suddenly sounded by the ears of everyone present.

"Huh? This 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' is only at the Dou Wang class but it can actually open its mouth to speak?" Xiao Yan's heart felt surprised at the action of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' for a moment before he was abruptly startled, "Core Quenching Body Milk?"

Xiao Yan repeatedly uttered this name in his mouth. A moment later, his body suddenly trembled. His face was filled with a stunned, yet wildly joyous look.

"This place actually has the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' a kind of spiritual item of the land?"

Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 511: Experts of the Strong Ranking - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 511: Experts of the Strong Ranking

Chapter 511: Experts of the Strong Ranking

The 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was born underground. After experiencing the pure pressure of the land, it would take the form of fog after a hundred years and would be called 'Core Fog.' At this point, it possessed the unique effect of strengthening one's body. After merging for over a thousand years, it would form a liquid form. If the quality was even higher, it would be called 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' It possessed the magical effect of washing and refining one's bones. Moreover, that extremely pure and large strength of the land in the milk would even help a person who had reached the peak to break through the barrier between levels. Of course, there was naturally still quite a great chance of failure.

Ordinary speaking, due to the harsh condition for the formation of this kind of 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' there were very few people who had actually seen it. Even Xiao Yan had only heard Yao Lao randomly mentioning it once before. At that time, Xiao Yan had firmly remembered it in his heart because he had heard of the magical effect of washing and refining one's bones that made one greedy for it. Therefore, Xiao Yan remembered it from his heart now. It was just unexpected that he would actually hear of this natural spiritual treasure that not many people knew about.

The wild joy on his face was maintained for quite awhile before it was gradually withdrawn. He carefully suppressed his aura and breathing. His gaze, however, involuntarily shot into the mountain valley as his heart softly muttered, "Is that 'Core Quenching Body Milk' inside?"

"Why? Are you interested?" Yao Lao's laughter sounded within Xiao Yan's heart.

"Hee hee, it would be a lie if I said that I am not interested in this kind of mysterious treasure. If I am able to obtain a little 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' it is likely that I would be able to break through to the Dou Ling class within one to two months. Moreover, didn't Teacher also say that this 'Core Quenching Body Milk' also possesses the effect of washing and refining one's bones? If I am able to obtain it, I think that it would have a benefit that is difficult to measure when I break through to the Dou Wang class in the future." Xiao Yan did not hide his yearning for the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' He was carrying quite a number of things on his back: his missing father, the shame of being chased out of the empire, and the possibility of having to contend with that extremely mysterious 'Hall of Souls' in the future because of Yao Lao. These things required him to possess extremely great strength. Otherwise, forget about searching for his father and protecting Yao Lao. It was likely that he would not even dare to return to the Jia Ma Empire. What face did a dog who had lost his home and could not even return to it have to act free and unfretted outside?

"Yes. It is indeed totally beyond my expectations to be able to find the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' here. The benefits you would receive from obtaining it are also something that is understood without saying. However, this 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' is not something easy to deal with. Normally, a Dou Wang class Magical Beast may already possess some intelligence but it would be far from the level where it can open its mouth to speak. I think that this should be related to the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' that it is protecting." Yao Lao smiled and said.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Even a Unique Beast of Ancient Times like the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' is unable to speak at the Dou Wang class. The 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' may be considered a rare unique beast, but it is difficult for it to be comparable to the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' Therefore, the only thing that could explain why its intelligence was so great was the legendary 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'

"What should we do now? Should we take advantage of their fight and secretly enter?" Xiao Yan asked softly in his heart,

“It is somewhat impossible for you to enter from the entrance of the valley. If you are to fly, the movement in the air would likely attract their attention. The strength of these fellows is quite great. Therefore, it is very difficult for you to sneak in under their eyes.” Yao Lao helplessly said.

“What should we do then?”

“Wait. Let’s see if we can once again be fishermen.” Yao Lao smiled gently and said.

“Teacher is thinking of waiting for them to fight until both parties are seriously injured?” Xiao Yan was startled before he immediately spoke awkwardly. It was fine if he was not acquainted with all of them. However, Xiao Yan felt that Han Yue was not a bad person. Hearing the conversation earlier, it appeared that she was the first to find this place. If he was to be a fisherman and snatch their spoils from the fight, it would really be a little...

“Ke ke, you have overestimated this group of people. Although this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ appears to have just entered its adult stage, it is ultimately a kind of rare unique Magical Beast no matter how one puts it. This kind of Magical Beast has a wild and violent blood flowing within it. It would be fine if this kind of wild and violent bloodline was not awakened. Once it is awoken, even a five star elite Dou Wang could only temporarily hide from its cutting edge. This group of people doesn’t even have a true strong Dou Wang. How can they defeat it? At that time, there might be some injuries and deaths if they mess up.” Yao Lao smiled and explained

Shock drew across Xiao Yan’s eyes when he heard this. It was really unexpected that this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ explosive strength would actually be this frightening. From the looks of it, it appeared that the chances of Han Yue’s group obtaining victory were not very great.

During the time that Xiao Yan was conversing with Yao Lao, the tense atmosphere suddenly erupted under the provocation of the aura. Five figures turned into vague shadows. Each of them carried incomparably ferocious forces. They appeared like a few different colored beams of light as they viciously attacked the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ that stood loftily.

“Roar!”

Seeing that Lin Xiuya’s group still refused to withdraw, the crimson color and killing intent within the eyes of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ became much denser. At a glance, it caused people to form a cold feeling within their hearts. An enormous sharp claw wildly slammed against its chest as the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ bowl like mouth was widened. An ear-piercing roar that could shatter an enormous rock was explosively released.

Under the loud roar of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' the speed of Lin Xiuya and the others clearly became a little slower. The moment the speed of their bodies had been reduced, the feet of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' viciously stomped on the ground. The entire mountain valley trembled at this moment. His body borrowed the strong pushing force, and the ape shot out like a white-colored giant cannonball. In the blink of an eye, the ape appeared in front of Yan Hao, who was charging right at the front of the group. It clenched its claws and cold air swiftly agglomerated around it. In an instant, it formed a half-foot-long icy-cold claw.

The icy-cold claw danced and grabbed at Yan Hao's heart. This kind of vicious tactic carried a sharp killing intent. There was not the slightest intention of sparring and warming up. From the looks of it, this 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' had the intention to kill from the start.

The 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' had an agility and speed that did not correspond to its enormous size. This clearly far exceeded Yan Hao's expectations. However, Yan Hao was not a weakling without combat experience. Despite being surprised, the jet-black metal hammer in his hand was violently lashed out with inertia. The metal hammer tore through the air, emitting a sharp sound that caused even Xiao Yan, who was hiding in the forest, to frown slightly.

"Bang!"

The claw and the metal hammer violently collided. Ice pieces scattered in all directions under the loud sound of the collision. Yan Hao's body swiftly shot back. Along the way, the branches on the trees that his body collided completely broke. His body finally came to a stop after breaking over ten large trees in this manner. He lifted his face and there was a faint trace of bloodstain on the corner of his mouth.

"Ha ha, good. It is worthy of being the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' that is known for its strength. However, you are still a little lacking if you want to kill me with one blow." Yan Hao parted his mouth and laughed after rubbing away the blood trace from the corner of his mouth. He ignored the injuries on his body as he once again tightened his grip on the metal hammer. Just like a humanoid tank, he charged at the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' which was being entertained by Lin Xiuya and three others.

The few human figures swiftly flashed at the entrance to the valley. The formation that they formed firmly locked the enormous white figure at their middle. Wild and powerful Dou Qi violently gushed out as though it had been freed. Various extremely strong Dou Techniques carried sharp wind and numerous low cries as they heavily hacked at the body of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' The attacks brought about ice shavings and white-colored fur that scattered in all directions.

The ferocity of the attack of Lin Xiuya and the others had somewhat exceeded Xiao Yan and even Yao Lao's expectations. These fellows did indeed possess a body of impressive abilities proving their ability to be among the most precious top ten on the

'Strong Ranking' within the Inner Academy. Their attacks may be ferocious but the defense of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' was similarly frighteningly firm. Under its fur, it appeared to be covered by a layer of hard ice. No matter how one attacked it, one would only bring about waves of ice shavings. One ultimately had difficulty causing it much substantial damage. According to this kind of fighting, it was likely that Lin Xiuya's group would not be able to hang on for long. After all, the recovery ability of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' was far from what humans could compare with.

The fighting between both parties became increasingly intense with the flow of time and was becoming increasingly heated. The messy large rocks that spread all over the entrance of the valley were shattered as the energy from both sides collided. This kind of destructive strength caused Xiao Yan, who was hiding in the darkness, to become somewhat speechless. They were really worthy of being strong people who were about to enter the Dou Wang class. This kind of fighting strength was indeed far from what a Da Dou Shi, or even an ordinary Dou Ling could compare with.

The green-colored longsword in Lin Xiuya's hand shook. His feet gently pressed on a spiralling wind that had surfaced out of nowhere and his body rose into mid-air. His originally clear and indifferent face of his had an additional solemnness at this moment. He eyed the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' surrounded by Yan Hao and the three others below. It appeared lively and showed no sign of tiredness. He frowned intently as the long sword in his hand trembled. Green-colored Dou Qi moved along his Qi Paths and swiftly swarmed into the body of the sword. Following the pouring of Dou Qi, the surface of the green-colored longsword suddenly became vaguely visible. Its size also suddenly expanded by dozens of times. A substance-like tornado lingered on the surface of the sword while the surrounding air began to fluctuate swiftly.

"Yan Hao. Block the beast!" Lin Xiuya cried in a deep voice as he held the green-colored longsword tightly in his hands.

Sensing the frightening wind that was being brewed mid-air, Yan Hao and the rest understood that Lin Xiuya was displaying his masterpiece. They immediately nodded. The attack from their hands also grew increasingly ferocious as they tried their best to prevent the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' from interrupting the Lin Xiuya's agglomeration of Dou Qi.

The 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' similarly sensed the frightening force that was agglomerating in the sky. The sharpness of this force caused the fur on its entire body to stand vertically. A stern roar was wildly released from its mouth. Immediately, a snow-white energy ripple was swiftly released. Some of the enormous rocks along the way were instantly turned into snow-colored ice pieces after the icy-cold ripple passed them.

The sudden eruption from the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' caused Yan Hao and the others to hurriedly withdraw their hands. Their bodies hurriedly flashed and dodged the icy-cold ripples chasing after them.

After forcing back Yan Hao and the others with one blow, a savage look appeared on the face of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' Its feet abruptly stomped on the ground and its enormous body rushed explosively to the skyline. In an instant, it appeared in front of Lin Xiuya, who had borrowed the strength of the swirling wind to barely remain in mid-air. He parted his mouth at the latter and killing intent surged in its blood-red eyes. Its sharp claw directly and viciously grabbed at Lin Xiuya's head. From the looks of the posture, if he were to be struck, Lin Xiuya would likely end up with his brains scattered in all directions regardless of how strong he was.

Hiding in the forest, Xiao Yan eyed Lin Xiuya as the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' closed in. He involuntarily shook his head. It was likely that the odds were against this unlucky fellow...

However, the moment Xiao Yan quietly sighed in his heart, he saw the back of Lin Xiuya, who had nowhere to borrow strength from in mid-air, shake. Immediately, a pair of thin green-colored energy wings suddenly shot out. The wings flapped as his body nimbly dodged the killing move of the agile 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' Moreover, he borrowed the strength and rose dozens of feet higher. The longsword in his hand swiftly trembled and repeatedly emitted a clear sword humming. The air around him fluctuated intensely. Clearly, Lin Xiuya's incomparably sharp Dou Technique had been brewed to completion!

"This... Dou Qi transformation into wings? This fellow... has advanced to the Dou Wang class?"

Xiao Yan stared blankly at the pair of energy wings on Lin Xiuya's back. Everyone in the battleground was startled at this moment.

Chapter 512: Wild Violent Bloodline

The sudden appearance of the Dou Qi wings on Lin Xiuya's back not only caused Xiao Yan to be shocked. Even Yan Hao and the others who were familiar with him had faces that were involuntarily stunned. It was a long while later before they gradually recovered. They exchanged glances with one another, and a solemn look flashed across all their eyes.

Although Yan Hao had touched a little of the barrier of the Dou Wang class, that little contact merely caused him to be a little stronger than an ordinary strong person at the peak of the Dou Ling class. There was still a great gap if he wanted to reach the point where he could truly rely on his strength to agglomerate Dou Qi wings just like Lin Xiuya. From this, one could see that Lin Xiuya had once again surpassed him.

Dou Qi transformation into wings was basically an extremely symbolical result in the training of Dou Qi. This symbol represented a natural barrier in becoming a strong person on the continent. Everyone clearly knew that as long as one was able to transform Dou Qi into wings, it represented that one would be able to enter into the

class that caused countless number of people to halt their progress: Dou Wang! The simple two words were the symbol which countless numbers of talented individuals had trained hard to achieve. However, the hardship that these two words represented caused most of the people to halt their progress before reaching that stage. Finally, these people would quietly withdraw.

Dou Ling and Dou Wang were merely separated by a class. However, the difference between them was larger than any of the class differences before them. Those of the Dou Ling class or the classes before it could only squander the Dou Qi in their body to fight with others. Although people like Xiao Yan may have Dou Qi that was stronger and purer in their body, regardless of how powerful one's Dou Qi was, there would be a time when it would be exhausted and there would be a limit to its strength.

As long as one entered the Dou Wang class, however, the Dou Qi in one's body would begin to respond with the nearly endless majestic energy in the vast outside world and vice versa. It would maneuver this energy, transforming it for his own use. It was not impossible for that terrifying energy to tear the mountains and split the ground. From this, it was sufficient to see the difference between the two. One relied on the strength of one's body while the other maneuvered the natural energy. At a glance it would be obvious just which was stronger and which was weaker.

Therefore, everyone displayed similar expressions when they saw the energy wings on Lin Xiuya's back.

"Green Killing Tornado!"

While everyone was stunned, a cold stern cry was suddenly emitted from Lin Xiuya's mouth. Following the sound of the cry, everyone felt that the flowing wind in the mountain valley appeared to suddenly solidify. Quickly following this, wild wind rose with great force. An extremely powerful strength swiftly agglomerated in mid-air. In merely the blink of an eye, the agglomeration of the strength was complete. Finally, the powerful strength tore through the air. The sharp rushing wind sound was like a whistle that lingered endlessly by people's ears.

"Xiu!"

A vague green-colored shadow containing an extremely powerful wind shot explosively down from above. Although the green-colored shadow was extremely vague, one could still faintly identify it was a green-colored longsword that was formed by energy. The speed of this longsword was so fast that it was a little frightening. From the looks of the wildly surging rotating wind on its surface, it appeared that this was like an energy object that was compressed and agglomerated from wild wind. This substance-like energy acted in coordination with his Dou Technique, producing an extremely powerful strength.

The target of the green-colored shadow was clearly the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' which was dozens of feet below Lin Xiuya. Although the latter had borrowed a pushing force to rush to the sky, it ended up being unable to dodge. It was unable to move like it was on the ground since it did not have any place to leverage strength from and had to face this attack head on. Therefore, even though the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' sensed the powerful force that was shot over, it did not have the slightest solution. Immediately, it opened its mouth wide and bared its fangs, emitting wave after wave of low roars. A pale-white energy glow flashed swiftly from its body. Finally, it agglomerated into an icy-cold ball that wrapped around the latter.

The ice ball had just agglomerated when the sharp rushing wind sound arrived. The two collided violently and everyone could only hear a loud bang. Immediately, the enormous ice ball swiftly descended. Finally, it collided heavily with the rock fragments not far from the entrance of the valley. The instant it landed on the ground, the frightening landing force formed a large pit over ten meters wide just like that of a cannonball. Numerous thick crack lines began spreading out in all directions. Finally, they extended into the forest.

Seeing the ice ball that had been knocked into the ground, Yan Hao hurriedly moved his body and flashed toward the messy rocks and the tree branches around the spot where the ice ball had landed. Dou Qi swiftly surged within his body in order to prevent the injured 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' from taking the opportunity to escape.

A few gazes firmly stared at that dust permeated spot where the ice ball had landed. A green-colored human figure flashed down from the air. Finally, it firmly landed on the top of a tree. As everyone glanced over, they saw the somewhat pale-faced Lin Xiuya. At this moment, the pair of Dou Qi wings on his back gradually became thinner. An instant later, they turned into glowing particles that permeated the sky with a slight cracking sound before the lights slowly faded into oblivion.

"This fellow is indeed very strong. It is really unexpected that even with so many people blocking it, we did not stall him for too long. If it were not because the Qi Method that I practice is somewhat unique, enabling me to barely agglomerate this pair of wings, I'm afraid that it would really have killed me with that attack. Although I may have escaped from disaster, the exhaustion of my Dou Qi is too great." Lin Xiuya held the green-colored longsword tightly in his hand as he spoke with a bitter smile to Yan Hao and the others.

"Because of the Qi Method?" Yan Hao and the others were stunned when they heard this. Immediately, they came to a sudden comprehension and their hearts quietly sighed in relief.

"It is actually due to the Qi Method. I did indeed just said that this fellow may already have one foot in the Dou Wang class, but it would be impossible for him to agglomerate Dou Qi into wings while at this stage." Xiao Yan, whose figure was hidden within the

forest, also heard Lin Xiuya's earlier words. He immediately came to a sudden realization as he quietly muttered in his heart.

Normally speaking as long as one was able to rely on one's own Dou Qi to agglomerate into a pair of wings, one would be able to be called a strong person who would definitely become a Dou Wang. If one could agglomerate a pair of Dou Qi wings and pause or even fly for a period of time in mid-air, that person would be a true strong Dou Wang. However, the precondition of all of these was the strength of the original body. Relying on some ability of one's Qi Method was not included in this category. Moreover, they also clearly knew that Lin Xiuya practiced wind affinity Dou Qi. Usually speaking, this kind of Dou Qi would have an easier time agglomerating a pair of Dou Qi wings compared with other affinities. Looking at it in this manner, Lin Xiuya had not truly strode across the enormous gully between a Dou Ling and Dou Wang.

"Senior Lin, is the fight over?" Han Yue also withdrew the shock in her pretty eyes, caused by the powerful strength Lin Xiuya displayed earlier, as she spoke softly from outside the battle circle.

Yan Hao and the rest also recovered when they heard Han Yue's words. They hurriedly threw their gazes toward the dust permeated area below. They placed their ears close and listened carefully for a while, only to discover that there was no actual movement. Their faces immediately revealed faint joy and tiny doubt.

Lin Xiuya frowned as he eyed the area below which had no movement. He clearly knew the degree of strength of his attack earlier. Although it was able to cause the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' to be slightly injured, it was definitely impossible to kill it with just that strength.

A few thoughts flashed across his heart. Lin Xiuya waved his sleeves and a wild wind appeared from nowhere. After which, it blew away all of the dust below.

As the dust gradually dispersed, the enormous pit appeared in everyone's gaze. Since this hole was quite deep, everyone could only see a distant darkness and the slight ice layer which spread around the deep hole.

Lin Xiuya's eyes focused tightly on the distant deep pit. His eyes suddenly became cold as he discovered that there was a faint strange red glow being emitted from the pit.

"Something is not quite right. Be careful!" Lin Xiuya's heart tightened as he reminded in a deep voice.

Lin Xiuya's reminder also caused the expressions of Yan Hao and the rest to become serious. Dou Qi surged out from their bodies and wrapped around them. Seeing them from a distance, it was as though they were a couple of different colored light clusters. However, these light clusters were repeatedly unleashing the pressure of powerful energy.

Xiao Yan, who was hidden in a dark place, was also surprised at the unusual change in the battleground. His gaze stared at the dark-black hole. Due to his sharp Spiritual Perception, he could faintly sense that there seemed to be a frightening thing about to surge out explosively.

“Be a little careful. The strength of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ is increasing. Looks like it is just as I had expected. This beast should have already woken its Wild Violent Bloodline. It is likely that the siege by those fellows is going to fail.” Yao Lao’s voice suddenly sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart. There was a gloating feeling that seeped out from his voice.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He immediately let out a bitter laugh and ceased speaking. All he did was to carefully suppress his Qi and observe the movements in the battleground.

The silence continued for around three to four minutes. As more time elapsed, the strange red glow within the black pit grew increasingly intense. In the end, it was so sensationally red that it was like fresh blood. This kind of unusual phantasmal scene caused an uneasiness to rise within the hearts of Lin Xiuya and the others. If it was not because of the great attraction of the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’, it was likely that they would have retreated immediately.

Han Yue stood on the top of a tree. She clenched her cold, sweat-filled hand. Although she was a great distance away from the battleground, she repeatedly felt that there was a pair of wild violent eyes filled with killing intent staring at her from within the red glowing black for some unknown reason. Perhaps that beast which had quite great intelligence knew that if it were not for her discovering that this place concealed the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk,’ it was likely that all of these troubles would not come about.

“Bang!”

During the time that Han Yue was imagining things, the sound of ice shavings bursting apart suddenly emanated from the black pit. Following the appearance of this sound, everyone’s hearts tightened. Immediately, they saw that there was an extremely vague red glow flashing from out from the pit. This speed was so frightening that it left one speechless. Everyone was blank for an instant under this frightening speed. Quickly after this, their expressions changed drastically. There was no need to call out. All of them began to hurriedly withdraw and flee like rabbits.

The red glow first appeared in front of Lin Xiuya who was rushing away explosively. The latter did not even see the exact figure of the other party when he sensed an extremely icy-cold wind viciously smash over from in front of him, seemingly tearing through the air.

As he sensed the sharpness of the wind, the longsword in Lin Xiuya's hand hurriedly danced as he drew numerous wind nets in front of him with great speed. When that icy-cold wind arrived, however, the wind nets merely endured for an instant before they burst apart with a bang. The icy-cold wind that was not completely blocked viciously struck the body of Lin Xiuya. Immediately, a mouthful of blood was wildly spat out from Lin Xiuya's mouth as his body was heavily shot, like a cannonball, into the forest.

In just a single exchange, Lin Xiuya, who was the strongest among those present, was thrown back in defeat with just a single blow. The expressions of Yan Hao and the others turned extremely ugly.

After the red figure defeated Lin Xiuya, it did not chase after Yan Hao and the others. Instead, its large irritated crimson eyes were directly thrown onto Han Yue, whose silver hair was drifting as she stood on a tree far away. Its roar, which was filled with killing intent, resounded throughout the entire mountain forest.

"Han Yue, leave quickly!" Yan Hao was startled when he saw the target of the red figure. He immediately and hurriedly cried out.

From the top of the tree, Han Yue had also discovered the red figure which was swiftly rushing over. Her icy and alluring face became a little pale. However, she did not lose her presence of mind and flee. She clearly knew that since Lin Xiuya's speed and strength could not last one exchange against the apan, it was likely that she would only be killed if she were to turn around and flee. If she were to use all her strength to fight, she might perhaps have an extremely small chance of survival.

This intelligent lady did not stumble because of her panic in this instant. Instead, she did her best to find a tiny chance of survival in a hopeless situation.

Han Yue clenched her hand. White-colored cold air swiftly surfaced from it. However, before the Dou Qi agglomerated, the red glow in front suddenly flashed and arrived. A beast's face that was filled with a savage look appeared in the reflection of that pair of beautiful eyes.

"Roar!"

The roar that was filled with killing intent reverberated over the skyline. A cold wind, which was even sharper than when it was chasing Lin Xiuya, viciously tore through the air and smashed down at Han Yue, whose pale-white face and lovely body swayed like a flower in the wind.

Not far away, fury as well as a feeling of being unable to bear the situation surged in the eyes of Yan Hao and the others when they saw the situation. Unfortunately, due to the limitations of their strength, they could not act. They could only watch a beautiful, cold, alluring snow lotus fall in the most wretched manner.

Faced with this nearly fatal blow, Han Yue also gave up. She shut her pretty pupils, and a heart wrenching sadness lifted onto her cold but alluring face.

“Chi!”

The sharp cold wind did not even have the slightest pause because of this sad and moving scene. It still viciously swung toward Han Yue. However, just as the wind was about to make contact with Han Yue’s head, a black shadow that carried the sound of muffled thunder suddenly flashed past. As the black shadow flashed past, the sharp wind actually pounced empty air. Han Yue, who was originally supposed to be struck to death with a palm, disappeared in an instant.

Yan Hao and the others not far away were also stunned at this sudden unexpected turn of events. Immediately, they hurriedly turned their gazes, only to see a black shadow flash and appear on the top of a tree a hundred meters away. Han Yue was lying feebly on his chest and seemed to be terribly frightened.

On the top of the tree, the black shadow lowered his head and eyed that originally cold, alluring person lying against his chest. However, her beautiful face now appeared extremely lovely because of its paleness. Although his hand was extremely comfortable as it drew around that soft and delicate waist, he could only straighten her body due to the few gazes observing them from not far away. With a soft laugh, he asked, “Senior Han Yue, are you alright?”

Only after hearing this voice did Han Yue’s tightly shut long eyelashes tremble a little. She immediately opened them with some surprise. When her gaze landed on the delicate and handsome face in front of her, she suddenly became startled. Finally, a stammering and disbelieving voice was emitted from her small, red, sleek mouth.

“You... you... Xiao Yan?”

Chapter 513: Invitation

Xiao Yan smiled and spoke as he eyed the shock covered cold, alluring face, “Are you injured?”

“No.” Han Yue shook her head. Her gaze was odd as she looked at Xiao Yan in front of her. The moving flush on her face was quietly reduced as she said a soft thanks. Immediately, she sighed, “It has only been two to three months since I last saw you but you have become much stronger than before. It is likely that there is hardly anyone within the Inner Academy who can surpass your speed.”

The speed of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ after its mutation was something that even someone of Lin Xiuya’s strength could not dodge. Yet, Xiao Yan in front of her was able to rescue her in that split second. This speed was likely something that not one of them present could compare with. This was basically a kind of complete transformational

change compared to a couple of months earlier. It was little wonder that Han Yue would lament.

Xiao Yan smiled once again, but did not say anything. He turned his head and his gaze moved toward the red figure which had flashed back to the ground and appeared on an enormous rock. A solemnness immediately flashed across his eyes. At this moment, the snow white fur all over 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' had completely turned into a kind of blood-red color. The killing intent and violence in those large scarlet eyes had become denser. Waves of seemingly substance-like fog repeatedly seeped out from within its body. Once this blood-colored fog contaminated the tree leaves, it would erode the latter until nothing was left. From the appearance of this aura, its strength had nearly soared to more than double what it was earlier.

"Senior Han Yue, this large being appears to be becoming increasingly harder to stop. I think that it is best that we withdraw as soon as possible. Otherwise, I'm afraid..." Xiao Yan knit his brows slightly as he reminded. Yao Lao had mentioned before that after awakening its Wild Violent bloodline, the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' would be able to contend with a strong five star Dou Wang for a short period of time. Now that Lin Xiuya had been knocked away and injured, the group would undoubtedly be unable to pose any threat to the ape with their strength. Moreover, if they were careless, it was likely that they would face with quite a great amount of injuries and deaths.

"Yes." Han Yue smiled bitterly and nodded. The sudden mutation of this 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' was beyond her expectations. The strength of their group was insufficient to defeat it. After having witnessed the latter's frightening strength, she did not hold much hope of being able to obtain the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'

Not far away, Yan Hao hurriedly waved his hand when he saw the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' appear to descend into an adjusting condition after having unleashed a ferocious attack. One person flashed into the forest to search for the wounded Lin Xiuya. The remaining people carefully rushed to the tree top where Han Yue and Xiao Yan stood. Immediately, they used odd gazes to weigh Xiao Yan. The speed that he had displayed earlier was sufficient to cause these people, who belonged in the top experts in the Inner Academy, to withdraw their underestimation.

"Ke ke, this friend. Are you also a student of the Inner Academy? Why have I not seen you in the past?" Yan Hao could not help but feel some doubt after observing Xiao Yan. With the latter's speed, he ought to at least be an expert on the 'Strong Ranking.' Why was it that this person had an unfamiliar face.

"Senior Yan Hao, he is called Xiao Yan. He is a new student who entered the Inner Academy only a couple of months ago." Han Yue smiled and introduced him.

"New student?" Yan Hao immediately exclaimed when he heard this. His gaze was a little strange. A new student who had entered the Inner Academy less than half a year

ago actually possessed this kind of strength? Was it the case that the strength of the current Outer Academy had already reached this stage?

A couple of gazes swept over Xiao Yan's body. A moment later, their doubt became increasingly dense. From the looks of the degree of density of his Qi, the latter's strength was obviously around that of a Da Dou Shi. However, why was it that the speed that he had unleashed earlier was something that even they could not catch up to?

Xiao Yan merely smiled when faced with the doubtful gazes of Yan Hao and the others. He did not explain anything. All he did was cup his hands at the feet of them and greet them extremely politely. No matter how one put it, these few people in front of him were all experts at the top of the Inner Academy. Their strength far exceeded someone like Bai Cheng. He would naturally not reject such an opportunity to establish a good relationship with them.

"Xiao Yan? I seem to have heard this name. Some time earlier, was it not said that the new students defeated the older student groups during the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition?' It seems like the leader of that new student group is called Xiao Yan, right? I think that this person should be the same person." A yellow-clothed man with a dark complexion but exceptionally bright eyes mused for a moment before he suddenly spoke.

Yan Hao and the others were startled when they heard these words. Immediately, they appeared to have recalled that news. Yan Hao smiled and said, "So that Xiao Yan is actually you. This name is extremely well known. Back then, when we entered the Inner Academy, that Lin Xiuya and I were still eventually defeated by the hands of the 'White Demon Group.' It is really unexpected that the wave behind pushes the one ahead. This batch of new students is even fiercer. You actually directly finished off both the 'Black White Evil Stopper.' You do indeed have some ability."

Xiao Yan involuntarily laughed bitterly when he saw the strange gazes of those few people. He said, "I was only lucky. Back then, Senior Yan Hao and Lin Xiuya fought the 'Black White Evil Stopper' by yourselves. On the other hand, I relied on the entire new student group. How can we compare these situations?" Xiao Yan had also heard a little about some of the things back then. This Yan Hao and Lin Xiuya were people with haughty bones. The other new students of that batch had difficulty entering their discerning eyes. Therefore, the two of them formed a group by themselves before going on a rampage. It was only near the end that they were narrowly defeated by the hands of the 'White Demon Group.' This was an huge anecdote back then.

"Who cares what tactics were used. It is good to be able to win. Back then, we were a little too arrogant. Otherwise, the first group to break the curse of the 'Fire Energy Hunting Competition' would not have to wait until this year to appear." Yan Hao curled his lips and laughed.

During the period of time that Xiao Yan and the others were conversing, two human figures suddenly rushed out from within the forest. In a few flashes, they appeared beside everyone. They were actually Lin Xiuya, who had been beaten and sent flying into the forest as well as the person who had went to search for him earlier.

“This person is?” Lin Xiuya’s face was pale-white at this moment. There was also a faint trace of blood at the corner of his mouth. The green clothes on his body were also tattered. Although his appearance was dire looking, his disposition was not weakened by much. He first smiled bitterly at everyone before involuntarily asking with some surprise when he saw Xiao Yan’s unfamiliar face.

“Are you alright?” Yan Hao inquired first before giving Lin Xiuya a brief summary of Xiao Yan’s background.

“It is actually brother Xiao Yan. Ke ke, this name is not something unfamiliar.” Lin Xiuya also felt shocked after hearing Yan Hao’s words. He had personally experienced just how terrifying the speed of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ was. It was unexpected that this new student who had entered the Inner Academy less than half a year ago was actually able to rescue someone from its grasp. With this ability, he did have the qualification to converse with them on the same level.

“Ke ke, Senior Lin, I was coincidentally training within the mountains. Earlier I heard the commotion around here and rushed over, only to see that you were fighting with that large beast. Then I saw that Senior Han Yue was in danger, and could not just hide in the corner. Thus, I could only act. Please pardon me if I have disturbed you...” Xiao Yan glanced at the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ which did not attack because of the large number of people present before he spoke with a smile to Lin Xiuya.

“What is there to pardon? Since brother Xiao Yan saved Han Yue’s life, there is no need to hide anything from you. We are laying siege against this ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ here because it is protecting a kind of mysterious item. It is said that those who witness it will have a share. If we are truly able to get our hands on it, there will definitely be a share for brother Xiao Yan.” Lin Xiuya gave a careless smile. His random words, however, had the intention of pulling Xiao Yan into this group. This action clearly showed that he thought that Xiao Yan’s strength gave him the qualification to share this reward with them. However, he did not talk about the details of the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’ This thing was too precious and he had just met Xiao Yan for the first time. Naturally, he would not easily tell Xiao Yan about this secret item.

Yan Hao and the others were stunned when they heard Lin Xiuya take the initiative to request Xiao Yan to join them. They exchanged glances with one another and were immediately silent. They may not really pay attention to Xiao Yan’s actual strength, but the abnormal speed which he had displayed was something that they could not underestimate. Moreover, this ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ was something that Han Yue had discovered first. Now that Xiao Yan had saved her life, it was likely that she would

not oppose this suggestion by Lin Xiuya. Therefore, after some thoughts revolved around their hearts, they did not voice any opposition.

Xiao Yan was also startled by Lin Xiuya's frankness. Other people earnestly wished to possess such a treasure by themselves. This fellow was actually able to suppress the hammer and made the most sober and wise suggestion. This mentality was quite deep. However, he could not reveal some of his things in front of other people. Therefore, he could only reject this invitation.

Hence, Xiao Yan shook his head under the attention of everyone. He smiled bitterly and said, "Senior Lin, thank you for your good intentions. However, it is likely that Xiao Yan does not have the blessing to enjoy it. This 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' is not some lowly beast. It is said that the body of this kind of unique beast has a certain Wild Violent bloodline flowing within it. Once it is awoken, its strength will soar for a short period of time. Looking at the change of the beast now, I'm afraid that it is due to it waking up that Wild Violent bloodline. At this moment, forget about an ordinary Dou Wang, even a strong person, whose strength had reached that of a five star Dou Wang, would likely have no means to deal with it. Although my words will be a blow to some people, but I don't think that the few of us can defeat it."

"Wild Violent bloodline?" Lin Xiuyan and the others were startled when they heard this information. Their faces immediately changed. Although they knew about this kind of unique beast, their understanding of it was naturally not as deep as Yao Lao. Therefore, they had never heard of whatever this 'Wild Violent Bloodline' was. However, looking at the change in the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' earlier, it did match what Xiao Yan had said. Therefore, the expressions of everyone became somewhat ugly. They were naturally aware that they would be unable to eat up a Magical Beast, which could contend with a strong five star Dou Wang, with their strength.

"What should we do now? Don't tell me that we should give up?" Yan Hao knit his brows and asked Lin Xiuya. The 'Core Quenching Body Milk' really did have too great of an attraction to him. It was too much of a pain to ask him to give it up.

Lin Xiuya laughed bitterly and mused for a long while. Only then did he grit his teeth and say, "Forget it. Let's trust Junior Xiao Yan once. Moreover, I am quite badly injured this time. It is likely that I will require at least half a month before I can recover. Therefore, we can only think of other methods for this siege."

Yan Hao and the others were a little unwilling when they heard that Lin Xiuya had the intention of temporarily retreating. However, when their eyes swept across the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' emitting a frightening aura not far away, their hearts became chilled and they could only helplessly nod their heads.

"Let's withdraw. Let's think of other ways once we have recuperated from our injuries..." Lin Xiuya sighed before immediately cupping his hands toward Xiao Yan. He said, "Brother Xiao Yan, are you going to return to the Inner Academy with us?"

Xiao Yan mused for a while when he heard this. He shook his head and said, "I have come to the mountains to practice a Dou Technique. I have yet to master the Dou Technique, so I don't have any intentions in returning yet.

"Ke ke, since that is the case, we will return first. There is something that I hope brother Xiao Yan can help with. Please do not mention the matter today to anyone..." Lin Xiuya looked deeply at Xiao Yan before he cupped his hands together and spoke.

"I have the sense to know what to say and what not to say." Xiao Yan smiled and replied.

"In that case, thank you very much. If there is anything that brother Xiao Yan needs help with in the future, you can come and look for me. There are quite a number of people in the Inner Academy who give me, Lin Xiuya, face." Lin Xiuya smiled as spoke. He did have have much doubt toward Xiao Yan. Although Xiao Yan's speed was shocking, it was impossible for him to barge into the mountain valley that was protected by the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' by just relying on his strength as a Da Dou Shi.

"Let's go." Once he said that, he waved his hand. He took the lead to turn his body and swiftly rush toward the exit of the deep mountains. Behind him, the somewhat unwilling Yan Hao and the others could only follow.

"Junior Xiao Yan, be a little more careful when you train deep in the mountains." Han Yue smiled at Xiao Yan and gave him a concerned reminder. After which, she turned her body and rushed into the distance with her silver hair drifting in the air.

Xiao Yan's gaze eyed Lin Xiuya and the others who were gradually disappearing from his sight. A long while later, Xiao Yan let out a soft sigh. He laughed bitterly and softly said, "I'm really sorry. It is indeed for your own good that I urge all of you to leave. If you are to continue to pester it, it is likely that none of you can leave this place once the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' completely erupts..." After Yao Lao's reminder, Xiao Yan clearly knew just how frightening a 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' was after it had awoken its blood. Forget about Lin Xiuya and the few others at the peak of the Dou Ling class. Even five true elite Dou Wangs would likely not dare entangle themselves with the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' at such a time.

Xiao Yan turned his head around and threw his gaze at the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' whose irritated Qi had gradually reduced after Lin Xiuya's group took leave. Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief. His hand gently rubbed his arm under his sleeve. At that spot was a beautiful small snake that was slightly twisting around. With this little fellow around, he would be able to put up a fight with the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' at that time.

As this thought turned in his heart, the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth was suddenly lifted. He stared intently at the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' and muttered, "You beast. You can act crazy now. Once you enter your weak phase at night, I will come and take care of you... your 'Core Quenching Body Milk' is something that I definitely want."

Xiao Yan laughed softly. His body moved and lightning swiftly formed under his feet. After which, his body turned into a black shadow and swiftly shuttled into the vast forest under the sound of low muffled thunder. He immediately disappeared...

Chapter 514: The Fight Between the Python and Ape

Stars filled the sky as icy-cool moonlight scattered down from above, wrapping the entire mountain region in a layer of faint silver light. It caused the region to appear hazy and mysterious.

Other than some Magical Beasts searching for food within the mountains deep in the night, most of them had returned home to sleep. The entire forest had descended into silence at this moment. It was a long time before a low roar was slowly transmitted from far away before finally spreading and gradually disappearing.

A black figure suddenly and quietly flew through the pitch black night. A pair of enormous wings flapped slightly, lifting a tiny air flow. The figure's body borrowed the tiny air flow as it flashed across the night sky, passing through without disturbing anything.

"Xiu!"

A human figure suddenly appeared out of nowhere on top of a tree outside of the valley. His gaze was shining as he eyed the interior of the dark-black mountain alley. Due to the ferocious battle during the day, the entrance to the mountain valley was a total mess. Large and small craters spread out in a chaotic manner.

Xiao Yan laughed softly as he eyed the deep mountain valley. He waved his sleeve gently and a seven-colored shadow immediately shot out from his sleeves. Finally, it joyfully and repeatedly revolved around Xiao Yan's body. Hissing sounds were emitted from its mouth unceasingly.

"What a greedy fellow." Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head when he saw the eyes of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' staring intently at his storage ring. With a shake of his hand, a bottle of 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' appeared in his hand.

The 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' had just appeared when the body of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' swiftly charged over in a lightning-like manner. It took advantage of Xiao Yan's unprepared state to entangle its long body with both Xiao Yan's hand and the bottle. It extended its snake's tongue and probed it deep into the bottle before sucking viciously. The 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' within the jade bottle was reduced by nearly one-third with that one action.

Xiao Yan's palm pulled the head of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' away before he hurriedly snatched back the jade bottle. When he saw that there was only around two-thirds of the quantity within it, he involuntarily smacked his mouth in his heartache. The

appetite of this greedy fellow was growing increasingly larger. In the past, a few drops would satisfy it. Now, it actually wanted to drink this much. If it continued with this kind of appetite, the few bottles of the 'Amethyst Essence' that remained would be insufficient for it to eat.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' let out its snake tongue in satisfaction after viciously drinking a few mouthfuls of 'Amethyst Essence.' It wiggled its long body and coiled around Xiao Yan's arm. Under the moonlight, the seven-colored python reflected a brilliant luster and appeared extremely beautiful.

Xiao Yan turned his head slightly after storing the 'Amethyst Essence.' His eyes coincidentally came into eye contact with those snake eyes which contained a faint seven colors. Immediately, a feeling surged up within his heart: bewitching. It was the same feeling he had when he saw Queen Medusa for the first time.

Xiao Yan's throat rolled as he swallowed his saliva. The current 'Heaven Swallowing Python' appeared to have an increasing number of similarities to that of Queen Medusa. This...

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and sighed. His hand gently rubbed the small head of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' The latter docilely narrowed its bewitching snake eyes. Its snake's tongue was extended toward his palm. That squishy feeling caused Xiao Yan to feel itchy.

"Little fellow, you must endure. Do not let that woman swallow your soul. Otherwise, I'm afraid that the both of us will not have good endings." Xiao Yan sighed and shook his head. Whenever he recalled Queen Medusa, who was a mixture of bewitchment and killer's rage, he would have a headache. Of course, anyone who had such a complicated dispute with an extremely strong Dou Zong would likely not be too happy. This was especially the case when this extremely strong person was the type who viewed human lives as trash. Killing a person was basically easier than killing a chicken to her. She did not feel the slightest burden when killing a person.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' emitted a wave of hissing sounds, appearing to have understood Xiao Yan's words. There was a luster flickering within those bewitching snake's eyes.

"Ugh, these are all problems in the future. Now that you have eaten until you are full, you must do some work for me. If you dare be lazy, you can forget about eating the 'Amethyst Essence' in the future." Xiao Yan patted the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' as he threw away the thoughts in his heart as he spoke with a laugh.

Xiao Yan's threat clearly possessed a great effect toward the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' This little fellow hurriedly nodded its head. It shook its tail and its body turned into a seven-colored glow that flashed in front of Xiao Yan. Its speed caused Xiao Yan to be only able to see a few light rays shuttling passed.

Xiao Yan shook his head and slowly flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back. His body gradually rose into the air and quietly flew toward the mountain valley. The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was circling around his body, protecting him.

Xiao Yan's flying speed was extremely slow. The entire entrance to the mountain valley did not have the slightest sound. The complete silence was such that it was frightening.

However, just as Xiao Yan was merely around a couple of dozens of meters from the valley's entrance, the scales of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python,' that was drifting around him, suddenly became vertical. A somewhat sharp hissing sound was emitted from its mouth, and it reverberated throughout this entrance of the mountain valley.

Xiao Yan's heart was shocked when he saw this action of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' He hurriedly came to a stop. Dou Qi swiftly flowed within his body as his gaze stared intently at the deep mountain valley.

Following the flow of time, a pair of bright red lights gradually appeared from within the dark-black mountain valley. Soon after, the glow gradually became bigger before the pair of bright red glowing spots turned into a pair of huge red-colored eyes. The low sound of footsteps could be heard under the faint moonlight.

Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief when he saw the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' that appeared under the moonlight. The fur of the latter had currently turned back into a snow-white color. Moreover, the Qi that the surface of its body emitted was also much weaker compared to the daytime. Clearly, the weakened feeling after awaking its bloodline caused it to have difficulty reaching its peak condition.

A pair of bright-red, large eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan in mid-air. Perhaps it should be... the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' beside Xiao Yan... Since they were both Magical Beasts, the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' was not unfamiliar with the aura emitted from the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' The Qi from the snake caused it to feel uneasy as well as a little fearful.

The serpent and the ape looked at each other under the moonlight. Two powerful Qis gradually rose. Under the pressure of these two forces, Xiao Yan, given his current strength, actually felt asphyxia.

An invisible Spiritual Strength rose out from the dark black ring on his finger, wrapping Xiao Yan within it. It also isolated the pressuring force of both the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' and the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' Yao Lao's voice sounded within Xiao Yan's heart, "Let the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' block the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' You should seize the time and enter the mountain valley to search for the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'"

"Ai." Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. He turned toward the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' by his side and cried out softly, "Little fellow, block it."

“Hiss!”

The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ emitted a wave of hissing sound when it heard Xiao Yan’s orders. A faint seven-colored glow suddenly surged out from its body. Following the appearance of the strong seven-colored light, the former’s body swelled swiftly and abruptly at a pace visible to the naked eye.

In merely the blink of an eye, the originally mini pocket-sized ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ had transformed into a large being that was over a hundred feet long. The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ swung its enormous body under the night sky. A pair of bewitching snake eyes stared at the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ below. Even the sky began to fluctuate slightly as its snake’s tongue extended and shrunk back.

“This little fellow’s strength has once again soared greatly after sleeping for so long. It is indeed worthy of the name ‘Heaven Swallowing.’ If it were to reach its peak, it will likely really possess the strength to destroy the land and sky.” Xiao Yan involuntarily exclaimed as he sensed the body of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ which was even larger than the last time he saw it back at the Misty Cloud Sect.

“‘The Heaven Swallowing Python’ is a kind of unique beast from ancient times. Under normal circumstances, it would require a hundred years if it wanted to reach this kind of stage. If not for the repeated erosion and merger by the spirit of Queen Medusa, this beast of yours would not be able to evolve this swiftly. Rather than saying that it is becoming stronger, you might as well say that it is taking advantage of Queen Medusa’s strength.” Yao Lao said faintly.

Xiao Yan nodded quietly. It was Queen Medusa once again. This woman was really a little too terrifying...

Xiao Yan let out a long sigh. He paused for over ten seconds before suddenly flapping the wings on his back. His body turned into a black shadow that shot explosively toward the mountain valley.

That ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ appeared to have sensed something when Xiao Yan moved. It immediately emitted a furious roar as its feet stomped on the ground. Its large body was like a cannonball as it shot toward Xiao Yan to block him. A sharp ear-piercing sound rang out from the valley’s entrance.

While the speed of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ was extremely fast, the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ was even faster. Before the former could reach Xiao Yan, it saw a seven-colored intense glow in front of it. An enormous tail that carried a rich seven-colored glow violently fell from the sky before finally heavily smashing into the body of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ An enormous strength immediately erupted as it smashed the ape toward the mountain wall.

“Bang!”

A large piece of the hard mountain wall fell behind the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' As the enormous piece fell, numerous crack lines began to spread out behind it like spider web. Finally, these crack lines spread over half of the mountain wall.

"Roar!"

The 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' became furious when it received such a heavy blow. The bright redness rapidly increased within its eyes. It ignored the tiny thread of fear it felt for the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' within its heart as icy-cold energy ripples agglomerated on the surface of its body. Following the agglomeration of energy, the icy-cold energy even caused the air around it to freeze. It opened its large mouth and bared its fangs. Cold air agglomerated suddenly and instantly turned into an enormous icy-cold swirling ball that was at least five feet large.

As the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' pounded its claws on its chest, the swirling ball that contained a frighteningly cold energy suddenly shot out. Its target was the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' in the sky. As the ball moved, a long, white-colored trace was faintly left behind in the empty air.

The bewitching snake eyes of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' in the sky watched the swirling ball that shot over explosively. A moment later, a strong seven-colored glow erupted. It was like a seven-colored dazzling sun in the night sky that collided heavily with the icy-cold swirling ball. Immediately, an enormous energy explosion sounded within the mountain range like a thunderclap.

Chapter 515: Searching For Treasure

With the help of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' blocking the ape, Xiao Yan successfully rushed into the mountain valley. Hearing an explosion that sounded like thunder outside the mountain valley, his body also paused for a moment. He turned his head and eyed the outside of the mountain valley, only to see that the sky was nearly completely covered by a seven-colored glow. The enormous size of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was vaguely visible within the glow, emitting an extremely strong pressuring feeling. Under that pressure, another similarly strong snow-white cold air covered half the sky. The icy-cold gust even caused Xiao Yan, who was within the valley to involuntarily tremble.

"Relax. Although the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' may have some difficulty if it wants to kill the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' there should not be any problem if it just wants to delay it. Now, you should swiftly search for the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'" Yao Lao appeared to clearly know of the worry in Xiao Yan's heart as he comforted him.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded. He did not continue to hesitate as he turned his head around and threw his gaze toward the dark-black valley. His brows were slightly knit together as he rubbed his finger gently. A couple of green-colored flames shot from his finger before

finally spreading out in the surrounding mid-air, like numerous lanterns. The light from the flames scattered down and slowly expelled the darkness from the valley.

Xiao Yan discovered the size of the valley was actually quite big after borrowing the light from the flame. Trees grew all over the valley and rubble stood all around. However, it did not have any other living creatures. Clearly, they had been expelled by the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.'

"The environment within the valley was a little complicated. It would likely take some time to find the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'" Xiao Yan muttered. He flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back as his body floated through the air. Those tiny green-colored flames moved along with him, lingering around his body just like bodyguards.

Xiao Yan slowed his flying speed as he gradually rushed toward the interior of the deep mountain valley. The area along the way was silent and did not have the slightest sound. Borrowing the light from the fire, he was able to see exposed deep white bones. This seemingly death-like scene caused people's hair and bones to stand.

"Looks like humans are not the only ones who desire this 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' Even some Magical Beasts have the intention to snatch it." Xiao Yan involuntarily sighed as he softly spoke when he saw large bones that were obviously not human.

"The effect of washing and refining one's bones that the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' possesses has an attraction to Magical Beasts that far exceeds that of its attraction to humans. If a beast were to obtain this thing, it would make it much simpler to train into a human form in the future." Yao Lao explained faintly.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He suddenly recalled the Amethyst Winged Lion that he had met in the Magical Beast Mountain Range of the Jia Ma Empire back then. At that time, that fellow had suggested a 'Body Transformation Pill' as an exchange for the 'Violet Spirit Crystal' when Yun Yun wanted to exchange for the latter. Now, Xiao Yan was no longer the novice he was back then. On this road of an alchemist, he had already reached the stage of having gained a foothold in the path. Naturally, he had an even clearer understanding of the value of a 'Body Transformation Pill.' At the same time, he also understood just how difficult it was for a Magical Beast to escape its beast body.

Xiao Yan's flying speed suddenly paused when that name abruptly flashed across his mind. He pressed his lips tightly together as a beautiful and elegant face surfaced from deep within his memory. Those quiet water-like pupils still carried the majesty of being the leader of the strongest sect within the Jia Ma Empire.

"Yun Zhi... Yun Yun..." Xiao Yan softly muttered these two names that gave him two totally different feelings. However, he mocked himself as he used his strength to shake his head, tossing aside that feeling within his heart. Now, the both of them stood opposite one another due to various different relationships. She was the sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect and it was likely impossible that she would change for him. On the

other hand, he had a grudge with the Misty Cloud Sect that could not be mediated. Given his character, he would similarly have hesitation throwing away her status when meeting her. Therefore, when he returned to the Jia Ma Empire in the future, they may... end up facing each other with weapons.

Xiao Yan gently rubbed his face and rubbed off the self ridicule on the corner of his mouth. His flying body suddenly paused. Not far in front of him was the end of the mountain valley. Using the light from the flame, he could see a dark mountain cave at the end.

“Here?” Xiao Yan muttered as he flapped his wings gently. Only then did his body fly downward. A moment later, his body agilely landed on a large rock near the mountain cave.

Xiao Yan gently sniffed the air that drifted out from the cave. There was a faint scent of wild beast that was similar to that on the body of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’

This should be the lair of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ Since it views that ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ with such importance, it likely lives quite close to it...” A thought flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart. With a wave of his hand, a wisp of green-colored flame that lingered around him immediately shot into the mountain cave. It randomly collided all over the place before Xiao Yan was sure that there were no traps and lifted his feet to enter.

The size of the mountain cave was quite big. Otherwise, it would have been difficult to accommodate the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape,’ which lived in it. The top of the cave was at over at least ten meters tall. Rubble was spread all over the place within the mountain cave, and white fur could be seen everywhere. Xiao Yan’s footsteps were swift as he walked within the mountain cave. A moment later, he frowned slightly as he stood in front of the back cave wall. In a soft voice, he muttered, “Don’t tell me that the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ is not here?”

Xiao Yan frowned intently as his gaze swept all over. Immediately, his gaze paused on the corner of a mountain wall. An extremely large chunk of the ground was sunk in at that spot. The sunken region was filled with white-colored fur and a larger number of huge footprints more than any other areas. Xiao Yan walked forward, squatted down, and carefully observed the place. He discovered that this appeared to be the resting place of the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape.’ The sunken region appeared to be formed from the pressure of the latter’s large body.

Xiao Yan did not discover any other strange places and involuntarily shook his head in disappointment. He was about to stand up when his heart moved. His sleeves gently flicked over a spot covered by a pile of white-colored fur. Immediately, a wind appeared, blowing all the white-colored fur away.

A layer of sand appeared under the fur as it was blown away. However, this color of this sand was much deeper when compared to the other places. Its manner was as though it had been turned over.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and slowly took a step back. He curled his hand slightly and suddenly tightened his fist. A powerful suction force surged out. Following the surge of this suction force, the spread sand also shot out explosively. Finally, it agglomerated into a sand ball that was the size of a basketball in his hand.

Xiao Yan randomly threw aside the agglomerated sand ball. He sucked the sand away a couple more times in this manner. It was a while later before the sand was completely sucked away and a dark-black hole appeared on the ground in his sight.

It was obvious that this hole could be expanded. However, it was already sufficient for Xiao Yan's size. He immediately smiled and patted his hand before waving it. The green-colored flame suspended around him shot into it. When he drew his head over to take a look, the tunnel in the black hole was more spacious than he had expected. He let out a laugh before leaping into it. After which, he advanced swiftly along this twisting and turning large underground tunnel.

Xiao Yan was extremely cautious and summoned the green flames to their limits as he was worried about some of the hidden dangers within the tunnel. A total of nearly twenty plus green-colored flames were scattered around him. They repeatedly flew in front of him, searching for any dangers.

The tunnel was extremely tortuous, but Xiao Yan could still feel that he was gradually moving deeper underground.

Xiao Yan walked for over ten minutes under this silent atmosphere. He suddenly realized that a little white glow had appeared at the edge of the dark-black tunnel. He immediately rejoiced within his heart. As he moved closer, the white glow gradually magnified until it finally turned into a cave entrance that was filled with a white light.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath as he stood at the entrance to the tunnel before his leg stepped over.

As his feet stepped out of the dark tunnel, Xiao Yan suddenly felt the area in front of him brighten. His gaze began to look around after he got used to the light. A shock involuntarily surfaced on his face after he saw the surrounding environment.

The place which appeared in front of him was a world filled with stalactites. At a glance, the cream-colored stalactites unceasingly covered the area until the edge of his sight. A pale white-colored light was emitted from within, expelling all the darkness present. Stalactites grew everywhere. Some of them on the ceiling above were even as long as a hundred meters. At a glance, the mountain dome was completely covered with

enormous stalactite. Occasionally, droplets of white-colored emulsions would drip down, forming flower-like splashes on the ground.

“What an underground world...” Xiao Yan slowly recovered a long while later. He smacked his lips in surprise before speaking with a bitter smile, “Is the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ here? How can we search for it? Uniform stalactites are everywhere.”

“Head to the place where the richest land strength is gathered.” Yao Lao’s body drifted out from the dark-black ring. His finger pointed to his left and said, “This way.” Once he said this, he took the lead to turn his body and rushed in the direction that his finger was pointed at. Xiao Yan hurriedly followed behind.

The two of them shuttled through this stalactite world for nearly ten minutes before Yao Lao finally took the lead to stop his footsteps. He lifted his head to eye the incomparably enormous stalactite in front of him and he could not help but let out an exclamation despite his experience.

This stalactite in front of him came from the top of the mountain dome and hung vertically down. Its huge size was at least over a hundred meters long, and its diameter was at least that of two people hugging together. A pale white glow lingered on its body, rendering it just like a crystal pillar. This stalactite was undoubtedly the largest one in this underground world. This size was like the emperor among the stalactites, receiving the worship of the countless number of stalactites surrounding it.

Xiao Yan’s gaze gradually shifted down. Below this stalactite was an extremely large green rock. Half of the green rock was buried in the ground. At this moment, there was a notch that was not even a foot wide at the top of the green rock. The notch was coincidentally facing the tip of the stalactite above. A two inch deep creamy-white liquid filled the notch. Floating on the creamy liquid was a faint drifting white fog. The white fog was quite strange. No matter how it drifted, it never scattered. Xiao Yan inhaled a breath of air, and the bones of his entire body felt a numb and strange feeling at this moment.

Xiao Yan’s gaze stared intently at the creamy-white liquid in the notch. Xiao Yan’s throat rolled involuntarily. An excitement surged on his face. In his heart, he clearly knew that the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk,’ which he had searched for a long time without success, had finally appeared in front of him.

Chapter 516: Fake Core Quenching Body Milk

During the period of time that Xiao Yan was absent-minded, a faint white fog suddenly surged from the tip of the enormous stalactite. The glow from the tip of the stalactite gradually became more intense. As the glow surged, a drop of creamy liquid, that was like a spot of light, suddenly agglomerated and formed. This drop of liquid swayed at the tip of the stalactite. Finally, it left the stalactite and fell through the air before gently smashing into the notch at the top of the green rock.

The liquid from the stalactite came smashing down, causing the surface of the creamy white liquid, which was merely two inches deep to form a ripple. However, not a single drop of liquid splashed out...

Xiao Yan eyed the cream liquid that was fluctuating within the small dark-green bowl-like notch. He suddenly came to an understanding. This notch on the green rock was actually carved out by the dripping stalactites liquid. Xiao Yan's hand rubbed the green rock and felt its firmness before sighing once again. Just how much time was needed in order to carve such a notch into the green rock by just relying on the strength of the dripping water? This was really the case of water penetrating rock.

"If I remember correctly, this liquid seems to require around a year before it can a drop of it forms. I wonder just how many years it takes before this small hole can be filled." Yao Lao softly sighed at the side as he spoke. With his experience, he could not help but exhale emotionally at this moment.

Xiao Yan immediately came to a sudden understanding after hearing this. One year for a drop. It was really unexpected that the humble drop of liquid earlier had actually agglomerated a year's worth of pure energy. Nature was indeed incomparably mysterious.

"Teacher, this should be the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' right?" Xiao Yan's eyes directly stared at the liquid in the notch as he laughed and asked a question.

"Yes." Yao Lao carelessly glanced at the liquid that was emitting a strange white fog and nodded.

Xiao Yan no longer hesitated when he saw that even Yao Lao had nodded. He swiftly took out a jade bottle from his storage ring and poured the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' into it. When Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded by his side, however, it caused him to be stunned as he stopped the actions of his hand.

"These things may also be valuable, but it is not the main object. There is an even rarer unique treasure in this place." Yao Lao placed both his hands behind him as he spoke with a smile.

"There is something even rarer?" Xiao Yan was stunned. His face was at a complete loss.

"If an ordinary person were to see the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' it is likely that they would be just like you, thinking that this dripping thing is the essence. However, they do not know that they have discarded the greatest treasure." Yao Lao said in a teasing manner.

Xiao Yan smiled in embarrassment without being able to refute his claim. He really thought that the cream-colored liquid within the notch was already the rarest thing, not

thinking that there was another thing that was a greater treasure than this 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'

"Follow me." Yao Lao lifted his head and eyed the enormous stalactite that hung from the mountain dome. Suddenly, he waved his hand at Xiao Yan before his body immediately drifted slowly up to the enormous stalactite.

Xiao Yan was startled when he saw Yao Lao's action. He hurriedly summoned the Purple Cloud Wings once again and carefully followed.

The two people followed the enormous vertical stalactite and flew up for a couple of hundred meters. A few minutes later, they actually flew to the top of the mountain dome. Looking down from this spot, the stalagmites down below, which appeared quite large earlier, were the size of mere ants at this moment. As their gazes moved in all directions, they were able to see some of the stalactites that hung on the mountain dome in all directions. The pale glow brought light to the entire world.

Yao Lao ignored the surrounding stalactites. Instead, his floating body stopped at the end of this largest stalactite. At that spot, there was a faint fluorescent light seeping out from the stalactite, shining on the stalactite until it was like a transparent crystal, giving it an extremely beautiful appearance.

Xiao Yan also flapped his wings and came to this place. He saw Yao Lao's gaze and followed it. However, he did not discover any place where something was wrong. His mouth muttered a couple of times, but did not say anything.

"Do you have a piece of jade? Use a piece of jade to gently dig into this spot. Remember, do not use any great force. Otherwise, you will completely destroy this stalactite that can only be formed after ten thousand years." Yao Lao waved his finger at the empty space before the stalactite. A palm-sized circular trace appeared at the end of the stalactite. He observed this mark for awhile before turning his head toward Xiao Yan and spoke in a serious manner.

Although Xiao Yan's heart was filled with doubt after hearing this, he still nodded his head. He took out a green-colored jade piece from his storage ring and used Dou Qi to carefully wrap its surface. After which, he gently followed the circular mark that Yao Lao's finger had drew over the end of the stalactite and cut into it.

The jade piece became extremely sharp as it was wrapped by Dou Qi. After a mere gentle touch, the sharp edge of the jade piece was inserted into the interior of the crystal-like stalactite after emitting a very soft 'pu chi' sound.

Xiao Yan held the jade piece tightly with his hand, not daring to allow it to even tremble a little. The jade piece followed the mark that Yao Lao had drawn without any mistake as it slowly moved. A soft 'chi chi' sound repeatedly reverberated in the quite high area.

“Crack...”

The jade piece in his hand completely parted the distance of one circle. Suddenly, a circular fragment of the stalactite fell down from its original body. Xiao Yan's eyes and hands were quick as he grabbed it. When he lifted his head to take a look, a powerful and sudden light shot out from the fragment. The piercing glow caused him to hurriedly shut his eyes. The wings on his back swiftly flapped as a reflex action as his body withdrew for dozens of meters before coming to a stop.

“Ke ke, everything's fine. There is no need to worry.” Yao Lao's laugh sounded by his side when Xiao Yan opened his eyes. Only then did his tense heart relaxed. He lifted his head to eye the spot where the intense light shot out before knitting his brows together and flying closer once again.

As he came closer to this large stalactite, Xiao Yan's gaze eyed the circular hole he had cut, only to be shocked to discover that there was actually a cluster of emerald-colored sticky liquid suspended within the stalactite. This cluster of liquid appeared as though it had some intelligence. The liquid flowed slowly within the stalactite but the region which it flowed in was coincidentally only within the area where the circular opening was. It ultimately did not even exceed where the line was or spill out.

Although Xiao Yan was not exactly certain what this emerald-like viscous liquid was, the pure energy that it contained caused Xiao Yan to be shocked. This kind of pure energy was at least ten times richer than that of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk.'

“What is this?” Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva while feeling a dryness in his throat. His eyes were boiling hot as he eyed the cluster of emerald-colored sticky liquid while opening his mouth to inquire.

“This is the true 'Core Quenching Body Milk.’” Yao Lao smiled and slowly spoke when he saw the shocked manner of Xiao Yan.

“The liquid below is not?” Xiao Yan was startled as he asked in disbelief.

“The liquid below is also the 'Core Quenching Body Milk'...However, those are things that have flowed out from this original body. They are similar to a diluted 'Core Quenching Body Milk'. There are some people in the continent who know about the matter of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' but there are very few people who know that the true 'Core Quenching Body Milk' is hidden at the point where the stalactite contacts the earth.” Yao Lao pointed at the green rock below and smiled as he explained, “This is perhaps also a kind of camouflage that the natural spirit object used to protect itself. An ordinary person would likely act just like you did just now when they found it. They would take away the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' below but end up leaving behind the true treasure.”

Xiao Yan involuntarily quietly smacked his mouth when he heard Yao Lao's explanation. It was really unexpected that there were two different types a real one and a fake one when it came to this 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' There was really all sorts of strange things in this vast world.

"This true 'Core Quenching Body Milk' is extremely weak. Only the gentlest jade tools will not damage it. If a metal tool or other objects were used, this cluster of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' which has been agglomerating for an unknown number of years might immediately transform into a completely useless waste of liquid with just a single touch of those kind of tools." Yao Lao reminded seriously.

Xiao Yan stammered as he nodded. He rubbed the cold sweat on his forehead while quietly rejoicing. It was fortunate that he had the encyclopedia-like Yao Lao following by his side. Otherwise, if he were to rely on himself, forget about the issue of finding the true 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' even if he did luckily find it, it was likely that he would end up empty-handed because of his recklessness.

"What should we do now?" Xiao Yan eyed the viscous emerald liquid slowly flowing within the stalactite. He did not dare perform any actions by himself, and could only ask while facing Yao Lao.

"Use jade tools to get it out. Remember. Do not use your hand to touch it." Yao Lao said.

Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded when he heard this. He flipped and churned the interior of his storage ring for a long while before finally finding a jade spoon. As an alchemist, jade was the best container to store pills. Therefore, there were all sorts of jade utensils placed within his storage ring.

Xiao Yan carefully inserted the spoon into the stalactite. He agilely turned his wrist. After a couple of insertions and withdrawals, a large half of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was scooped up. Just as he was preparing to take away all of the emerald liquid, however, Yao Lao suddenly said, "Always leave something behind. This is an unwritten rule within the alchemist world. One cannot break the root when one finds a natural treasure. It is extremely difficult for this 'Core Quenching Body Milk' to be formed. If you were to take all of it away, it is likely that this stalactite, which took over ten thousand years to form, will gradually crack. Therefore, leave a little to keep it alive."

Xiao Yan was slightly startled. He was somewhat ashamed as he nodded. Back then, when he was obtaining the 'Green Lotus Core Flame,' Yao Lao had also said this. His own actions were indeed a little too greedy.

Xiao Yan pulled out his jade spoon after leaving a little 'Core Quenching Body Milk' behind. After which, he once again inserted the fragment of the stalactite in his hand back to where it came from. Immediately, the intense light gradually diminished and the stalactite once again returned to its calm manner earlier.

Xiao Yan poured the emerald liquid in the jade spoon into a jade bottle of extremely good quality that he had already prepared. When he saw that the liquid was still flowing automatically as though it was a living being, Xiao Yan finally heaved a long sigh of relief. After much hard work, this thing was finally in his hands.

Chapter 517: Reappearance of Queen Medusa

Xiao Yan flew down from the top of the mountain dome, and once again found himself beside the green rock. His gaze eyed the creamy-white liquid within the notch. Although this had already been diluted, its effect was still quite good. Even if it could not achieve the effect of washing and refining the bones, it also had quite a great refining effect on the body.

“You can also collect some of this. Perhaps, you might be able to use it when you refine pills in the future.” Yao Lao’s voice sounded above Xiao Yan’s head.

Xiao Yan nodded when he heard this. He took out two jade bottles from within his storage ring and carefully filled them with the cream-colored ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’ After filling the two jade bottles, there was nearly less than half of the cream liquid remaining in the notch.

Xiao Yan glanced at the remaining liquid. He mused for a while, but did not completely take it all away. Lin Xiu Ya and the others might well come and take this ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ in the future. If they returned empty-handed after toiling for half a day, they would undoubtedly have some doubts about someone else taking the thing away. Moreover, only the few of them and himself knew that there was a unique treasure in this place. Although Xiao Yan was not afraid of their suspicions, this ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ was ultimately something that Han Yue had discovered no matter how one put it. Xiao Yan had gained a great bargain for no reason. It would indeed be somewhat overboard for him to be greedy and take everything away.

Xiao Yan stored the two bottles of diluted ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ into his storage ring as these thoughts circulated in his heart. After which, he no longer paused as he turned his body and swiftly flew along the path which he had taken. Since he had already familiarized himself with the path before, Xiao Yan had reduced quite a lot of time when he exited this time around. In merely less than twenty minutes, he exited the mountain cave.

With a flap of his wings, Xiao Yan flew toward the exit of the valley. His gaze eyed the area a distance away. He was still able to see the vaguely visible seven-colored glow and the thunder-like energy explosions within the dark night.

Xiao Yan only sighed in relief when he saw that the seven-colored glow was still bright. He swiftly flapped his wings and his body transformed into a black shadow which shuttled through the dark night without any noise. Some time later, his body paused as

it appeared in the air above the mountain valley. His gaze glanced at the battleground outside, and he could not help but be a little speechless.

At this moment, the entrance to the valley had been damaged until it appeared completely different. The originally flat ground was covered by enormous craters while enormous rocks that fell from the mountain wall were spread all over the place. The forest on both sides were also wrecked; trees laid horizontally and even covered half of the path into the valley.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was still curled up as it lingered in the air within this battleground. Seven-colored glows surged out of its body unceasingly. The powerful suppression caused all the Magical Beasts hidden in a five kilometer radius to shiver. Although the Qi of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was still powerful, one was still able to see some deep claw scars on the seven-colored snake's scales if one were to look carefully. Clearly, the former was not in an undefeatable position in its fight with the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.'

Xiao Yan's gaze drifted down. When he eyed the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' on the ground, a stunned look involuntarily flashed across Xiao Yan's face. At this moment, over half of the snow white fur on the beast was corroded by the snake's saliva with its strong acidic properties. Fresh blood flowed on its enormous head, causing the originally terrible looking head to appear even more savage. Scars from being struck by powerful energy could be seen everywhere on its body. Some fear and weariness appeared within those originally large, lantern-like bright-red eyes. Clearly, the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' which was already in a weakened state, had already completely lost its fighting spirit when faced with a strong opponent like the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'.

Compared to the miserable appearance of the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape,' the little injuries on the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' appeared to be insignificant.

"It is really unexpected that this little fellow is actually this strong. It is really worthy of being a unique beast from ancient times." Xiao Yan eyed the difference in the injuries of both parties and involuntarily muttered in surprise within his heart.

Xiao Yan's appearance similarly attracted the attention of both the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' and the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape.' The former extended its snake's tongue somewhat excitedly at Xiao Yan. On the other hand, the latter emitted a furious roar somewhat restlessly.

"Little fellow, go!" Xiao Yan ignored the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' which was roaring while facing the sky. He cried out to the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' before immediately flapping his wings. His body flew swiftly in the direction of the deep mountains.

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' hesitated a little behind him before swinging its enormous tail. The seven-colored glow which intensified around its body swiftly shrunk.

After which, it transformed into a tiny light shadow that swiftly rushed toward Xiao Yan. Finally, the two figures gradually disappeared in the black night, leaving behind the furious but helpless 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' who was in a frenzied state.

A large and small figure suddenly descended from the sky within the dark night. Finally, they landed on a mountain peak. Xiao Yan turned around and eyed the mountain valley which had already disappeared from the edge of his sight. Only then did he sigh in relief.

Xiao Yan turned his head over and eyed the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' suspended in front of him. At this moment, the glow of the seven-colored scales had quietly become dimmer. From the looks of it, its exhaustion from the intense fight with the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' earlier was very great. Xiao Yan's hand gently rubbed the small head of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python.' He took out a bottle of 'Amethyst Essence' from his storage ring and smiled as he said, "Come, little fellow. You have done well tonight. This time around, I will let you eat until you are full.

If it was in the past, it was likely that the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' would immediately pounce over when it saw Xiao Yan take out the 'Amethyst Essence.' However, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' strangely stopped in air without moving. A pair of bewitching snake eyes glanced at Xiao Yan. Just as a feeling of something being wrong appeared in Xiao Yan's heart, an icy-cold voice was suddenly emitted from the mouth of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python,' "You are actually really treating me as a pet to rear?" The voice may have been ice-cold, but it contained a numb feeling that caused a nefarious flame to rise in Xiao Yan's heart.

Just as the nefarious flame rose within Xiao Yan's lower abdomen, he suddenly felt a coldness seeping out from his heart. His eyes suddenly stared at the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' in front of him, and he was stunned for an instant. His body hurriedly withdrew in a lightning-like matter as he uttered in shock, "Queen Medusa?"

During the time that Xiao Yan was rushing back, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' once again emitted a faint seven-colored glow. Its body also gradually moved. An instant later, it transformed into an enchanting and alluring being that could basically cause a man to instantly turn into a beast.

Although Xiao Yan clearly knew in his heart that this was a beautiful human snake that could eat people in front of him, he was still unable to help but feel a little distracted. However, this distracted feeling immediately disappeared when a pair of cold ice-like pupils glanced over, leaving behind only his guard and caution.

Xiao Yan's gaze finally stopped on the ice-cold bewitching face, which one could not find any flaws. He laughed dryly, only to realize that his voice had turned somewhat hoarse.

“Your Majesty, what a coincidence. We meet again.” The extremely stupid greeting was sufficient to show just what degree of anxiety Xiao Yan felt within his heart. The fear he had for this woman in front of him was even stronger than what he felt for Yun Shan from the Misty Cloud Sect.

“What a coincidence. However, I must thank you for that. If you did not let the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ fight with ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’ and exhaust a great amount of energy in the process, I would still be suppressed by it.” Queen Medusa glanced at Xiao Yan. The corner of her sleek, red mouth was lifted into a mocking manner.

Xiao Yan parted his mouth and could not resist thinking of giving himself a slap. It was unexpected that the culprit was himself...

“Have you gathered all the medicinal ingredients to refine the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill?’” Queen Medusa ignored Xiao Yan’s ugly expression as she asked in an indifferent manner.

The corner of Xiao Yan’s eyes twitched as he laughed bitterly in his heart. What gather them all? He had never put this matter in his heart. Just settling his own things had already made him terribly busy. Where did he get the time to help her search for the medicinal ingredients for the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill?’ Moreover, even if he did have the time, he would definitely delay it as long as he can. Otherwise, once this woman obtained the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ and merged her spirit with that of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python,’ the first person to be unlucky was likely himself. This damn woman had never hidden her killing intent for him from the start.

However, he did understand her after thinking a little. With Queen Medusa’s noble identity and her haughty character, how would she be able to endure being turned into a pet and fighter that Xiao Yan was currently rearing? If it were not because of the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ and the repeated rebound of the spirit of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python,’ it was likely that she would have long since used a few slaps to tear Xiao Yan apart.

A cold smile and killing intent gradually surfaced on Queen Medusa’s face when she saw Xiao Yan’s silent and speechless manner. “Looks like you did not put this matter in your heart. Since this is the case, what is the use of leaving you around?”

Queen Medusa suddenly waved her delicate hand when she said this. Following the waving of her hand, Xiao Yan was shocked to realize that the surrounding space had solidified at this moment. His body was locked within it, and he was unable to move.

“Is this the true strength of an elite Dou Zong? They can actually solidify space by just raising their hands?” Shock flashed across Xiao Yan’s heart. His knowledge of the strength of an elite Dou Zong became much deeper.

Queen Medusa coldly eyed Xiao Yan as he struggled with all his strength. She moved her feet, one after the other, and slowly walked toward Xiao Yan. She lifted her hand vertically and a faint seven-colored glow gathered on her palm. Finally, it agglomerated into a sharp seven-colored longsword.

Xiao Yan used all his strength to struggle, but the surrounding space did not move even a little. Just as he was about to helplessly give up, a familiar, powerful Spiritual ripple finally swarmed out from the black-colored ring on his hand. Under the undulation of this Spiritual ripple, the surrounding cage-like solidified space suddenly shattered. Xiao Yan's body obtained freedom at this moment.

"Ke ke, being able to solidify space after just advancing to the Dou Zong class. You are really worthy of being Queen Medusa. However, who are you to just kill the disciple of Yao Chen just because you want to?" An old laugh slowly sounded. Yao Lao's illusionary body rose out from the dark-black ring. Finally, he was suspended beside Xiao Yan as he indifferently watched Queen Medusa on the opposite side.

Chapter 518: Agreement

Queen Medusa coldly watched Yao Lao appear. However, there was not the slightest surprise on her bewitching face. Instead, she said with a cold smile, "I have long since sensed that this fellow had a strong person hidden by his side. So, it was actually a spiritual body."

Although she spoke in this manner with her mouth, her advancing footsteps were slowly withdrawn. This old man with an illusionary body in front of her gave her a faint oppressive feeling. This feeling was not weaker than the one Yun Shan gave back then. If she was at her peak condition, she would not fear him. At this moment, however, she needed to constantly separate some Spiritual Strength to suppress the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' in this body. With this split focus, her strength was somewhat reduced.

Yao Lao smiled indifferently. He waved his hand and got Xiao Yan to step back a little. Only then did he smile and continue, "I am also clear about your current condition. Therefore, there is no need to show such a stern murderous aura in front of me. Although I am currently only in my spiritual state with a significant loss to my strength, it is likely that you will not gain any advantage if we were to really fight."

"Is that so?" Queen Medusa let out a cold laugh. However, she did not display any other motion with her hands. Clearly, the appearance of Yao Lao had given her a great shock.

"I, too, don't wish to have any conflict with you. It is just that it is not your right to randomly kill my disciple. If you feel that staying here displeases you, you can leave. No one will stop you." Yao Lao smiled as spoke. His calm words similarly held a sharp edge. Back then, when he roamed the continent, forget about a Dou Zong, even an elite

Dou Zun would have to be polite to him. This Queen Medusa may cause other people to fear her, but she did not pose the slightest threat to him.

Queen Medusa frowned slightly when she heard this. Currently, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had the indication of recognizing Xiao Yan as its master. Moreover, she had not completely obtained control of this body. It was not up to her to decide whether to leave or not. Additionally, that medicinal formula for the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' was currently in Xiao Yan's hand. She still needed to rely on his strength if she wanted that kind of medicinal pill to be refined. Therefore, why would she leave?

"I have an agreement with him. If I protect him such that he could safely escape from Yun Shan's hands, he will refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' for me. Now, however, he has already completely forgotten about that matter after nearly one year. What use is there to keep such a person, one does not keep his promise, around?" Queen Medusa coldly glanced at Xiao Yan as she spoke.

The anxiety in Xiao Yan's heart had been greatly reduced now that Yao Lao had shown himself. Hence, he merely helplessly spread his hands when he saw Queen Medusa's ice-cold gaze. Big sister, did you really think that I am a fool? Was it not the case of the earlier I refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill,' the faster I die?

"Ke ke, if you did not have any killing intent in your heart, this disciple of mine would be extremely happy to help you search for medicinal ingredients. You cannot completely blame him for dragging things out in this manner." Yao Lao smiled as he spoke. He naturally clearly knew about the matter from the beginning until the end.

Queen Medusa snorted. She did not refute what Yao Lao said. Back then, she did have the thought of killing Xiao Yan with one slap once Xiao Yan refined the 'Thawing Spirit Pill.'

"Ke ke, Queen Medusa. I shall not waste my breath with you. Do you really want to obtain that 'Thawing Spirit Pill?'" Yao Lao mused for a moment before he suddenly spoke after seeing the flickering eyes of Queen Medusa.

"Isn't this question of yours a little redundant?"

"Since this is the case, we can each give the other party what we need. However, the precondition is that you must throw away those thoughts in your heart. No one can be blamed for the matter of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' following by Xiao Yan's side. Moreover, even if it did recognize Xiao Yan as its master, it has nothing to do with you. No outsiders can do anything to change it." Yao Lao smiled and continued, "If you can throw aside the killing intent in your heart, I can guarantee you that I will place a completely refined 'Thawing Spirit Pill' in front of you within one year. However, in exchange, you must protect my disciple such that his life will not be in danger for one year after you have obtained the medicinal pill. What do you say?"

“He and I already have a prior agreement before this. Back then, I protected him such that he escaped from Yun Shan’s hand. Otherwise, do you think he could even think of challenging Yun Shan with his strength? Since I have already completed my agreement, he should help me refine the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill.’ Why should I come into another agreement with you?” Queen Medusa’s voice faintly contained a thread of anger.

“Both parties violated that agreement back then. Naturally, it is invalid.” Yao Lao said faintly.

“You want to get me to be a guard for him for a year? Forget it!” Queen Medusa’s cold voice did not hesitate as she opened her mouth and rejected the suggestion.

“Since this is the case, you can go and find someone else to refine the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill.’” Yao Lao rolled his eyes as he replied.

“In that case, give the medicinal formula for the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ to me!” Queen Medusa clenched her silver teeth as she coldly spoke.

“Ke ke, that won’t do. This ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ is something that Xiao Yan obtained after spending great effort to win the Alchemist Grand Meeting. How can he give it to you?” Yao Lao smiled and shook his head.

Xiao Yan was a little stunned as he eyed Yao Lao in front of him from behind. Currently, the latter had a little aura of a thug.

Queen Medusa inhaled a deep breath of air as her expression gradually became gloomy. Originally, she was someone who did not like to waste her breath. If it was not because she was afraid of Yao Lao’s strength, it was likely that she would have attacked and killed him. However, the stubbornness of the current Yao Lao caused a killing intent to once again surge in her heart.

As Queen Medusa’s expression became gloomy, a majestic Qi that shocked Xiao Yan slowly surged out from her body. Under this powerful force, the surrounding air basically ceased flowing at this moment.

Turning everything silent. This was the overbearingness and great strength of an elite Dou Zong.

However, Yao Lao’s body did not make the slightest movement under the suppression of this majestic force. Only a cold sharp look gradually swarmed onto his indifferent old face. An invisible Spiritual Strength extended out and densely covered half of the sky. Although Yao Lao was unable to use Dou Qi in his spiritual form, his spirit was unusually powerful due to him being an alchemist. On top of this, he had the assistance of the ‘Bone Chilling Flame.’ He had even reached the state where he could just rely on his Spiritual Strength to fight with other people. Of course, he would naturally be unable to reach the level at his peak by just using Spiritual Strength. However, it would not be

too much of a problem when it was used to fight with Queen Medusa, who was similarly not in her peak condition.

Two similarly powerful forces gradually surged on the top of this mountain. The ground shook a little between the suppression of these two forces, and it actually began to gradually form some crack lines under Xiao Yan shocked gaze.

Following the flow of time, the two forces grew increasingly strong. However, the instant Queen Medusa could no longer resist attacking, her face suddenly changed. The tense atmosphere also fell apart at this moment. Her delicate hand held her forehead as her expression changed swiftly. A seven-colored glow was repeatedly surging out from within her body.

“Dammit!” Queen Medusa clenched her teeth with all her strength as she viciously scolded. The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ had actually come out to snatch control of the body at such a time. Moreover, this time around, it actually resisted so intensely, causing her to have no choice but to hurriedly agglomerate her strength to suppress it. However, in this way, how would she be able to fight Yao Lao.

Xiao Yan appeared to have understood something when he saw this condition of Queen Medusa. He immediately sighed in relief within his heart. This woman’s strength was a little overly frightening. Even if Yao Lao was able to defeat her, it was likely that he would descend into a slumber due to over-exhaustion of his Spiritual Strength. Although Xiao Yan currently did not rely on Yao Lao as much as he did in the past, Yao Lao’s rich experience would enable him to save himself from a lot of trouble no matter how one put it.

The seven-colored glow grew increasingly intense. In the end, even Queen Medusa’s bewitching eyes became slightly at a loss.

Queen Medusa inhaled a deep breath of air and did her best to suppress the rebound of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python.’ She coldly eyed Yao Lao on the opposite side and unwillingly said, “Alright, we will do as you say. If you are able to give me the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ within one year, I will protect him for one year. If you make empty promises with me once again, this Queen will let you all suffer heavy losses even if I risk the retaliation of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python.’”

“Ke ke, it is naturally for the best like this. I will definitely hand over the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ within one year. However, the old me hopes that Queen Medusa would not be like you are the last time where you have killing intent in your heart. Otherwise, I will turn the body that you have great difficulty evolving into into ashes even if I risk falling into a slumber!” Yao Lao laughed softly. His laughter did indeed contain an extremely rich threat. After his words sounded, a dense, white-colored flame surged explosively from his body and immediately wrapped around it in order to increase his might.

The dense white-colored flame rose slowly. Although the flame was rising strongly, it ultimately gave a person a kind of strange icy-cold feeling when one looked at it.

“Heavenly Flame?” Queen Medusa’s face changed a little when she saw that dense white-colored flame. Her gaze changed quite a lot. Having once suffered under the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame,’ she naturally clearly knew just how frightening this kind of flame was. Although this dense white-colored flame in front of her did not have the heat of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ on its surface, the kind of strange visual feeling from it caused Queen Medusa to be afraid of underestimating it.

“As long as the both of you don’t break your promises once again, this Queen will naturally keep her promise. I hope that I will be able to see a true ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ the next time that I wake up.” Queen Medusa responded indifferently. The seven-colored glow within her body suddenly erupted. Her body once again moved. A moment later, the bewitching, enchanting, all-around stunning creature once again transformed back into that small seven-colored snake that was merely over a foot long.

The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ which had transformed back into its snake’s form shook its tail a little. Its body appeared by Xiao Yan’s side as fast as lightning. It extended and withdrew its snake’s tongue at the latter. There appeared to be some human-like concern within those bewitching snake eyes.

“Ke ke, I am fine.” Xiao Yan rubbed the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ in a tender manner as he spoke with a bitter smile, “Little fellow, it’s all thanks to you. Otherwise, I’m afraid that a hard battle would have been unavoidable.”

“However, we have at least said all that needs to be said. In the future, we will no longer need to worry about whether she will suddenly come and kill me. Queen Medusa may be cold and heartless, but she is extremely proud. It is unlikely that she will go back against her words.” Yao Lao turned around and smiled as he spoke to Xiao Yan.

“Hopefully that will be the case.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He flicked his hand and took out the bottle of true ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ once more. He softly said, “Whether I am able to breakthrough to the Dou Ling class in one go is really up to this thing...”

Chapter 519: Mixing Medicinal Liquid

Xiao Yan eyed a large wooden basin that was placed in front of him within a spacious and bright mountain cave. The wooden basin was filled with a transparent and clean water that allowed one to see its base. By the side of the wooden basin was a simple wooden shelf. Various kinds of medicinal ingredients were placed on it. At a glance, there was likely over ten different kinds of medicinal ingredients. Xiao Yan had spent a total of nearly three days in order to search for these medicinal ingredients.

“Hand the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ to me.” Yao Lao extended his hand toward Xiao Yan and commanded him after he had checked that all the necessary medicinal ingredients had been gathered.

Xiao Yan hurriedly placed the thing into Yao Lao’s hands when he heard this. The latter held that jade bottle which was completely filled with ‘Core Quenching Body Milk.’ He weighed it a little before opening the cap. A faint emerald fog drifted out immediately, before finally gathering around the opening of the bottle. It did not disappear for a long time.

Yao Lao inhaled a deep breath of this fog, only to sense a faint warm stream flowing into his spirit. He involuntarily praised, “It is indeed worthy of being a spiritual object that has gathered the strength of the land. It is actually this rich and pure. No wonder it possesses such a unique effect of washing and refining one’s bones.”

Yao Lao tilted the jade bottle slightly after letting out a praise. He carefully poured ten drops of the emerald-like liquid into the wooden basin. After these ten drops of emerald liquid left the bottle, the liquid in the bottle was reduced by nearly a quarter.

Following the ten drops of ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ being dropped in, the clear water in the wooden basin immediately began to turn into a rich emerald-green color at a speed visible to the naked eye. Moreover, there was a faint fog that gradually seeped out from the surface of the water. This fog strangely did not disappear for a long time.

Xiao Yan curiously eyed the change of the liquid within the basin. He rubbed his head and asked in a surprised manner, “Don’t tell me that I will also need to train in here this time around?”

“Yes.” Yao Lao used his entire focus to eye the change in the color of the liquid. He carelessly said, “The energy of the ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ is far too great. It is impossible for you to directly consume it orally with just your current strength. Hence, you can only adopt this method. Moreover, even this manner of using it must be used in conjunction with other medicinal plants in order to be able to gain the effect of washing and refining your bones. If you were to forcefully do this, forget about washing your bones, it is likely that your little life would be directly washed away first.”

Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly. His body was not that weak, no?

“Hand over the ‘Incense Grass.’” Yao Lao ignored Xiao Yan’s quiet muttering. Under his observation, the color of the liquid turned extremely rich. After which, he faintly ordered Xiao Yan to do something.

Xiao Yan swiftly extended his hand to the wooden shelf after hearing this. He picked up a small incense-like red-colored grass before handing it over to Yao Lao.

Yao Lao waved his hand while holding this 'Incense Grass.' A cluster of thick white-colored flames formed in his palm. The thick white flames curled and rose up, much like a cluster of icy flames.

Yao Lao threw this grass into the flames. In merely an instant, the 'Incense Grass' swiftly wilted. Finally, it turned into a drop of red-colored liquid that was boiled by the 'Bone Chilling Flame.'

Yao Lao used the 'Bone Chilling Flame' to refine the red-colored liquid a couple of times. He flicked his finger and the red-colored liquid fell into the wooden basin.

Following the entrance of this drop of red-colored liquid, the originally emerald-colored water's surface suddenly become a dash of dark-red.

"Green Lotus Fruit." Yao Lao once again opened his mouth and commanded indifferently. Xiao Yan hurriedly searched for this fruit-like medicinal ingredient from the wooden shelf.

After a couple of minutes of refinement, that 'Green Lotus Fruit' had also turned into a drop of green liquid that fell into the wooden basin, causing an additional pale-green color to appear within the liquid.

"Snake Shedding Flower."

"Buddha Flame Root."

.....

The names of different medicinal ingredients were repeatedly emitted from Yao Lao's mouth one after another. As his voice was emitted, the medicinal ingredients on the wooden shelf were swiftly being reduced. An hour later, dozens of different medicinal ingredients had been completely turned into various liquids of different colors that were then thrown into the wooden basin.

Yao Lao sighed in relief after refining the final medicinal ingredient. His eyes looked at the wooden basin. He nodded in satisfaction after seeing the gorgeous multicolored liquid surface within. Facing Xiao Yan beside him, Yao Lao said, "Go and take your clothes off. Enter into it and train until the color of the liquid once again turns into that of clear water."

Xiao Yan's face was astonished as he eyed the multicolored liquid that emerged from the dozens of medicinal ingredients' pure essences. This kind of technique had no relation to one's talent. It completely required the accumulation of experience as well as the understanding of various kinds of medicinal ingredients in order for one to achieve it.

“Be a little careful after you enter it. Although the effect of this ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ has become much gentler after being neutralized by these medicinal ingredients, the energy contained within it has increased instead of decreased. Therefore, you might feel some pain while you are training. You will gain a great amount of benefits if you endure.” Yao Lao clapped his hands and spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan nodded. He swiftly removed the clothes on his body before stepping into the wooden basin in a manner that suggested he could not wait any longer.

As his body broke the multicolored liquid surface, he immediately gave a violent shiver. The temperature of this water was so cold that it was frightening. If he did not use Dou Qi to protect his body, his skin would feel waves of piercing pain from the coldness.

“Do not release your Dou Qi to wrap your body. That will hinder the medicinal strength from entering it. This water is this ice-cold because of my ‘Bone Chilling Flame.’ It does not pose any harm to you.” Yao Lao’s voice suddenly sounded just as Xiao Yan could not resist it any longer and wanted to use his Dou Qi to resist the cold.

Xiao Yan could only helplessly nod his head when he heard this. He was able to clearly feel the enormous energy that was contained within the multicolored liquid as his body soaked within it. Before he had even entered his training state, the energy that had filled the water began to uncontrollably enter his body, causing Xiao Yan to feel an itchy feeling all over it. This was similar to ants clawing his skin.

Xiao Yan violently swung his head. He suppressed the discomfort he felt on his body. He had suffered quite a lot of hardship during these few years. Hence, this tingling feeling did not pose much of a hindrance to him. Xiao Yan sat within the wooden basin. His hands formed the training seals as he gradually shut his eyes. His breathing suddenly became calm and long. A long while later, the itchy feeling on his body slowly became fainter before disappearing. Xiao Yan had entered into his training state.

Yao Lao eyed Xiao Yan, who had entered the training state, from the side of the wooden basin. He smiled and nodded as he softly said, “Although there is an extremely great benefit from washing and refining your bones, there is also quite a bit of suffering during this process. Your path ahead will be flat if you endure through it. If you fail to endure through it, not only will all your effort be wasted, but the Qi Paths in your body might also show some signs of injuries due to the assault by the enormous energy. In the end, you may end up in a situation where you lose more than you gain. Although there are some risks, if you do not take the risk and possess a fearless heart in your training journey, how will you be able to walk far?”

.....

As Xiao Yan entered his training condition, the multi colored water in wooden basin was suddenly filled with tiny bubbles. A moment later, the surging of the bubbles became

increasingly intense. That manner was as though Xiao Yan's body was in boiling water. However, this boiling water caused Xiao Yan to feel incomparably icy-cold.

The instant when the bubbles surged, Xiao Yan's body stilled suddenly. He was clearly able to sense that the unmeasurable amount of pure energy within this liquid appeared to have received a suction force as it followed the slightly opened pores on Xiao Yan's body. It forcefully poured into his body!

Xiao Yan felt that his skin had become painfully swollen as the energy that surged in was far too large. However, this pure energy that swarmed in did not come to a stop just because of how he felt. Instead, it began pouring into his body at an even more ferocious speed. As it transversed into his body, numerous scurry traces were plucking up randomly under his skin. That appearance was as though many small snakes were hidden under his skin, appearing extremely frightening.

Xiao Yan naturally could not sense his savage, frightening outer appearance. He could currently only use all his strength to circulate his mind and observe the movement within his body.

The multicolored gorgeous energy that swarmed into Xiao Yan's body did not obey any of Xiao Yan's order. Instead, it charged into all the bones in Xiao Yan's body in a manner that caused it to seem like it had a specific target. Any bone that it came into contact with would instantly turn multicolored. Under this multicolor, Xiao Yan was able to vaguely sense that there was something entering his bones and doping them.

Xiao Yan did not have any means to stop the actions of this energy. Therefore, Xiao Yan did not have any other choice other than to simply watch an increasing amount of his bones turn multicolored.

In less than ten minutes, the bones in Xiao Yan's body were nearly completely covered by that multicolored energy. At a glance, every part was filled with different colors, appearing extremely bizarre.

Xiao Yan's heart suddenly shook violently as he felt some uncertainty at the actions of these energy. He could sense that his bones appeared to have suddenly been incinerated. A deep searing pain swiftly seeped out from his bones. Finally, the pain spread to every corner of his body.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly. His body, which was seated cross-legged within the wooden basin, began to involuntarily tremble slightly. An unusual sleek redness also surfaced on his skin. His forehead was filled with cold perspiration. Finally, it began to roll down his face, like a drizzle, before falling into the wooden basin. Only then did he understand why Yao Lao said that there would be some pain. However... was this little pain not a little too much?

The corners of Yao Lao's eyes were involuntarily lifted as he eyed this action of Xiao Yan while standing outside the wooden basin. He immediately let out a soft sigh. In a soft voice, he said, "Little fellow, you must hang on. If the washing of the bones is a success, you will be able to save a great amount of trouble when you advance to the Dou Wang class in the future."

Chapter 520: Nine Star Da Dou Shi

Being in a furnace. This was Xiao Yan's current feeling. Moreover, this fire was actually rising from his bones. That pain caused Xiao Yan to inhale a cold breath of air. The multicolored medicinal liquid within the wooden basin was also bubbling more intensely. Moreover, one could even use one's naked eye to see threads of extremely tiny energy swiftly shuttling through the water before finally charging into Xiao Yan's skin. They then disappeared in an instant.

The strength of the energy that was contained within the medicinal liquid was something that he was still quietly shocked at. Especially now that he was truly experiencing it for himself, it was indeed worthy of being a natural spiritual object that had taken such a long time in order to agglomerate and take shape. This feeling was under the precondition of having other medicinal items to mediate it. If he were to directly soaked in it, he would not even know how he died.

As time flowed by, the multicolored bones in his body also strangely turned a little transparent. Under the observation of Xiao Yan's mind, he could faintly see the swiftly rolling marrow within his bones.

The energy that was wildly pouring from the medicinal liquid into his body did not stop just because the bones in his body were covered with a multicolored layer. The endless pure energy invaded Xiao Yan's body in large amounts. As long as it was something they came into contact with, regardless of whether it was the bones, the Qi Paths or even the cells and organs, they would cover all of it with the multicolored layer without exception. In an instant, the inner view of Xiao Yan's mind could only eye the multi colored interior of his body. His heart sighed sorrowfully. Immediately, he gathered his focus. He clearly knew that an even more tormenting pain was about to appear.

As Xiao Yan had expected, a searing pain that was more than ten times worse than before suddenly spread out from his Qi Paths, cells, organs, and other parts in his body after the multicolored layer had stuck to over half of them. In an instant, it was as though a fiery flame had been tossed into Xiao Yan's entire body. That hot flame appeared to want to incinerate his body into a pile of ashes. It mercilessly unleashed an increasingly hotter temperature.

Following this soaring mess in him, Xiao Yan's entire body, which was soaking within the wooden basin, had turned into the color of burning charcoals at this instant. Threads of white fog seeped out from the top of his head. There was a faint charred smell carried

within the white fog. Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly and a thread of bright redness flowed down from the corner of his mouth, dying his chin until it appeared quite bloody.

Yao Lao rolled his throat as he stood outside the wooden basin. His hands were involuntarily clenched. An anxiety flashed across his seemingly calm eyes. He clearly knew Xiao Yan's tenacity. However, the latter was still being turned into this manner by the washing and refining of the bones despite his toughness. It was difficult to imagine just what kind of pain it was.

Yao Lao may have known that this washing and refining of bones would definitely be quite painful, but he was uncertain just what kind of degree this so-called pain would reach since he had never used the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' before. From the looks of Xiao Yan's situation now, he understood that he had underestimated the pain from the washing of one's marrow. Since things had reached this point, he could only quietly pray that Xiao Yan would be able to continue enduring. There was no other choice.

.....

Pain. Other than pain, there was only pain. At this moment, the meaning that this word represented was being transmitted from every single part of his body. Other than bitterly suffering, he similarly had not the slightest solution with regards to this. The only thing that caused him to be a little gratified was that he could clearly sense waves of powerful energy being emitted following the spread of the searing, painful heat within his body. He realized that after the searing heat, the bone marrow, bones, Qi Paths, cells, muscles, etc., within his body were gradually having a drastic and complete change. Clearly, this so-called washing and refining of bones truly possessed a large magical effect.

"Hang in there!"

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth, and viciously roared within his heart. After suffering in this manner for a long while, Xiao Yan's spirit suddenly became a little absent-minded perhaps as a result of being numb to all of it. Under this absent-minded state, the intense, searing hot pain within his body greatly diminished. He had barely built up some resistance after enduring this searing pain for such a long while.

The torment gradually passed under the extremely slow flowing time. In the end, Xiao Yan completely descended into a kind of half awake and half asleep absent-minded state. This kind of feeling that was near a state of being lost had already caused him to forget about the concept of time. The only thing that he felt was that his bones, veins, cells, etc., were, little by little, slowly becoming purer and tougher under the grilling of this searing pain...

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Yao Lao placed his hand behind his back as he stood within the mountain cave. He stood outside the wooden basin without moving. It had been three days ever since Xiao Yan had entered the wooden basin. Yao Lao had not taken a single step during these three days. All of his attention was focused on Xiao Yan.

“Xiu!” A seven-colored glow suddenly flashed into the cave from its entrance. Finally, it lingered above the wooden basin. The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ eyed Xiao Yan whose entire body was like a burning charcoal. It involuntarily hissed as it extended and withdrew its tongue. There was some worry within those snake’s eyes.

“There is no need to worry. He has already endured the most painful period. The things after this will be a little smoother.” Yao Lao smiled. His gaze turned to the medicinal liquid within the wooden basin. He studied the much paler color of the medicinal liquid as he spoke.

The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ extended and withdrew its snake tongue, appearing to have understood those words. After which, it swayed its tail before flashing out of the mountain cave. It wanted to help protect Xiao Yan in the outside world and prevent anything from disturbing him.

Yao Lao’s gaze once again rested on Xiao Yan’s body after he saw the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ leaving. He softly said, “Looks like it will be soon...”

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The searing pain that appeared like a raging fire had unknowingly become much weaker in Xiao Yan’s body. A long time after, the searing pain quietly became fainter before disappearing. As the searing pain disappeared, Xiao Yan’s mind, which was at a loss, suddenly woke up. His mind hurriedly swept over his body, and he was stunned to realize that the many colors, which originally covered his body, had completely disappeared. The bones, veins and other parts in his body emitted a faint fluorescent glow. At a glance, this manner appeared to have hidden an endless amount of energy.

Xiao Yan’s mind woke up. It was like a key and the originally silent inner body immediately began the final circulation for his complete transformation, much like a precise machine.

“Bang!”

A soft muffled sound sounded. Xiao Yan’s mind was somewhat stunned as he eyed the enormous energy that erupted from every corner of his body and he was momentarily absent-minded.

During the time that Xiao Yan was absent-minded, numerous amounts of large pure energy automatically flowed into his Qi Paths. If it was in the past, Xiao Yan’s veins would definitely have the feeling of a swelling pain if such a large amount of energy

poured in. Now, however, his Qi Paths merely expanded and shrunk in an extremely tough manner following the energy pouring in. Absorbing all of the large energy that came in one wave after another did not cause Xiao Yan to suffer even the slightest pain.

These waves of energy were extremely large, but they were so pure that it caused one to be surprised. The degree of purity was such that there was no longer any need to purify it. Moreover, for some unknown reason, this energy did not have the slightest resistance to Xiao Yan. It was as easy as waving his hand.

The large energy moved and circulated along the vein route of the 'Flame Mantra' within his body. A day later, it became like an erupting flood that carried a loud rumble as it repeatedly rushed into the Dou Crystal within the vortex.

Under the pouring in of this large amount of energy, the pigeon egg-sized Dou Crystal was actually beginning to inflate at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Xiao Yan's mind carried some surprise as he eyed the swiftly expanding Dou Crystal. He could clearly sense that the Dou Qi stored within was being expended by multiple times. Under this trend, breaking through to a nine star Da Dou Shi was something as easy as flipping one's hands.

"Bang!"

The energy poured and surged without knowing how to be tired. At a certain instant, an extremely slight sound finally sounded within his body. Following the appearance of this clear sound, Xiao Yan realized that the Dou Crystal, which had already reached its maximum capacity, once again had an extremely large accommodation space appear within it. Under this strange sound, the Dou Crystal, which had already reached the size of a chicken egg, suddenly expanded until it was the size of a fist. Moreover, a bright intense glow repeatedly surged out. It shined in the interior of the vortex such that it appeared like daytime.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air as he sensed the various changes within his body. He clearly knew that he had just broken through the eight star Da Dou Shi barrier at this instant and truly became a nine star Da Dou Shi! As long as he advanced by another step, he would be able to enter the Dou Ling class!

Due to the sudden swelling of the Dou Crystal, Xiao Yan sensed that the originally filled feeling within it changed to a much emptier one. His mind moved immediately and he circulated the last pure energy within his Qi Paths before pouring it into the Dou Crystal. However, after advancing his level, the Dou Crystal no longer had the bottomless pit feeling it possessed earlier. The pouring in of this wave of energy was like a rock sinking into the ocean and did not give Xiao Yan any notable feeling.

"The gap between a Da Dou Shi and a Dou Ling is indeed enormous. Looks like it is a little impossible to directly break through to the Dou Ling class in one go." This thought

lingered in Xiao Yan's heart. He sighed regretfully, and was just about to stop and withdraw when he suddenly discover a powerful suction force automatically surging out from the Dou Crystal. As this suction force erupted, waves of extremely powerful energy immediately flowed into his body from the outside world.

Since Xiao Yan's body was within the medicinal liquid containing an extremely majestic energy, waves of enormous energy moved through his skin and entered into his body. After which, it ignored Xiao Yan's control as it charged through Xiao Yan's veins. After being circulated once, it finally rushed into the Dou Crystal in a rude and unreasonable manner.

Xiao Yan was stunned as he eyed what was happening within his body that had escaped his control. A long while later, he clenched his teeth and viciously said, "If you want to take the energy in, then take it in until you are full! If you have the ability, take it in until I break through to the Dou Ling class!"

Once these words sounded, Xiao Yan's mind activated the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method and circulated the energy. Following the circulation of the Qi Method, the energy that was uncontrollably pouring into his became even wilder...

Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 521: Advancing to Dou Ling - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 521: Advancing to Dou Ling

Chapter 521: Advancing to Dou Ling

Surprise flashed across Yao Lao's eyes within the mountain cave as he eyed the medicinal liquid that swiftly swirled within the wooden basin. With his ability, he could naturally sense the suction force that was surging explosively out from Xiao Yan's body. He immediately muttered softly, "This little fellow wants to break through the Da Dou Shi class in one go? Borrowing this formidable force, it appears that he has quite a good opportunity. However, the energy he needs is an extremely large amount..."

The medicinal liquid swiftly spiraled within the wooden basin. Waves of incomparably pure energy seeped out from the medicinal liquid. Finally, it poured into Xiao Yan's body during its training state. As this pure energy flowed until it was gone, the color of the originally multicolored medicinal liquid swiftly became pale. According to this speed, it was likely that not much time would be needed before the enormous energy within the medicinal liquid was completely absorbed by Xiao Yan.

On top of absorbing the energy within the medicinal liquid, the overly powerful suction force also forcefully pulled in and absorbed the surrounding natural energy. However, the energy that was being directly absorbed from nature was clearly many times more mottled compared to the energy within the medicinal liquid. However, it was superior in that there was an endless amount of this energy, and it would not run out no matter how

much was being absorbed. Therefore, under this two-pronged absorption, the powerful energy was swarming into Xiao Yan's body in an unceasing trend. It pounced into the Dou Crystal which seemed like a bottomless pit.

Although Xiao Yan's suction force was extremely quick, the energy that he needed to advance his level was indeed overly large. If an ordinary person wanted to break through, he would undoubtedly require the accumulation of strength over a long period of time. The amount of energy needed for Xiao Yan's desire to advance two levels in one go was indeed a shockingly large amount. Hence, even though his absorption speed was extremely fast, the fist-sized Dou Crystal still did not have the slightest feeling of being filled. At the very most, the originally bright surface became a little brighter.

Following the gradual flow of time, the momentum within Xiao Yan's body gradually showed traces of tire. This was especially after the last thread of pure energy within the medicinal liquid was absorbed by Xiao Yan. Having lost the support of this large amount of energy, the absorption of the energy from nature was far too insufficient to meet the swallowing demand of the Dou Crystal. Therefore, the powerful energy that swarmed into Xiao Yan's body also diminished greatly.

One of the worst things to happen while advancing to the next level is that is an insufficient energy supply. This would result in the failure to advance to the next level. However, there was no other choice for Xiao Yan who was within his training condition. Immediately, he could only repeatedly circulate his Qi Method in order to increase the strength of his absorption of the energy from nature.

One could obtain an endless supply of energy from nature, but only an extremely small amount of that mottled energy can be absorbed after it has been refined by one's body. This amount was undoubtedly just a drop in a bucket for Xiao Yan who was in the midst of advancing.

Within the mountain cave, Yao Lao was eyeing the medicinal liquid which had transformed into clear water. He once again glanced at the slight anxiety on Xiao Yan's brows. After musing for a moment, he waved his hand and once again took out that 'Core Quenching Body Milk.' He opened the cap of the bottle slightly and carefully dropped one drop of the emerald liquid into the wooden basin.

Following the drop of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' the originally clear water where one could see the bottom once again transformed into a rich emerald color. It was so rich that there was some fog, that would not disappear, lingering within the wooden basin. Enormous pure energy once again filled the water.

The drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' that was suddenly added was undoubtedly like delivering charcoal to someone during a snowstorm from Xiao Yan's perspective. That wild pure energy swarmed into Xiao Yan's body through his pores, finally causing the tiredness within Xiao Yan's body to once again disappear. His mind moved and the pure

energy, like bubbling spring water, unceasingly circulated within his Qi Paths. Finally, it poured into the Dou Crystal, contributing to the large amount of energy required.

There was no other medicinal ingredients added to this 'Core Quenching Body Milk' to neutralize it. Therefore, the energy that it contained was even more overbearing. Fortunately, Xiao Yan's body had become much stronger after the washing of the marrow Xiao Yan's earlier. Therefore, this overbearing energy may still have contained a faint piercing pain after it entered his body, but the searing pain from earlier was not felt at all.

This drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' gave a considerable amount of energy to Xiao Yan. However, the energy needed for his advancement could perhaps be even called unusual. The energy that was needed to stride across this barrier appeared to be like the sum of all the energy needed to advance within this one class. Hence, even though the energy contained within this drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was extremely powerful, the emerald medicinal liquid within the wooden basin once again became clear after an hour of wild absorption.

Yao Lao narrowed his eyes as he stared at the medicinal liquid in the wooden basin that once again lacked color. He helplessly shook his head. After weighing the degree of the Qi Xiao Yan was currently radiating, he finally, with a hint of hesitation, poured two more drops of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' into the wooden basin.

An ordinary person who wanted to reach this stage of breaking through to a Dou Ling would undoubtedly require a long accumulation of energy. This accumulation could even reach the length of a couple of years. This timeframe allows one to see just how large the energy needed to break through this barrier was. If it were not for the natural spiritual object of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk,' Xiao Yan would at the most be able to break through to the nine star Da Dou Shi level. It was undoubtedly the ravings of a lunatic if he wanted to break through to the Dou Ling class in one go. However, it was fortunate that this extremely rare and difficult to find 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was coincidentally in his hands. One must say that this was a blessing.

The richness of the energy contained within each drop of the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was extremely shocking. Energy of this degree was likely able to match half a year's worth of energy accumulation for an ordinary person. Most of the energy of the ten drops of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' earlier were used to refine Xiao Yan's body. Only ten-percent to twenty-percent of the energy remained and was absorbed by Xiao Yan. In addition, the one drop of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' that was just added in was not sufficient enough to allow Xiao Yan to break through to the Dou Ling class. However, the two drops of 'Core Quenching Body Milk' that Yao Lao had just thrown in had finally become the final ladle of water in the filled container!

Xiao Yan's mind repeatedly commanded the energy to follow the route of the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method to circulate. Unceasing amounts of energy whizzed past just like a

car that ran forever on the expressway. Finally, that energy charged into the Dou Crystal.

Regardless of how deep a hole there was, there was ultimately a time when it would be filled. Although, the energy needed to advance was so large that it left one speechless, that enormous energy was swiftly being made-up under the addition of these three drops of 'Core Quenching Body Milk'...

Just as the medicinal liquid in the wooden basin, again, turned into pure water, the enormous suction force that was erupting from Xiao Yan's body suddenly disappeared. His body trembled slightly as the pores all over his body shrank, imprisoning all the energy within his body and not allowing any of it to spill out.

The fist-sized Dou Crystal within the vortex was like a bright sun. The warm and eye-piercing light repeatedly shot out from within, shining through the vortex until it was transparent.

The final wave of energy completed its circulation within the Qi Paths and flowed into the vortex before finally pouring into the sun-like Dou Crystal.

"Hum!"

Following the pouring in of this final wave of energy, the rhombus-shaped Dou Crystal suddenly shook slightly. A low humming sound was quietly emitted before it finally reverberated. The sound didn't disappear from the vortex.

"Bang, bang..."

A slight and rhythmic voice sounded from within the vortex. When one listened carefully, it was similar to that of a heart beat, appearing extremely strange.

Following the appearance of this rhythmic sound, the glow on the rhombus Dou Crystal also fluctuated between strong and weak. Moreover, under the focus of Xiao Yan's mind, he was stunned to realize that the originally somewhat irregular Dou Crystal had become as round as a sphere.

Following the Dou Crystal becoming round, corners strangely protruded out. That manner was as though it was a sea urchin that was covered by pricks... If one were to count it carefully, that sea urchin appeared to coincidentally possess nine long pricks.

The Dou Crystal, which was like a sea urchin, glowed weak at times and intense at others. Following the intensification and weakening of the glow, that rhythm-like heartbeat sounded once again. It was as though it was a heart filled with vigor...

After the rhombus-shaped Dou Crystal completely turned into a sea-urchin-shaped Dou Crystal, the intensification and weakening of the glow on its surface became increasingly rapid. That sound of a heart beating also followed it and became faster...

“Bang, bang...”

A low muffled sound slowly reverberated within his body. In the end, it reached a point where it was nearly the same rhythm as Xiao Yan’s heart.

The instant when the two kinds of beats merged together, the sea-urchin-like Dou Crystal suddenly shook in the vortex. An extremely powerful energy ripple suddenly spread out from the Dou Crystal!

The energy ripple passed through the vortex, his veins, the bones in his body, and finally his skin without any resistance. Immediately, it erupted in a sudden motion!

Xiao Yan, who was seated cross-legged within the wooden basin in the mountain cave suddenly opened his eyes. A sharp, clear substance-like glow shot out explosively. A wave of powerful aura spread out from his body. As his breath spewed forth, Xiao Yan suddenly raised his head. A clear roar that carried a powerful Dou Qi exploded from the mountain cave just like muffled thunder!

“Bang!”

As the clear roar sounded, powerful energy ripples broke from his body. Suddenly, a mist began splashing everywhere. The wooden basin which Xiao Yan was in had turned into sawdust under the sweeping energy ripple. The energy ripple did not stop after it shattered the wooden basin, but continued to sweep through the entire mountain cave. In an instant, sounds of explosions came wave after wave in the mountain cave. Numerous crack lines began spreading on the enormous rocks. Finally, they embraced the entire mountain cave.

The entire interior of the mountain cave was a complete mess after the clear roar passed.

The mist gradually fell and a black shadow flashed out in a ghost-like manner. Finally, it stood proudly. The delicate and handsome face was filled with a wild joy.

“Have I succeeded?”

Chapter 522: Returning to the Academy

A black-colored human figure flashed about, like rolling thunder on the mountain peak. A faint silver-colored lightning glow was partially visible under the human figure’s feet. The enormous black ruler in his hands carried the suppressing sound of cleaving wind. Although the black ruler was extremely big, it was just like a longsword when it was held

in the human figure's hand. As it waved and danced, there was an agility and trickiness within its overbearing body.

“Chi!”

Under the sudden hacking of the enormous ruler's body, the sharp wind tore the air. A faint green glow shrouded its body, much like a cluster of green-colored flames. This caused the wind from the ruler to carry a hot feeling.

With the angry hacking of the black ruler, it finally carried a wild and incomparably ferocious force that violently hacked at a green rock by his side. The two came into contact, and a sudden explosion sound appeared. The tough green rock let out a 'bang' and was completely shattered under the ferocious force contained within the ruler's body. Countless tiny rock fragments shot explosively all over the place. In merely an instant, only a small half of the green rock that was half the height of a person remained inserted on top of the mountain.

“Hu!”

Xiao Yan's hands maintained the posture of having hacked with the heavy ruler. A sleek redness appeared on his face. After inhaling a breath of air, the sleek redness gradually became fainter as his breath once again returned to being long and smooth. Following the recovery of his breathing, one could see that the green veins that had bulged out on his hand had quietly returned to normal. The powerful strength on his tightly tensed muscles slowly became weaker until it finally disappeared.

Xiao Yan withdrew the heavy ruler. The silver-colored lightning under his feet also disappeared with it. He turned his head slightly as he gave his body a random shake. He could hear cracking sounds from his bones, and he involuntarily gave a satisfied smile.

The washing and refining of his bones back then had nearly caused Xiao Yan's strength to soar to nearly twice what it was. Not only did the bones in his body become tougher, but Xiao Yan was also able to sense a powerful strength concealed under his skin when his muscles were tight. It was waiting to erupt and gush out.

The washing and refining of his bones had caused Xiao Yan to gain faster and more sensitive agility. It even increased his mental reaction on top of causing his flesh to become twice as strong as before. Moreover, now that he had broken through to the Dou Ling class, Xiao Yan was better able to sense the nearly complete transformation within his body.

If it was in the past, Xiao Yan could at the very most endure for over ten minutes when displaying the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement.' Now that he had advanced his strength, the Dou Qi in his body had greatly increased and he was able to extend this

time by over five times. From this, one could see the obvious gap between a Da Dou Shi and a Dou Ling.

“The feeling of a Dou Ling is not bad right?” Yao Lao’s body was suspended in mid-air. He smiled and spoke while eyeing the excited Xiao Yan.

“They are indeed two different classes. The gap between the two is indeed a large one.” Xiao Yan used his strength to nod his head. In the past, if it were not because he possessed the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ as well as a kind of unique item like the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame,’ forget about defeating a three star Dou Ling, even a person who had just entered the Dou Ling class was likely to finish him off and turn him into a miserable state if he had just relied on his strength as a Da Dou Shi. Now that he had personally experienced the great strength of a Dou Ling, even Xiao Yan himself involuntarily felt an admiration for his previous self, who had challenged this stronger class.

“Now that I have advanced to a Dou Ling, it is likely that I will be able to face an ordinary two or three star Dou Ling head on in a fight by relying on the uniqueness of the ‘Flame Mantra’ Qi Method. If I were to also display the ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change,’ I may perhaps be able to contend with a strong person of Bai Cheng’s level. Putting it this way, I am qualified to enter the ‘Strong Ranking’ with my strength.” Xiao Yan’s tightened fist relaxed. He sensed the powerful force brewing within it and the corner of his mouth involuntarily lifted into a smile. This kind of achievement was sufficient enough to cause Xiao Yan to be proud. After all, the training talent of those within this Inner Academy was ridiculous. They were called geniuses in the outside world without exception. The difficulty of rising within this place was quite large.

Xiao Yan used his strength to stretch his lazy waist. He took a step forward and overlooked the vast sea of trees below from high in the air. A frown suddenly appeared a long while later as he said, “I have trained for a total of more than two months within these deep mountains. It is time to return to the Inner Academy. The ‘Strong Ranking Competition’ that Lin Yan mentioned will perhaps be soon. As long as I can break into the top ten, I would have the qualification to enter the few lower levels of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.’ For some unknown reason, I keep feeling that the so-called ‘Refining the body with the Essence Heart Flame’ has some relationship with the ‘Fallen Heart Flame.’

“That ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ is indeed quite mysterious. Even the strength of my Spiritual Strength could not be spread throughout that place. Therefore, my quiet probing did not have the slightest effect. Although I am unable to probe, I was still able to sense that there were quite a number of strong people guarding the lowest few levels. If one were to forcefully break in, it is likely that his or her efforts would be futile even if he or she was an elite Dou Zong. We do not know much about the situation of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ within the tower. If we are able to go deeper to the lower levels of the tower, we might be able to obtain some information related to the ‘Fallen Heart Flame.’” Yao Lao voiced his thoughts.

Xiao Yan sighed softly. He was a little vexed as he rubbed his temple. He muttered, "It really is troublesome."

Yao Lao could only helplessly shake his head when he saw Xiao Yan's bitter face. He said, "There is no other choice. The reputation of the Jia Nan Academy in the Dou Qi continent is very prominent. Usually even some first rate factions would not overly offend them, much less a person like me who is merely in a spiritual form. Even at my peak back then, I would have had to think thrice and weigh things carefully in my heart before coming to the Jia Na Academy to snatch something."

Xiao Yan nodded with a bitter smile. He had endured a great amount of hardship and spent a lot of effort in order to come to this Jia Nan Academy. His purpose was the 'Fallen Heart Flame.' Therefore, Xiao Yan's heart had a feeling that he must have this thing. It was likely that he would not even care even if he ended up offending this Jia Nan Academy. If he truly wanted to become a strong person, the evolution of the 'Flame Mantra' played an extremely crucial role. In order to get the 'Flame Mantra' to evolve, the 'Heavenly Flame' was something that he must not lack!

Xiao Yan's gaze turned toward the south. That place was where the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' stood within the Inner Academy. It was a long while later before the fiery heat within his eyes quietly withdrew. He let out a gentle smile before shaking his shoulders. The Purple Cloud Wings shot out. With a gentle flap, his body turned into a black shadow that hurriedly flew out of the mountain range. In an instant, he turned into a small, black dot that disappeared on the horizon.

Xiao Yan spent a total of nearly three hours traveling from the mountain range to the Inner Academy. If Xiao Yan had not advanced to a Dou Ling, it was likely that he would have difficulty flying for such a long time without stopping along the way to his destination.

When was was still a couple of hundred meters from the Inner Academy, Xiao Yan carefully withdrew his Purple Cloud Wings. His body landed in a dense forest. After seeing that there was no one around, he finally rushed toward the Inner Academy, whose outline was already visible.

Relying on the Inner Academy badge on his chest, Xiao Yan entered the Inner Academy without facing any resistance. He eyed the scattering human figures in his sight and involuntarily exhaled a long breath. During these two months, Xiao Yan had never met even the slightest human figure other than Lin Xiu Ya and the few others.

Xiao Yan's tensed feeling quietly became much more comfortable after entering the Inner Academy. His swift footsteps gradually slowed, and turned into a leisurely pace as he slowly walked to the new student region where 'Pan's Gate' was located.

Xiao Yan did not carry the enormous symbolic black ruler, so hardly anyone along the way who recognized him, he who had the name of the 'Top Alchemist in the Inner

Academy.' Therefore, Xiao Yan did not face any resistance on his nearly half an hour walk to the new student region.

Xiao Yan's brows were slightly knit without being noticed as he came increasingly closer to the new student region. Usually, this area ought to have members of the 'Pan's Gate' guarding all the time. However, it was completely empty...

Xiao Yan's footsteps walked into the new student area. The empty road caused Xiao Yan's frown to deepen further. His originally leisurely footsteps suddenly became faster.

"Atai!"

Xiao Yan finally saw a large group of people, who were in a hurry, appear around a corner in front of him when he had reached the pavilion home in the middle. He immediately cried out when he saw the appearance of the leader of the group.

The originally hurried group of people were initially startled when they heard this familiar cry. Quickly following this, a wild joy immediately rushed onto the face of the leader, Atai. He raised his head and eyed the black-robed human figure before speaking in a joyous manner, "Chief? You are back?"

"Chief! Chief has returned!" A group of people behind Atai involuntarily cheered when they saw Xiao Yan's appearance.

"Where are Xun Er and the rest?" Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the faces of Atai and the others only to discover a faint fury. His expression sank slightly. A weak silver glow flashed under his feet. Immediately, his body suddenly appeared in front of Atai and the rest dozens of meters away from him before he asked in a low voice.

"Senior Xun Er and the rest have gone to the Fighting Arena." The ghost-like figure that Xiao Yan had displayed shocked Atai and the rest before they immediately replied in a hurried manner.

"The fighting Arena? What happened?" Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes as he asked.

"Dammit. What else other than the group of bastards from the 'White Gang.'" A fury suddenly swarmed onto the faces of Atai and the others when they mentioned this, "This morning, Senior Hu Jia led a group of members from the 'Pan's Gate' to enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to train. Originally, they had already found a place and had trained within it for a period of time. In the end, the members of the 'White Gang' suddenly forcefully pushed the door open and relied on their larger number of people to chase the members of our 'Pan's Gate' out. Senior Hu Jia had argued with them, but the few bastards on the opposite side insulted her. Senior Hu Jia was infuriated and began fighting with them. However, who knew that the other party actually had two strong Dou Lings hiding at the side. Although Senior Hu Jia injured one of them in her

furious attack, she herself also received a blow from the other party and was injured quite badly.”

“After the brothers of ‘Pan’s Gate’ brought Senior Hu Jia back, Senior Wu Hao immediately became furious upon hearing about this matter. He led people to run to the ‘White Gang.’ According to the brothers that had returned, Senior Wu Hao had issued a challenge letter to Bai Cheng. Currently, Senior Xun Er and the others led everyone to the Fighting Arena.”

“Chief, those bastards from the ‘White Gang’ are becoming increasingly arrogant. They used the fact that we don’t have any strong Dou Ling to repeatedly come and find trouble with us!”

“Chief, this time around, we must go all out against them! We cannot continue to endure it!” A large group of members from the ‘Pan’s Gate’ furiously cried out from behind Atai. Clearly, they had already reached the limit of their endurance of the provocation of the ‘White Gang.’

Xiao Yan waved his hand gently. All the furious curses stopped. Numerous gazes carried some anticipation as they eyed the former.

Xiao Yan’s face was gloomy. A faint furious glow flashed across his dark-black eyes. A moment later, he lifted the corner of his mouth before suddenly turning around and coldly saying, “Let’s go!”

Chapter 523: Appearance

The Fighting Arena was the most popular area within the Inner Academy. Usually speaking, the somewhat bloody area of the fighting arena was an opposing existence to the atmosphere of the academy. However, this Inner Academy did not shun this kind of conflict. However, it must be said that the decisions of the Inner Academy was a wise one. The existence of the Fighting Arena resulted in the Inner Academy students being different from the students of other academies, who merely knew how to fight on the surface. Should the students from the latter group fall into a brutal life and death battle, their feet would tremble.

Due to them being surrounded by the most chaotic region in the continent, the kind of students that did not have any experience with bloody fights would likely have the odds against them should they fall into the ‘Black-Corner Region.’ This was something that Jia Nan Academy, who had quite a number of conflicts with the ‘Black-Corner Region’ every year, could not be more certain about.

Under the precondition of having rich rewards of ‘Fire Energy’ in the Fighting Arena, there would be a countless number of students fighting at that place. Although most people wanted to satisfy their desires and make a breakthrough from a fight, being able

to obtain the additional reward on top of the increase in fighting experience was something that everyone was extremely happy to receive.

The Fighting Arena could be described as having as many people as the mountains and seas. The noise and the various roars from within were something that one could clearly hear even if one was a hundred meters away.

The Fighting Arena was crowded, and filled with a countless number of figures without exception. If one were to take a quick glance, one would be able to see black masses of human heads. An extremely noisy sound buzzed by their ears, much like the monstrous noise of a drill, causing the heads of some of the people who were not used to the sound to feel a swelling pain.

This enormous Fighting Arena had quite a number of fairly large platforms. However, over half of the human crowd today had swarmed toward one of the platforms. The forceful ripples that erupted from the violent collision caused numerous cries and mighty roars to occupy the entire arena.

“Chief, finish him off!”

“Let those bastard new students know just how strong our ‘White Gang’ is!”

Some students wearing a similar badge on the viewing gallery outside the battleground eyed their leader in the arena who was at a great advantage in the battle. Their faces were filled with wild joy as they cried out loud. On top of shouting out loud, some of them could not resist letting out a ridicule of laughter toward the large group of people on the other side of the viewing gallery.

Looking at the human crowd on the viewing gallery on the opposite side, one could see that the leader was a young lady wearing green clothes. The young lady was extremely beautiful, but the thing that really caused people’s heart to be moved was her unique lotus-like demeanor. The reason why this battleground could attract over half of the audience of the Fighting Arena was partly because of the appearance and demeanor of this young lady.

Although they had fallen into a great disadvantage in the battleground, the green-clothed lady’s quiet face was still calm. However, her delicate brows contained some anxiety.

Standing behind the green-clothed young lady was a large group of students wearing a similar badge on their chests. Some fury swarmed onto their faces when they heard the mockery and ridicule that was transmitted from the other side. However, due to the situation on their side being poor, they could only swallow the furious curses that had reached their mouths.

“Xun Er, it looks like Wu Hao is no match for Bai Cheng. This fellow is really too impulsive.” A beautiful lady who was wearing red clothes and possessed a hot figure was standing beside the green-clothed young lady. When she saw the human figure fall into a great disadvantage within the arena, a bitter smile could not help but surface on her somewhat pretty pale-white face while she spoke to the green-clothed lady by her side.

Xun Er nodded slightly. She slowly tightened her delicate hand. Those watery pupils were focused on the battleground for a long while before she softly spoke, “Although Wu Hao recently broke through to a nine star Da Dou Shi, the gap between both parties is after all too much... if it really cannot work, I will replace him.”

“You want to personally take action?” Hu Jia was startled when she heard this. There were very few people who could truly understand Xun Er’s strength. This was because the young lady in front always showed that calm and clear manner no matter what situation they were in. It was as though she had an unlimited number of hidden cards.

“I cannot allow Xiao Yan ge-ge to see ‘Pan’s Gate’ be ridiculed in such a manner when he returns.” Xun Er smiled slightly. Her gentle voice, however, carried some indifferent coldness, “I originally wanted to leave that Bai Cheng for Xiao Yan ge-ge. Now, however... I’m afraid that I have to be the first one to take care of him.”

These words of Xun Er made it seem as if taking care of Bai Cheng, whose strength had reached that of a six star Dou Ling, did not require too much strength. If it was an ordinary person who said this, Hu Jia would definitely laugh mockingly. However, when she saw Xun Er’s calm manner, not the slightest doubt formed in her mind. She nodded slightly, turned around and threw her gaze toward the battle below.

“‘Pan’s Gate?’ The faction which Xiao Yan had established?” A few human figures were leaning on a rail, within the Fighting Arena, that had a good view. They eyed the fight below. When they heard a voice, one of them was involuntarily a little stunned as he spoke.

“Yes. ‘Pan’s Gate’ was a faction that had been established by the new students initially. Now, after some absorption, there are also quite a number of older students in there. It is true that their leader is Xiao Yan.” Long silver-colored hair drifted gently, and its bright color caused a person’s eyes to feel a little piercing pain. Han Yue glanced at the somewhat startled Lin Xiuya and the others before speaking.

“Hee hee, this fellow is quite a talent. He has only been in the Inner Academy for half a year, but he already has such an achievement.” Lin Xiuya laughed, “However, from the looks of the situation below, ‘Pan’s Gate’ appears to have fallen into a disadvantage. That new student may have a sharp attack and carries a rare killing aura, but the gap between him and Bai Cheng is too big. In any case, he is already quite impressive for being able to force Bai Cheng into scrambling around by just relying on his strength at the peak of the Da Dou Shi class.”

"I have received some information yesterday. That fellow Liu Qing appears to have sent someone to make contact with that Bai Cheng. Originally, Bai Cheng had become a little afraid due to Xiao Yan's victory in the pill refining competition with Han Xian. There was no problem during the earlier period of time. However, just after Liu Qing sent someone to make contact with Bai Cheng, the latter became this arrogant. One must say that there are some tricks involved." At one side, Yan Hao eyes suddenly glanced to the other side of the Fighting Arena as he playfully spoke. Although he had a rough outer appearance, his heart was much more meticulous than other people.

"Xiao Yan also has some conflict with Liu Qing?" Lin Xiuya could not resist speaking in surprise when he heard this.

"Not exactly. However, there is some conflict between Xiao Yan and Liu Fei. It is not as though you don't know about the narrow mindedness of that woman." Yan Hao said faintly. His voice appeared to feel reveal some disdain for Liu Fei.

"Ke ke, there is going to be a good show to watch. Looking at Xiao Yan, he does not appear to be someone who likes to be bullied. Although his strength is only that of a Da Dou Shi, even I get a dangerous feeling when observing him. I think he hides his abilities deep." Lin Xiuya laughed softly. His hands held the railing while his gaze randomly drifted to the spot where Yan Hao had looked at earlier. At that spot, there was a faint vague human figure standing in the shadows. The faint sharp domineering aura, however, allowed Lin Xiuya and the others to recognize who that person was.

Yan Hao also smiled. His smile appeared to possess some anticipation of the two colliding head on.

Han Yue at the side, however, knit her pretty brows slightly. Immediately, she let out a helpless sigh as she once again threw her gaze to the fiery hot fight.

"Bang!"

A red and a white human figure rushed around within the battleground in a lightning-like manner. Finally, they appeared like two falling stars that suddenly collided in mid-air. Immediately, two powerful Dou Qis erupted abruptly. Under this powerful force, even the hard ground couldn't take it and a crack line formed.

"Qiang!"

A clear metal sound that carried sparks sounded from the spot where the two collided. The blood-colored heavy sword and the dark-yellow long spear collided heavily with one another. A forceful ripple that was visible to the naked eye surged out explosively. It immediately collided against the bodies of the two people.

"Bang, bang!"

Amidst the deep sound, the footsteps of the two human figures withdrew. However, the white-colored human figure merely took two steps back before he steadied his feet. With a soft muffled sound and a shake of his shoulders, he resolved the force.

Compared to the white-colored human figure, the red-colored human figure was much more miserable looking. He not only took seven or eight steps back, but a bright-red blood trace also spilled from the corner of his mouth when his last footstep fell. His Qi fluctuated disorderly. Clearly, he had received quite a serious internal injury.

“Chief, great!” When they saw the red-colored human figure be forced back and spit out blood, the group of members from the ‘White Gang’ on the viewing gallery could not help but erupt into waves of cheers. Immediately, there was even more ridicule being given to ‘Pan’s Gate’ on the opposite side, infuriating all the members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ until their expressions were green.

“Wild and arrogant brat. You actually want to challenge me when you are just a nine star Da Dou Shi? You are really overconfident.” Bai Cheng swung his dark-yellow spear, and placed it such that it was tilted sideways toward the ground. The corner of Bai Cheng’s mouth was lifted when he heard the thunder-like cheers from the surroundings. He said with a cold smile, “In the eyes of a truly strong person, your ‘Pan’s Gate’ is but a clown who merely jumps around. So what if you can earn ‘Fire Energy?’ No matter how much ‘Fire Energy’ you have, you will merely be a big fat lamb in the eyes of others if you do not have any strength.”

“Pei!” A mouthful of fresh blood was spat out from Wu Hao’s mouth. He had a dark and solemn face as his eyes stared at the cold smile of Bai Cheng with a blood glint. That manner was just like a bloodthirsty, ferocious beast. Under the focus of this kind of expression, even Bai Cheng felt a little coldness in his body.

The blood glow flashed in Wu Hao’s eyes. A moment later, he appeared to have made a certain resolution. His hand rubbed the blood trace from the corner of his mouth. After which, he slowly drew a line with the fresh blood on the blood-colored heavy sword. Following the tainting with the blood, the blood-colored heavy sword had some dark-red color that faintly appeared. A strange purple-redness also gradually swarmed onto his face.

Bai Cheng frowned slightly when he saw Wu Hao’s strange action. He took the long spear in his hand and pointed it at Wu Hao from a distance.

Just as Wu Hao was prepared to activate his final trump card to the next level, a green-colored pretty figure suddenly flashed and appeared in the battleground in an agile manner. Her perfect white jade-like hand gently patted his shoulders. Immediately, the wild and violent energy rolling within Wu Hao’s body quieted down.

“Let me take over.” A soft voice caused Wu Hao to be startled. He eyed the willow-like delicate waist in front of him. However, he shook his head and said in a deep voice, “I can handle him!”

Xun Er threw a faint glance to Bai Cheng before immediately turning her head and knitting her pretty eyebrows as she eyed Wu Hao who was insistent. Under the calm gaze of the former, Wu Hao was instantly defeated. He let out a burst of laughter and could only softly say, “Be careful.”

“Why? Does the ‘Pan’s Gate’ not have anyone? They actually want to allow a lady come out? Where is Xiao Yan? Why is it that I don’t see the slightest trace of him at this moment? Don’t tell me that he is afraid?” Bai Cheng involuntarily mocked and laughed when he saw that Xun Er was the one who had flashed into the battleground.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge does not need to act in order to handle you.” Xun Er softly said. Her manner which acted as though there was no one else present caused quite a number of people on the viewing gallery to feel surprise. Just this leisurely aura in the face of a strong opponent caused some people to increase their adoration for this green-clothed lady in the battleground by multiple times. However, while they were exclaiming over this aura of Xun Er, they involuntarily felt some resentment toward Xiao Yan who had not shown himself. As a man, he actually let a girl step forward...

“Are all the members of ‘Pan’s Gate’ this arrogant? The batch of new students this year really has the worst attitude among all those that have come in these few years.” Bai Cheng could not help but become furious when he was looked down upon by a lady, especially such a beautiful one.

Xun Er was too lazy to even reply to his words this time around. A golden-colored glow gradually surged on her delicate hand. The powerful energy that was contained within it quietly caused quite a number of people to let out a surprised ‘huh.’

Surprise flashed across Bai Cheng’s face when he saw the golden-colored glow on Xun Er’s palm. Immediately, he let out a cold laugh. He swung his long spear, and a rich, powerful dark-yellow Dou Qi shrouded over it.

The golden glow and dark-yellow glow in the battleground grew brighter. A moment later, both lights flashed at the same time. Finally, they shot out explosively under the focus of a countless number of gazes. Instantly, they met in mid-air. However, just as everyone thought that a ferocious collision would once again erupt, the faint sound of rolling thunder reverberated faintly within the Fighting Arena.

The instant the thunderous sound appeared, a black-colored afterimage suddenly appeared between the two clusters of light that were about to make contact. Both hands extended out in a lightning-like manner before they pressed themselves on the shoulders of both parties. A gentle force was the first to swarm out, gently shaking Xun Er until she drifted back to the edge of the battle circle. Immediately after this, the other

hand which made contact with Bai Cheng suddenly unleashed a ferocious force that shook the latter until his legs hurriedly withdrew.

The appearance of the black-colored afterimage as well as Xun Er and Bai Cheng being forcefully shaken back was something that happened in a mere fraction of a second. Most of the people merely sensed that their sight had become a little blurry. Immediately, they eyed the two human figures being forced back with a stunned look.

“Naturally, being wild and arrogant requires the capital to be wild and arrogant. If Leader Bai Cheng feels that you can no longer simply sit by and watch, then I, Xiao Yan, can play with you. Won't fighting with a lady merely cause you to lose your status.” A faint laugh suddenly sounded within the arena. Everyone was startled. They hurriedly shifted their gazes and immediately eyed a black-robed human figure who had unknowingly appeared in the battleground. Their faces were filled with astonishment.

The black-colored afterimage in the battleground swiftly became real. The black-robed human figure raised his head slightly, revealing a delicate and handsome smiling face. However, anyone could see that there was ice-cold killing intent under this smile.

“Ha... Now the fun show is about to begin...”

The eyes of Lin Xiuya suddenly brightened as he leaned on the railing in the corner of the Fighting Arena. His gaze involuntarily turned toward where the shadows were. The human figure hidden at that place appeared to have straightened his body at this instant. The sharp overbearing aura had quietly become more intense.

Chapter 524: Fierce Fighting

The black-robed, young man who had suddenly appeared caused the noisy fighting arena to descend into an extremely brief silence. Upon hearing the words that were emitted from his mouth, everyone immediately understood just who the person who had come was. Immediately, the members of 'Pan's Gate' erupted into a thunder-like cheer. The remaining audience also carried some excitement as they weighed Xiao Yan. Their gazes had some anticipation. Xiao Yan's alchemist skills were well known after his competition with Han Xian. However, having outstanding medicinal refining skills did not represent his fighting strength. In this place which was filled with violence, only the hardest fist could cause others to feel a deep respect in their hearts. All the other things like status were totally useless.

Therefore, upon Xiao Yan's appearance, everyone wanted to see whether this young man, who had outstanding pill refining skills, would have a fighting ability that was sufficient enough to cause others to view him seriously.

The instant when Xun Er was shaken back, she had sensed a familiar strength. The powerful golden light agglomerated on her hands gradually disappeared as she allowed

that gentle force to send her out of the battle circle. Her pretty eyes studied the tall figure in the battleground. Only then did she quietly calm down her raised heart.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, the time that remains belongs to you.”

“Hei, Xiao Yan, you are finally willing to appear?” Bai Cheng shook his shoulders as his feet violently stepped on the ground before resolving that force. Finally, he raised his head and eyed the black-robed, young man, and involuntarily let out a cold laugh.

Xiao Yan glanced at him. As his hand rolled, the enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler appeared. His right hand tightly held the ruler’s hilt and waved it viciously. Immediately, a powerful wind that carried a humming sound appeared in the arena: “Looks like Senior Bai Cheng really missed me. Unfortunately, Senior Bai Cheng is not a female. Otherwise, I would be extremely happy.”

“Ha ha.”

The people in the surrounding viewing gallery could not help but erupt with laughter when they heard Xiao Yan’s joking voice.

The corner of Bai Cheng’s eyes twitched as he coldly said, “A razor sharp tongue. This time around, I want to see just what excuse you will find to extract yourself and flee.”

“There is no need to find any excuses. Wu Hao issued a challenge letter to you and I will accept it. I have waited for this day for a long time. Let’s settle all the scores from the past.” Xiao Yan let out a soft laugh. His heavy ruler landed heavily on the hard ground. The forceful weight caused some tiny crack lines to form on the ground. Finally, Xiao Yan raised his head and smiled as he replied to Bai Cheng.

“Ha ha, good. You got guts. However, since you are seeking to embarrass yourself today, don’t blame me for using all my strength.” A joy immediately surfaced on Bai Cheng’s face. He laughed out loud when he saw that Xiao Yan did not try to flee this time around, and instead took the initiative to accept the fight.

“Senior Bai Cheng, you still say as much nonsense as you usually do.” Xiao Yan laughed. His face may have appeared harmonious, but the words that he spat out caused Bai Cheng’s face to become increasingly gloomy.

“Hopefully, this mouth of yours will not end up begging for mercy later.” Bai Cheng finally ceased speaking after those dark and gloomy words. He held the dark-yellow long spear tightly in his hand. The body of the spear shook slightly and the rich yellow-colored Dou Qi surged out explosively from within his body. In an instant, it wrapped the body of the spear within it.

“Ground affinity Dou Qi huh...” Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrows when he saw the color of Bai Cheng’s Dou Qi. Dou Qi of this affinity specialized in being sturdy and long lasting.

Compared to people of the same level, the time which one could fight would be much longer. Moreover, this kind of Dou Qi focused on defense. When fighting with others, one could rely on the richness of one's long lasting Dou Qi to drag it out until the opponent would become too tired. When fighting with a person of this Dou Qi affinity, erupting a wild and violent strength within a short period of time to perform suppressing attacks was the most appropriate tactic.

Xiao Yan twisted his body slightly. Powerful green-colored Dou Qi surged out from his body. Following the surfacing of the Dou Qi, a powerful aura also began spreading out of his body. Quite a number of people were stunned as they sensed the degree of strength of this aura.

“Dou Ling?”

Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao in the viewing gallery exchanged looks with one another. Their eyes revealed some surprise and joy. It was unexpected that Xiao Yan had actually broken through to the Dou Ling class after having not seen him for two months. One level per month. This training speed was something that undergoing a training retreat within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ all day would not be able to catch up with.

“This fellow... he actually reached the Dou Ling class after less than half a month?” Lin Xiuya and the others displayed faces that were similarly filled with surprise. Back then, when they had met Xiao Yan in the deep mountains, the latter's strength was at the very most around that of a eight or nine star Da Dou Shi. Although a person of this class was already not very far from the Dou Ling class, they, who had personally experienced this step, clearly knew just what kind of tough accumulation one must undertake in order to break through the barrier between a Da Dou Shi and a Dou Ling. Therefore, they could not help but feel stunned when they saw the degree of power of Xiao Yan's Qi.

“No wonder he faced Bai Cheng this time around. It is because he has advanced his strength, but even if that is the case, there is still a six star gap between Bai Cheng and him. This is not something that one can easily make up for.” Yan Hao also smiled and spoke on top of being shocked.

“I believe that he can win.” A smile surfaced on the cold face of Han Yue by the side. Back then, when Xiao Yan was merely a five or six star Da Dou Shi, he was already able to cause even a three star Dou Ling to feel great fear. Now that his strength had soared and advanced into the Dou Ling class, Han Yue still possessed quite a great amount of confidence despite the fact that Bai Cheng was six levels stronger.

“I also have some confidence in him. I wonder what that fellow thinking?” Lin Xiuya lazily stretched his waist. His gaze was thrown toward the faint human figure in the dark area while he smiled and spoke.

The moment when the viewing gallery was boiling because of the Qi that Xiao Yan had displayed, Bai Cheng was also startled. An astonishment drew past his eyes. It was a long while later before an additional seriousness gradually appeared on his face. He coldly said, "No wonder you are even more arrogant this time around. It is actually because your strength has advanced."

Xiao Yan's body trembled slightly. The clear sound of his bones colliding reverberated unceasingly, just like firecrackers within his body. Xiao Yan exhaled a long breath after this continued for a while. He smiled slightly as he sensed the enormous strength that filled his muscles and bones. While raising his head to eye Bai Cheng, his hand suddenly tightened its grip on the ruler's hilt. His feet slowly took a few steps forward as the heavy ruler in his hand was dragged on the ground, emitting a 'sha sha' sound. At the same time, it also brought about a white-colored trace on the hard ground.

Bai Cheng coldly watched Xiao Yan as the latter gradually approached. He sensed that increasingly strong Qi and his hand tightened his grip on the yellow-colored long spear slightly. His eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan's steps. Just as Xiao Yan had stepped into a radius of around ten meters from Bai Cheng's body, a low cry was emitted from the latter's mouth. Powerful dark-yellow Dou Qi, that was like thick yellow water, surged out from his body.

Bai Cheng's feet heavily stepped on the ground. His body transformed into a yellow shadow. Dou Qi swiftly agglomerated at the tip of his spear. Borrowing the charging force, his body was stacked with the body of the spear. Under the cover of the Dou Qi, his body and the long spear had basically merged together. The long spear cut through the air and the 'chi chi' sound it made was quite loud.

The charging strength of a strong six star Dou Ling would have a strength that could shatter an enormous rock on the spot. Xiao Yan did not meet Bai Cheng's ferocious opening attack head-on. A faint silver-colored glow was partially visible on his feet. As his body swayed, it strangely disappeared from his original spot.

Bai Cheng's expression changed slightly after having lost his target. This speed was such that he could only see a thread of a black line flashing past. Alarm immediately flashed across his heart. In the past, Xiao Yan definitely did not possess such speed. It was impossible for his speed to be raised to such a degree even if he had advanced his strength.

As this thought flashed across his heart in a lightning-like manner, the long spear in Bai Cheng's hand suddenly changed directions and pierced explosively toward his back.

"Clang!"

A clear sound that carried some sparks shot out from within the arena. The long spear which Bai Cheng used to pierce behind him blocked the enormous black ruler. The powerful force contained on the black ruler pressed the long spear until it bent slightly.

“The physical strength of this fellow has also soared greatly. Just what is happening? Even if he advanced his level, there should not be such a great increase. Now, regardless of whether it is in terms of strength, speed, or reaction speed, this fellow appears to have completely transformed from his previous self.” Bai Cheng’s face immediately revealed some changes as he sensed the strength that was being transmitted from the long spear. His heart also appeared to have monstrous wild waves rolling within it.

Xiao Yan was naturally not bothered by the shock in Bai Cheng’s heart. The heavy ruler in his hand carried an extremely suppressive rushing wind sound as it violently hacked down at Bai Cheng’s arm. The originally extremely heavy ruler danced even more lively and trickily in his hand than the long spear in Bai Cheng’s hand. Under this powerful and violent sweeping movement, even Bai Cheng had appeared a little hectic due to him being unable to react in time.

However, Bai Cheng was, after all, a strong six star Dou Ling, and had gradually become steady under Xiao Yan’s extremely heavy attacks. The powerful Dou Qi of a six star Dou Ling swarmed out in a mighty manner and received Xiao Yan’s attack that contained an extremely great weight. Following his familiarity, Bai Cheng also began to retaliate intensely. The long spear waved and danced. It was just like a poisonous snake that was hidden under the yellow sand. It was tricky and vicious and each time it pierced toward Xiao Yan, it would strike for some fatal spot.

Two human figures rushed and flashed in the battleground. Green and yellow Dou Qi rendered the entire battle circle into a two-colored world. Each time the heavy ruler and the long spear collided, they would shake and form a rippling force that was visible to the naked eye. This ripple would spread out and threads of crack lines began repeatedly spreading all over the hard ground.

“Bang!”

The heavy ruler and the long spear were pressed on each other. Xiao Yan violently collided with Bai Cheng. As the wind spread, Bai Cheng hurriedly took a few steps back while Xiao Yan took four steps back. Clearly, Xiao Yan may have an advantage in his physical strength, but at the moment, when the other party used the powerful Dou Qi of a six star Dou Ling, he still ends up being weaker.

A ‘xu xi’ sound was involuntarily emitted from the viewing gallery upon the sight of Xiao Yan being in a disadvantaged situation. The members of the ‘White Gang’ borrowed the opportunity to let out ridicule and laughing curses.

“Humph, it is just brute force. It cannot even enter my eye.” Bai Cheng waved his long spear after having gained the advantage in the collision. He coldly laughed, “If you are still going to rely on this brute force after this, you should just roll down by yourself.”

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth lifted into a cold smile when he heard this. Under everyone's gaze, he abruptly inserted the heavy ruler into the ground. His hands swiftly formed various strange hand seals. Following the formation of the hand seals, hot green-colored flame abruptly curled up from within his body. The green-colored flame wrapped him until he was ablaze. An instant later, however, the hot flame suddenly shrank back and finally entered Xiao Yan's body in a lightning-like manner.

"Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change: Green Lotus Change!"

Xiao Yan cried out softly in his heart. His body immediately trembled. Wild and violent energy suddenly surged out explosively from the veins within his body. Finally, it became like a torrent of flood water that flowed to every corner of his entire body.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth was lifted as he sensed the Dou Qi within his body soar abruptly. His hand once again grabbed the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler as he eyed Bai Cheng. He smiled and said, "Let's do this again!"

The moment Xiao Yan's words sounded, a 'bang' appeared. His body turned into a black line that rushed explosively toward Bai Cheng. Each time his feet landed, they would leave a half an inch deep footprints in the ground. That strong charging momentum was just like a human-shaped Magical Beast which possessed a great amount of charging force!

Chapter 525: Fighting a Six Star Dou Ling

Xun Er and the others were aware that Xiao Yan could suddenly unleash an extremely great strength. Therefore, they did not feel much surprise when they saw that his current strength had greatly soared. However, Lin Xiuya and the rest from high above involuntarily emitted a shocked 'huh' sound. They, who possessed powerful strength, were naturally able to discover that Xiao Yan's current strength had nearly caught up with Bai Cheng. This kind of large increase, or leap of strength, really caused others to be astonished. After all, that was a total six star gap.

"This fellow, no wonder I felt a faint solemn feeling when I first met him. It is actually because he possesses such tactics." Lin Xiuya's eyes suddenly danced with an additional surprise within. Clearly, this eruption by Xiao Yan had exceeded his expectations.

Beside him, Yan Hao's eyes were staring intently at Xiao Yan below. From the looks of his expression, he appeared to have quite a great interest in the way Xiao Yan suddenly unleashed his strength. He also nodded slightly when he heard Lin Xiuya's words before his gaze moved up and finally landed at a place where it was a little dark. He could faintly hear an extremely soft surprised exclamation being emitted from that spot.

“This time around, Bai Cheng has indeed kicked a metal plate. He might end up handing over his ranking on the ‘Strong Ranking.’” Yan Hao skimmed the corner of his mouth as he spoke with a gloating smile.

Lin Xiuya and the others laughed before they once again threw their gazes into the battle circle below.

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After Xiao Yan had displayed the ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change,’ his strength has undoubtedly reached a plain where he was able to contend with Bai Cheng for a short period of time. When Bai Cheng saw Xiao Yan, whose Qi had suddenly soared, charge over, his cold smiling face involuntarily changed a couple of times. He also knew a little about Xiao Yan being able to forcefully raise his strength. However, he did not really put that matter in his heart. From what he thought, this kind of method which forcefully increased one’s strength was ultimately an unorthodox method. One would return to one’s true form after the time limit had passed.

This disdain within his heart had begun to shake a little by the human figure in front, who was carrying lightning momentum in his attack. At this moment, Bai Cheng finally understood that he had truly underestimated Xiao Yan right from the beginning.

Bai Cheng clenched his teeth violently and tightly held the long spear in his hand. His eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan who was becoming increasingly close. A cold glint flashed in his eyes. He clearly knew what this battle meant for him. If he was to unluckily lose, his ranking on the ‘Strong Ranking’ might immediately be replaced by Xiao Yan. Moreover, even the reputation of his ‘White Gang’ would be reduced, resulting in a great decline in their position within the Inner Academy. Therefore, no matter how difficult it was to deal with the Xiao Yan in front of him, he had to use all means to defeat the latter today!

“What a wild and arrogant fellow. I shall let you see the true strength of an expert on the ‘Strong Ranking’ today! These mediocre tactics cause your confidence to be a little too full.” Some cold sharpness drew by Xiao Yan’s face. The dark-yellow Dou Qi was like a yellow river that flowed out from Bai Cheng’s body unceasingly. Finally, it wrapped his entire body. The surface of the light cluster was like a flood that flowed slowly, much like swirling water that emitted a yellow-colored glow.

The yellow-colored Dou Qi light cluster trembled. It immediately unleashed a low roar under everyone’s gazes. The long spear swiftly pierced out in a lightning-like manner. Each time the long spear pierced out, numerous afterimages would appear in front of him. The speed of Bai Cheng’s shaking long spear was very frightening. In merely an instant, the afterimages of the long spear covered by the space in front of it. At this moment, Xiao Yan, who was rushing over like a Magical Beast instantly appeared just outside the blockade of the spear shadows.

“Hah!”

The dark-yellow long spear afterimages paused in mid-air. A strange cold glow flashed on the tip of the spear. Under the strengthening of the dark-yellow Dou Qi, each of these afterimages possessed the strength to penetrate rock walls. Bai Cheng watched Xiao Yan who was already in close proximity. A cold cry suddenly erupted. Following the sound of the cry, the dark-yellow long spear afterimages, that covered the area in front, suddenly shot out explosively. In an instant, the sharp rushing wind sound began humming within the battle circle, appearing extremely eye-piercing.

There were many spear afterimages. By being able to agglomerate so many afterimages in one go, it was sufficient to show the strength of Bai Cheng’s ability. A member of the ‘Strong Ranking’ did deserve such a reputation.

If it was an ordinary Dou Ling, it was likely that the person would end up scrambling around for awhile under this sharp attack of Bai Cheng. However, Xiao Yan’s fighting experience was not the slightest bit inferior to Bai Cheng. Additionally, due to him having displayed the ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change,’ he also possessed the strength to contend with Bai Cheng head-on. Although the spear images flashed in front of his eyes and the breeze blew sternly, it did not cause Xiao Yan to show even the slightest sign of shrinking back. The enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand was abruptly lifted, and he immediately violently hacked it downward in an extremely plain manner.

“Break!”

The trace of the swing of the Heavy Xuan Ruler was extremely ordinary. There was not the slightest bit of fanciness within it. This ordinary hack, however, carried a matchless force that could split mountains and crack the land. The body of the ruler split the air and even left a faint black-colored trace in the air. A wild and violent wind formed under the ruler. Under this powerful pressure, the tough ground quietly cracked, forming a crack line. From this, one could see the strength of this current attack of Xiao Yan, Quite a number of people in the viewing gallery changed their expressions slightly upon seeing the great strength of this attack. This intense fight was really a little exciting.

“Clang, clang...”

Numerous spear shadows, containing a sharp wind, hit the heavy ruler. They repeatedly erupted into the clear sound of metal colliding. The spear shadows swiftly disappeared. Only the swiftly spreading forceful ripples allowed one to know where the intense exchange erupted from.

A large portion of the spear images disappeared. In the end, merely a few spear images remained before finally giving up their senseless defense. The spear body stilled and a substance-like long spear tore through the air in a lightning-like manner. The sharp wind swiftly agglomerated on the tip of the lance. It violently pierced toward Xiao Yan’s chest.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. He agilely withdrew the heavy ruler in his hand. Immediately, the ruler stood heavily in front of him just like a dark-black shield. That dark -yellow long spear hit against the wide body of the ruler.

The moment the two came into contact, the body of the spear suddenly unleashed a powerful force. Under this force, Xiao Yan's feet was dragged along the ground and moved backward for a total of two to three meters before coming to a stop.

"Hmph." Bai Cheng let out a cold snort after shaking and forcing Xiao Yan back. His hand that held the hilt of the spear shook slightly. The glow on the body of the spear suddenly became much brighter. An eye-piercing yellow-colored glow that was like a sun shone from within the battleground.

"Chi!"

As the yellow-colored glow became more intense, a yellow-colored energy sand snake suddenly rushed out. Its savage enormous mouth ferociously collided with the heavy ruler.

"Bang!"

A great and loud explosive sound erupted from the point where the two collided. A ripple force visible to the naked eye swiftly spread out. Numerous crack lines spread repeatedly from the hard ground under Xiao Yan's feet.

"Get lost!" Bai Cheng's palm heavily struck the hilt of the spear. The strength of a six star Dou Ling was unleashed without reserve at this moment. An incomparably powerful force struck the ruler's body. With a powerful lift by the tip of the spear, the dark-black heavy ruler emitted a 'xiu' sound and left Xiao Yan's hands under everyone's eyes. Finally, it rolled a couple of times in mid-air before being inserted into the ground outside the battle circle.

The viewing gallery was in an uproar the moment the heavy ruler left Xiao Yan's hand. Other than Xun Er and the others who understood Xiao Yan very well, even the members of 'Pan's Gate' involuntarily tightened their clenched fists. Their faces were filled with anxiety.

"Just how are you going to fight without your weapon?" The attack which contained all his strength finally got rid of Xiao Yan's weapon. In an instant, Bai Cheng saw that victory was within close proximity as he laughed out loud in a high-spirited manner. The long spear in his hand did not pause as it continued to pierce explosively toward Xiao Yan's chest.

Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows slightly when the heavy ruler left his hands. It must be said that Bai Cheng's spear techniques were even sharper and more vicious than Bai Shan's. The long spear was like lightning. When Xiao Yan sensed the faint piercing pain

feeling that rose from his chest, the silver-colored lightning surfaced from under his feet. His body trembled slightly and an extremely vague afterimage remained on the spot. His body, on the other hand, had appeared over ten meters from the original spot.

The long spear pierced through the afterimage in a lightning-like manner. It stirred slightly and struck it until it turned into nothingness. Bai Cheng raised his head and eyed Xiao Yan who was over ten meters away, "Are you still not going to admit defeat? If you get on your knees and beg for mercy, I can show you some. Otherwise, knives and spears do not have eyes. Do not blame this senior for being vicious if I were to cut or break your arm or leg later." The Inner Academy did not restrict one from using a killer move in a place like the Fighting Arena. In normal circumstances, however, most people would hold back a little unless the relationship between both parties was extremely terrible. After all, no matter how one put it, this was an academy and not a true bloody Fighting Arena.

Xiao Yan ignored the proud Bai Cheng. He randomly glanced at the heavy ruler outside of the arena before shaking his body slightly, sensing the flood of powerful Dou Qi. It had suddenly begun to flow at this moment only after it had escaped the strain of the Heavy Xuan Ruler.

Xiao Yan turned his gaze and eyed the dark and solemn ice-cold eyes belonging to Bai Cheng. He laughed softly, but did not open his mouth to speak. Silver glow once again appeared on his feet. He immediately stepped softly and his body was just like a ghost as it suddenly appeared beside Bai Cheng. His fist, was covered in a hot green-colored Dou Qi carried a hot wind and sharpness as it violently smashed toward Bai Cheng's head.

The frightening speed that Xiao Yan had displayed at this moment caused Bai Cheng's eyes to shrink suddenly. His head leaned back as a reflexive action, and the fist carrying hot wind drew by his face, causing it to feel a fiery hot pain.

"This fellow... why is that that his speed has suddenly soared again?" The black shadow that flashed in front of his eyes caused a monstrous startling wave to rise in Bai Cheng's heart as he scolded in a flustered and exasperated manner.

Not having understood Xiao Yan, Bai Cheng naturally did not know that when Xiao Yan detached from the Heavy Xuan Ruler, his fighting strength would be completely unleashed. For other people, losing their weapon may be a fatal blow, but for Xiao Yan, that was equivalent to helping remove a kind of restraint from him.

The Xiao Yan who was holding the Heavy Xuan Ruler was not frightening. The unarmed and barehanded Xiao Yan was a true fighting machine.

Chapter 526: Fighting Medicine (Drugs?)

The wind from the palm rubbed past the front of Bai Cheng. However, before Bai Cheng had the chance to rejoice within his heart, Xiao Yan's elbow suddenly smashed down violently. The sharp wind gathered around Xiao Yan's elbow, and the ear-piercing sound caused people to rub their ears since they were being shaken with pain.

Bai Cheng held the long spear tightly with his right hand and got it to make contact with the ground, stabilizing his body that was leaning back. His hand hurriedly charged forward before finally coming into heavy contact with Xiao Yan's elbow. Forceful ripples spread out and the faint 'ka cha' sound of bones cracking appeared.

Bai Cheng completely felt the powerful strength contained in Xiao Yan's elbow as his fist made contact with it. His expression immediately became pale. Under this powerful force, his body that was tilted back was forcefully smashed into the ground. Threads of crack lines began spreading from the spot where he fell.

Xiao Yan's face was indifferent. He did not pause for even a moment. Green-colored Dou Qi swiftly agglomerated as he immediately kicked at the head of Bai Cheng, who had fallen on the ground. From his stance, if his kick were to connect, Bai Cheng would at the very least become unconscious on the spot even given his strength.

Bai Cheng's entire body erupted in cold sweat as he faced the sharp wind that was kicked toward his face. At that moment, he could not be bothered about appearing awkward. His body rolled on the ground and narrowly dodged this attack from Xiao Yan.

Less than a minute had passed in the battleground since the heavy ruler had left Xiao Yan until the current miserable rolling of Bai Cheng. However, this situation which was completely different from everyone's expectations caused the people in the viewing gallery to be completely stunned. Those members of the 'White Gang' who were originally laughing in a mocking manner were just like ducks with their necks being squeezed. They now emitted a hoarse 'ah' sound from their throats, and were no longer laughing wildly like they did earlier.

Compared to the duck-like dry cries of the members of 'White Gang,' the side where the members of 'Pan's Gate' stood began to cheer loudly. Originally, they thought that Xiao Yan would completely descend into a disadvantage after losing his heavy ruler. It was really unexpected that he actually made a big comeback, beating Bai Cheng, who was supposed to have gained the upperhand, until he was rolling all over the ground. This unexpected situation caused the tensed faced members of 'Pan's Gate' to involuntarily let out waves of cheers. Some of those who were impulsive even returned the ridicule and laughing curses back to the members of 'White Gang,' who had been acting triumphant earlier, infuriating them until their faces turned green.

"Xiao Yan's closed range combat is quite strong. From the strength and speed which he attacked, it appears that he is even stronger than when he was wielding the black ruler earlier?" High above the Fighting Arena, Yan Hao involuntarily spoke in a somewhat surprised manner after seeing Xiao Yan erupt in an instant.

“He is not just a little stronger.” Lin Xiuya knit his brows slightly. He could vaguely sense an even more powerful Qi after the heavy ruler left his hand. He thought a little in his heart before his gaze turned toward the Heavy Xuan Ruler, which had fallen outside of the battleground. He softly said, “I think that the problem should be on this ruler.”

Yan Hao and the rest reacted upon hearing Lin Xiuya’s reminder. Yan Hao recalled how Xiao Yan’s strength soared after the heavy ruler left his hand, and immediately nodded his head after coming to a sudden understanding.

“This fellow is really unexpected in every way.”

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Bai Cheng took advantage of his position to leap to his feet after his body rolled miserably on the ground once. When he heard the laughter from the viewing gallery, his face involuntarily changed between green and white. A long while later, it once again returned to its gloomy look from before. His eyes were icy-cold as he eyed Xiao Yan and said in a dark manner, “Good fellow, you actually still have this move. I have really underestimated you.”

Xiao Yan extended his hands slightly in front of him. He let out a long breath. Following that carefree hand to hand combat earlier, the potential strength within his body appeared to have awoken at this moment, causing him to have a comfortable feeling that gave him the urge to face the sky to roar. This battle had quite the benefit for Xiao Yan, who had just advanced his strength.

“You had a time when you viewed me seriously?” Xiao Yan tilted his head slightly as he let out a mocking smile. Before the other party replied, the silver glow under his feet flashed. His human figure once again appeared beside Bai Cheng in a ghost-like manner. Carrying a sharp wind, his fist, elbow, legs and other parts of his body that could be used to attack were all used at this instant. Numerous afterimages remained in mid-air. They carried a humming sound from the wind as he threw an unceasing number of blows on the fighting platform, like a wild wind.

Since he had the experience from the last attack, Bai Cheng was no longer as lost as he was when faced with Xiao Yan’s wild and violent attacks. The long spear in his hand danced and he was able to see some afterimages of the attack coming down at him.

Two human figures flashed and moved within the battle circle. The green-colored and dark-yellow Dou Qi emitted thunder-like explosions each time they collided. As the force spread, numerous crack lines on the ground were swiftly spreading out at a speed visible to the naked eye.

“Bang, bang!”

The low and soft sounds of collision were repeatedly emitted from the battleground. In the end, one could only vaguely see two blurry clusters of light figures due to the both of them doing their utmost to unleash their Dou Qi. Powerful pressuring force pressed on the bodies of the audience over ten meters away, causing them to feel that their breathing was unsmooth.

Quite a number of people on the viewing gallery were quietly speechless as they eyed the incomparably ferocious collisions. Just looking at this exchange by the both of them, they were actually at a stage where they were equally matched. This caused some people to be stunned. Bai Cheng's reputation in the Inner Academy may not be comparable to that of Lin Xiuya and the others, but no matter how one put it, he was also an expert on the 'Strong Ranking.' His strength could enter the top tier level even when placed in the entire Inner Academy. Now, however, Xiao Yan, the new student who had entered the Inner Academy less than half a year ago, was actually able to fight with him until such a stage without appearing to be losing. This achievement really caused some of the students who had entered the Inner Academy earlier than Xiao Yan to feel ashamed.

As the fight entered into a white-hot stage, the noise from the viewing gallery also became much softer. Many people molded cold sweat in their palms as they eyed the flashing of the two clusters of light. At this moment, both parties had already completely unleashed their strength. If one's movements were slightly sluggish at any point, it was likely that his opponent would grab the opening and unleash a decisive attack.

Actually, now that the fight had progressed to such a stage, it was likely that Xiao Yan's reputation would not suffer too much of a blow even if he were to lose. After all, no matter how one put it, Bai Cheng was an older student who had been in the Inner Academy for two to three years. Being able to fight with Bai Cheng to the point where they were evenly matched despite having only entered the Inner Academy less than half a year ago, Xiao Yan's ability was sufficient enough to cause most of the people in the Inner Academy to look at him with admiration. On the other hand, the burden that Bai Cheng obtained from this kind of battle result far exceeded what Xiao Yan faced. Hence, he clearly understood in his heart that he must not end up in a draw with Xiao Yan in this battle. Otherwise, he would be using his reputation to let Xiao Yan gain an achievement.

A dark, vicious glint flashed across Bai Cheng's eyes. He could not help but feel a little anxious in his heart. Originally, he thought that it would not be difficult to finish off Xiao Yan, who had just advanced to the Dou Ling class, should he unleash all his strength. However, he did not expect to be dragged by Xiao Yan into a deadlock. No matter how sharp his attack was, the latter would be just like a chewing gum that firmly stuck to him. The physical attacks that contained a powerful force rained unceasingly, causing him to be unable to display the long spear attacks that he specialized in. Bai Cheng could not help but show some anxiety under this kind of entangled situation.

"I must defeat this little bastard no matter what! Looks like I can only use that thing." A thought once again flashed across Bai Cheng's heart. His face suddenly became much more ferocious. His right hand held the long spear tightly as he resisted Xiao Yan. His left hand was stretched out and a purple-red medicinal pill rolled down into his hands from within his sleeves. He immediately and swiftly stuffed it into his mouth.

The moment the medicinal pill entered his mouth, a strange purple-red color instantly swarmed onto Bai Cheng's face. A low roar was emitted from his throat as the dark-yellow Dou Qi rising from his body suddenly surged out uncontrollably. There appeared to be a faint purple-red color mixed in with the dark-yellow Dou Qi.

Xiao Yan's fist heavily smashed on the rod of the spear. The rod portion of the spear was bent slightly. Immediately, it abruptly unleashed an extremely powerful strength. Under the reflection of this force, Xiao Yan could not react in time and could only take a step back. However, just as his feet stabilized, the yellow figure in front of him flashed forward Bai Cheng, whose speed had suddenly soared greatly, waved the spear with his strength and heavily brandished the rod of the spear against Xiao Yan's hand.

"Bang!"

A low and deep sound appeared. An intense pain was felt on Xiao Yan's hand. Bai Cheng's sudden increase in strength shook Xiao Yan, and forced him to step back until he was five to six meters away. Moreover, this heavy blow also caused Xiao Yan's expression to be a little paler.

The sudden appearance of such a change in the originally anxious battleground caused the people in the viewing gallery to be a little surprised. They were startled when their gazes saw Bai Cheng, whose expression had become a lot more purplish-red. Some of the sharp-eyed people were the first to shout out loud, "Bai Cheng consumed a medicinal pill!"

The entire place appeared to have begun to tremble upon hearing this shouting. Although consuming medicinal pills within the Fighting Arena was not against the rules, the opponent of Bai Cheng was merely a new student who had not even been in the Inner Academy for half a year no matter how one put it. Consuming a medicinal pill to raise one's strength in a fight with an opponent who was originally weaker really caused people to despise him.

Xiao Yan's footsteps swiftly stepped on the ground. He resolved the force and lifted his head to coldly watch Bai Cheng, whose face was not only purple-red but some purple red color also surfaced in his eyes. He knit his brows slightly as he coldly smiled and said, "It is not a bad medicinal pill to actually be able to raise one's strength to this level in one go."

"The victor is the king and the loser is the bandit. In a true life and death battle, no one will care about how the battle was fought. The ending is the most important!" Bai Cheng

darkly said. Since things had developed to this extent, he was too lazy to search for an excuse. Currently, he could only beat Xiao Yan half to death. If he had the chance, he even thought about crippling Xiao Yan. Ever since this fellow had entered the Inner Academy, Bai Cheng never had a day of peace.

“Senior Bai Cheng has spoken well.” Xiao Yan watched Bai Cheng in front of him. A moment later, Xiao Yan smiled and nodded against everyone’s expectations. He immediately rolled his fingers and a sleek, dark-red, round medicinal pill appeared between his fingers. He raised his eyes slightly and eyed Bai Cheng on the opposite side as he smiled and said, “Since Senior Bai Cheng has put it this way, Xiao Yan also cannot correct it. I have yet to try the effects of this ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ ever since I refined it. Today, I shall let Senior Bai Cheng try it.”

Bai Cheng’s eyes stared intently at the dark-red medicinal pill between Xiao Yan’s fingers. His face instantly became ugly when he heard the name of the medicinal pill.

Chapter 527: A Powerful Strike

‘Dragon Strength Pill.’ Bai Cheng was not unfamiliar with the name of this medicinal pill. It was a tier five medicinal pill that even Han Xian could not refine back then. One could get a glimpse of just how great its effect would be by the appearance of those Elders back then. The medicinal pill that he had consumed earlier was named ‘Beast Strength Pill.’ It was merely a medicinal pill that had barely reached that of the fourth tier and it had an effect that was similar to that of the ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’ Both of them could increase the strength of the person who consumed it by a little for a short period of time. However, the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ had a degree of increase that was even stronger than the other pill. Hence, Bai Cheng’s expression immediately turned extremely ugly when he saw that Xiao Yan had actually taken out the ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’

“You... are actually willing?” The corner of Bai Cheng’s mouth quivered slightly. One could not differentiate whether it was fear or bitterness in his voice.

“Ke ke, since Senior Bai Cheng is willing to take out a medicinal pill to consume, I, as an alchemist, cannot lose face, no?” Xiao Yan exposed his teeth in a smile. The white shiny teeth caused a coldness to form in Bai Cheng’s bones. Only now did the latter understand that this fellow in front of him, who appeared to be friendly and kind, was even more frightening than anyone else should he really become mad.

The ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ may be valuable, but Xiao Yan already possessed its medicinal formula. As long as he gathered all the necessary medicinal ingredients, it would not be considered too difficult for him to refine it. Moreover, Bai Cheng’s strength was indeed quite strong. This was a point that even Xiao Yan had to admit. Even after displaying the ‘Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change,’ he merely came to a stalemate with Bai Cheng. If this stalemate were to continue, he would be the one who was at the greatest disadvantage.

The 'Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change' may be able to increase a person's strength greatly, but there was a time limit to it. Once the time limit passed, Xiao Yan's strength would decline greatly. At that time, the situation would be even worse. Now that Bai Cheng had taken the lead in using a medicinal pill, it did indeed give Xiao Yan one additional path. Originally, he planned to endure a little longer before displaying the 'Angry Buddha Flame,' a decisive attack. However, Xiao Yan did not really want to display one of his triumph cards in front of so many eyes. Although there were quite a number of people who had heard the rumors of him having an extremely powerful fire lotus Dou Techniques, many people had only heard of it and had not witnessed it with their eyes. There were too many strong people in this Fighting Arena and quite a number of people with sharp eyes. It would naturally be best that he used less of his trump cards at this time. He might even be able to obtain the effect of catching his opponent off guard if he meet a true opponent in a future fight.

Therefore, Xiao Yan was happy instead of angry when he saw that Bai Cheng took the lead to consume a medicinal pill. This way, he also had a sufficient excuse to use the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' He could even give Bai Cheng tit for a tat.

"This fellow Bai Cheng... he really seeks his bad luck by himself." Everyone in the viewing gallery could not help but sigh quietly in their hearts when they saw the ugly expression on Bai Cheng's face.

Xiao Yan rubbed the sleek and round medicinal pill between two fingers. Under everyone's gazes, he stuffed the 'Dragon Strength Pill' in his mouth and chewed slowly. His throat moved and he swallowed it into his stomach. As the medicinal pill entered his body, a wave of boiling hot flow instantly began to surge out from within his body. Finally, it became like a surging flood that gushed through his veins. Xiao Yan could feel his body instantly fill with strength wherever the boiling hot flow passed. That extremely filled and comfortable feeling gave Xiao Yan the impulse to raise his head to the sky and let out a long roar.

Xiao Yan twisted his body. An extremely clear bone cracking sound began to appear throughout the battleground. The unceasing sound continued for two to three minutes. Moreover Xiao Yan, after consuming the 'Dragon Strength Pill,' vaguely discovered that Bai Cheng on the opposite side had become a little smaller. He was immediately startled. Lowering his head, he looked at his body and was stunned to discover that it was not that Bai Cheng had become smaller rather his own body had become a lot taller and larger at this moment than what it was earlier. In the past, Xiao Yan's body appeared to be somewhat skinny but his current body size was nearly comparable to that large built Yan Hao.

This change in Xiao Yan's body size also caused everyone in the viewing gallery to be stunned. They eyed the numerous small snake-like bulging green veins on the former's hand and involuntarily wiped off some cold sweat. Were these the effects of a tier five medicinal pill? It appeared that the medicinal effects were so strong that they were a little overboard, no?

Of course, on top of those exclamations, there were quite a number of people who could not resist sighing continuously at the prodigal behavior of Xiao Yan. That was a tier five medicinal pill. Was it not overkill to use it to deal with Bai Cheng?

Xiao Yan tightened his fist and threw a few 'hu hu' punches in front of him. He did not add even the slightest bit of Dou Qi to them. By just relying on the strength of his physical body, Xiao Yan was able to hear an explosive sound vibrate through the air. Each time his fist was thrown out, a shapeless air cannonball would be compressed and violently shot out due to the great strength of the wind. When these air cannonballs landed on the ground, they would immediately leave a hole that was neither big nor small amid a low and deep sound.

"It is indeed worthy of being a tier five medicinal pill. Its medicinal effects are actually quite frightening." The powerful energy that was gushing out of his body in a flood-like manner caused Xiao Yan to have an impulse to carry something and beat it up viciously. He raised his head and his eyes landed on Bai Cheng in front of him with ill intent. He let out a cold smile and the silver glow appeared under his feet. With a gentle sway, his body appeared in front of Bai Cheng in a ghost-like manner. This speed was a little more frightening than what it was earlier.

Bai Cheng had already experienced just how frightening Xiao Yan's speed was. Therefore, his heart had remained cautious at all times. It was due to this that his body had suddenly tensed the moment that Xiao Yan's body moved. The long spear that was covered by dark-yellow Dou Qi in his hand immediately and viciously pierced explosively toward Xiao Yan who had appeared in front of him.

After having consumed the 'Dragon Strength Pill,' Xiao Yan discovered that not only did his strength soar explosively, but his eyesight had also become much keener. Although Bai Cheng's long spear was hidden within Dou Qi, making it difficult for someone to identify its attacking path, Xiao Yan was still able to sense it. He leaned his head toward the left and very narrowly avoided the sharp wind from the spear. At the same time, he extended his hand in a lightning-like manner and grabbed the pole of the spear that had just passed by his ear. The incomparably strong strength in his hand caused the long spear, that contained powerful Dou Qi, to be unable to move by even the slightest.

Bai Cheng's expression involuntarily became much gloomier when his long spear was grabbed. He rotated his right hand and dark-yellow Dou Qi swiftly formed in his palm. Finally, he suppressed it rapidly and it instantly formed a cluster of brown-colored light the size of his palm. His mouth let out a sharp cry and the light cluster violently struck toward Xiao Yan.

"Mysterious Mud Condensing Spin!"

This condensed brown-colored light cluster clearly possessed a great amount of offensive strength. Although its distance to Xiao Yan was at least a couple of feet, it had already caused an extremely sharp rushing wind sound to appear within this short

distance. Dark-yellow light arcs formed on the sunken surface of the light cluster. The air in front of the cluster of light appeared to have been stripped away at this moment.

The brown-colored light cluster swiftly expanded within those dark-black eyes. Xiao Yan did not shrink back even a little. The strength which filled his body needed to be vented out. Therefore, Xiao Yan did not have the slightest hesitation when faced with this sharp attack by Bai Cheng. His palm-leaf like giant palm was tightly clenched into a fist that heavily smashed toward the brown-colored light glow.

Xiao Yan still did not use the slightest bit of Dou Qi. However, an ear-piercing explosion began to sound within the battleground much like firecrackers.

“Bang!”

The short few feet of distance was covered in the blink of an eye. Both of them did not have the slightest bit of time to think when the fist and palm collided heavily together. A clear and loud explosion immediately sounded in this Fighting Arena, much like a thunder. A powerful ripple force began swiftly spreading from the point where the two made contact. The hard ground began rolling around like a field plowed by a bull.

The energy ripple spread out. Bai Cheng’s expression turned white. A wild and violent force that was transmitted from his palm nearly caused his entire arm to descend into a numb state. His arm trembled. At that moment, he could not be bothered about the long spear. His feet swiftly withdrew. Each time a foot fell, he would leave behind a half an inch deep footprint in the ground. This continued for dozens of steps before he completely resolved the force. He halted his footsteps and a sweetness swarmed into his throat, which was swallowed by him.

The dust that spread all over the battleground scattered. Xiao Yan’s enormous body was revealed. Looking at the spot where he was standing, it appeared that he had only taken a single step back. The dark-yellow long spear in his hand told everyone just who had the upperhand in the intense exchange earlier...

Xiao Yan held the dark-yellow long spear in his hand. He randomly glanced at the ugly expression of Bai Cheng. With a careless throw, he threw the long spear out of the battleground. No one knew whether it was on purpose or otherwise, but the spot where the long spear landed was coincidentally the spot where Bai Cheng had sent the Heavy Xuan Ruler flying to earlier.

“Ke ke, looks like that medicinal pill of Senior Bai Cheng’s appears to be inferior to that of the ‘Dragon Strength Pill.’” Xiao Yan laughed at Bai Cheng. His smile, however, was void of any warmth and was as cold as ice.

Bai Cheng pulled at the corner of his mouth slightly. This arrogant attitude of Xiao Yan caused him to be enraged to the point of spitting fire. However, on top of being furious, he could not help but feel some regret. If he did not consume a medicinal pill, he could

borrow the opportunity to ridicule the other party using the 'Dragon Strength Pill'. However, he was currently just like a mute eating rhizome. He could only swallow the bitterness that he had searched out for himself.

"The fight is yet to be over." A dark and cold snort was emitted. At this moment, Bai Cheng could only go all out in the fight. The dark-yellow Dou Qi surged out of his body and rotated unceasingly around the surface of his body. A moment later, it actually agglomerated into a substance-like deep-yellow armor.

The defense of ground affinity Dou Qi was quite good. The Dou Qi Armor that Bai Cheng agglomerated with his current strength had a defensive strength that was so powerful that it was frightening. Faced with the powerful strength of Xiao Yan, this kind of ground affinity Dou Qi Armor had quite a good counter effect.

Bai Cheng merely needed less than ten seconds to agglomerate his armor. The instant the armor took shape, Xiao Yan once again moved his ghost-like figure. The sharp wind from his fist smashed angrily toward Bai Cheng.

"Bang!"

Xiao Yan's fist heavily smashed against the yellow-colored Dou Qi Armor and the yellow-colored flowing water-like energy fluctuated swiftly. Most of the energy was received by it in a head-on manner. The remaining small portion was actually reflected back toward Xiao Yan.

"Deng deng!"

Bai Cheng took another two steps back before stabilizing his body. His expression returned to normal as he raised his head. He smiled and said to Xiao Yan, "Your brutal strength is quite good, but don't you know that ground affinity Dou Qi Armor has the greatest defense? I may perhaps have difficulty obtaining victory in this battle, but it will definitely be impossible for you to defeat me even if you have the 'Dragon Strength Pill!'"

"Is that so? In that case, I shall allow you to see just how I am going to break this tortoise shell of yours!" A cold ridicule raised in Xiao Yan's eyes. Under everyone's gaze, Xiao Yan stepped forward. His body once again appeared in front of Bai Cheng. He tightly clenched his fist and pulled it back to his lower abdomen. An instant later, it suddenly struck out as a cold smile spread from the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth.

"Octane Blast!"

As the fist moved, a change suddenly occurred to its strength. An incomparably sharp wind was formed on his fist. An ear-piercing explosive sound could clearly be heard throughout the entire Fighting Arena!

At this moment, shock and fear finally surfaced on Bai Cheng's face, which had contained a cold smile just a moment ago.

Chapter 528: Defeating the Opponent

Xiao Yan's fist had become a little larger after swallowing the 'Dragon Strength Pill.' Adding the increase in strength from the 'Octane Blast' Dou Technique to that of the medicinal effect, the frightening wind that was contained on Xiao Yan's fist nearly caused the faces of most of the people in the viewing gallery to be filled with shock. This kind of strength was something that even some people who had reached that of a seven or eight star elite Dou Ling might have difficulty displaying.

The wind formed on Xiao Yan's fist. The air in front of him was also completely dispersed under this strike of his. His fist plowed through the empty space and vaguely contained a hot wind. A faint shadow of a fist was left behind wherever the fist passed.

Before the fist truly made contact with Bai Cheng, the air, that had been suppressed because of the strong and violent wind, had already shot heavily toward the thick dark-yellow Dou Qi Armor. A clear explosion immediately sounded and a dent the size of a palm appeared on the armor. However, the appearance of the dent merely lasted for an instant before it was completely repaired by the swiftly flowing Dou Qi.

This attack of Xiao Yan caused the sharp wind from the fist to lock the air around Bai Cheng, causing him to have nowhere to dodge. Therefore, the latter could only widen his eyes, which were filled with fear, as he eyed the enormous fist swiftly magnify in his eyes.

Under this punch which contained nearly all of Xiao Yan's strength, everyone in the viewing gallery had lowered their voices as their eyes followed the repeated movement of the fist.

"Bang!"

Xiao Yan's fist that contained a strong force finally collided with the thick Dou Qi Armor under the eyes of everyone present, who had halted their breathing. The moment they came into contact silence ensued. Immediately, a thunder-like explosion erupted from the battleground.

The instant the thunder-like explosion sounded, the most terrifying forceful ripple, since the beginning of the fight, surged out from the point where the fist and the Dou Qi armor came into contact.

This circular ripple was visible to the naked eye. The ripple expanded at a rapid pace, and in the few blinks of an eye, it scattered out from the battle circle. It gradually turned into oblivion after reaching a distance of dozens of meters away.

The ripple force did not cause crack lines to immediately form on the battleground like it did a couple of times before. Instead, numerous destructive energies, much like time bombs reaching their detonation time, erupted under the numerous shocked gazes after a few seconds of silence.

“Bang!”

A few seconds after the ripple force spread out, the originally quiet battleground appeared to have been struck by a bomb. In a short instant, the rock ground surface burst apart. Crack lines as thick as one’s arm spread out in all directions while fist-sized rock fragments shot everywhere, causing the people in the viewing gallery to hurriedly dodge them. At this moment, this extremely hard battleground had completely turned into ruins!

Smoke rose. Only the spot in the battleground where Xiao Yan and Bai Cheng were located did not move. Xiao Yan’s fist was still tightly pasted on the latter’s Dou Qi Armor. His fist appeared to be steady, but without strength. Following an increase in the trembling, the Dou Qi Armor became even more illusory, allowing everyone to understand that this armor with extremely shocking defense appeared to have entered the stage where it was about to burst apart.

A thread of bright-red blood seeped out from the corner of Bai Cheng’s mouth. Although the armor was there to withstand most of the strength, that faint force still caused him to be a little wounded.

Bai Cheng grit his teeth. His eyes were furious and cold as he eyed Xiao Yan in front of him. He used all his strength to push the little remaining Dou Qi in his body into the Dou Qi Armor, causing the illusory armor to once again become more substance-like. He clearly understood in his heart that the remaining force on Xiao Yan’s fist would cause him to descend into a serious injury should his Dou Qi Armor disappear at this moment! Therefore, he must endure even if he had to go all out and stake his life!

As long as he managed to endure, he may perhaps have the hope of victory. This was because he clearly understood that Xiao Yan was likely to have already reached the point where he was running out of steam after having displayed such a powerful blow.

Now, it depended on who could endure for a longer time!

Water-like energy swiftly rippled over the Dou Qi Armor. Bai Cheng’s original strength was far stronger than Xiao Yan and the Qi Technique which he practiced was of the Middle Xuan class. The degree of Dou Qi recovery by a Qi Technique of this class was quite strong. Therefore, Bai Cheng actually felt like he might be able to endure.

“Hei, Xiao Yan... *cough*... looks like even the heavens stand on my side.” Bai Cheng spoke in a hoarse voice. A smile involuntarily surfaced on his pale white face as he felt the strength on Xiao Yan’s fist gradually become weaker with the flow of time.

"That may not be the case." Xiao Yan raised his head slightly. A cold smile lifted on his face. An uneasiness immediately rose in Bai Cheng's heart when he saw this smile. Due to the weakening of the wind from the fist, the surrounding locked space had disappeared at this moment. The latter immediately gave a violent kick toward Xiao Yan's throat.

Xiao Yan threw his hand down and blocked Bai Cheng's feet. His body flashed and appeared on a piece of cracked ground. Perhaps it was due to his strength being exhausted, but Xiao Yan's current speed was obviously much slower compared to before.

"Hee hee, why? Have you reached your limit? In that case, next... what are you doing?" Bai Cheng's eyes brightened when he saw Xiao Yan's speed. However, before he said all that he wanted to say, he saw that Xiao Yan had suddenly extended his palm toward him from a distance. Immediately, the uneasiness in his heart grew even greater as he cried out sternly.

"I'm sorry. Senior Bai Cheng, it is over. I shall help you sit on that position of yours on the 'Strong Ranking.'" The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth lifted into a cold smile. The hand which he used to face Bai Cheng was suddenly clenched. In a deep voice, he said, "Explode!"

Xiao Yan's voice had just sounded when a sudden, deep, muffled explosion could abruptly be heard by everyone whose heads were still completely at a loss. Everyone's eyes hurriedly followed the explosion and moved before finally becoming stunned as they stopped at where Bai Cheng was. The latter's face was suddenly as pale as a sheet. That vaguely visible Dou Qi Armor that was originally on his body had completely burst apart. His clothes under the Dou Qi Armor had also shattered. A blood-red, eye-piercing wound appeared on his chest under the gazes of everyone. Looking at the situation of the injury, it did not appear to be an external injury. Instead, it appeared to be created by collisions from inside his body.

Bai Cheng's expression was pale white. He lowered his head with some difficulty and eyed the blood imprint on his chest. Earlier, he had sensed an extremely obscure hidden force secretly erupting from his body. The eruption of this thread of hidden force completely caused him to enter a seriously injured condition!

"Grug!"

"You... you..."

A mouthful of fresh, bright-red blood was wildly vomited out, dyeing the already ruined battleground until it appeared extremely eye-piercing. He stared intently at the somewhat pale white face of Xiao Yan. Bai Cheng pointed his finger at the latter and said 'you' for a long time. Finally, he did not manage to spit out another word. His feet

moved a couple of times trying to maintain his balance before he collapsed under numerous shocked gazes.

The entire Fighting Arena descended into a strange silence as they eyed Bai Cheng who had fainted. Many people could not recover. A six star expert Dou Ling whose name was on the 'Strong Ranking' was actually defeated by the hands of a new student who had not even been at the Inner Academy for half a year? Although some people had guessed this since the start of the fight, everyone still felt some disbelief when the fact appeared in front of them.

Xiao Yan covered his mouth and let out a couple of intense cough in the quiet atmosphere. The intense battle earlier had exhausted him greatly. Moreover, due to him having used the 'Sky Fire Three Mysterious Change' and swallowing the 'Dragon Strength Pill,' his entire body emitted a tired feeling the moment his tensed mind relaxed.

The silence was broken by Xiao Yan's coughing sound. Quickly following this a thunder-like cheer suddenly erupted. The members of 'Pan's Gate' emitted loud, wild laughter at this moment. The numerous elated roars gathered together and shot to the clouds.

"Roar! Chief, you are good!"

"Chief, you are the strongest! Oh yeah!"

Compared to the wild joy of the members of 'Pan's Gate,' the members of 'White Gang,' who were still incomparably arrogant at the start, had become feeble as their faces turned yellow. They no longer dared to let out any ridiculing curses.

Being infected by the wild atmosphere from the members of 'Pan's Gate,' the other people in the audiences gently clapped their hands. The soul-stirring fight earlier was enough to give this clap, from their hearts, to these victors.

Hu Jia and Wu Hao also heaved a heavy sigh of relief at this moment. They eyed Xiao Yan below and nodded their heads slightly. He was indeed worthy of being a person that caused them to willingly accept defeat. His actions really caused people's blood to boil within their hearts.

Xun Er agilely moved her body and appeared beside Xiao Yan. She gently supported him. When her gaze saw his pale-white face, she involuntarily said with some heartache, "Are you alright?"

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He patted Xun Er's head and indicated that he was fine before his gaze glanced at the unconscious Bai Cheng. When he had turned around and was just about to leave, his expression slightly changed. He suddenly raised his head and eyed a certain spot outside the battleground in the Fighting Arena.

There was a sharp overbearing aura spreading out from that spot, and had faintly covered Xiao Yan's body.

"May I know which senior views Xiao Yan as an eyesore? I may currently be injured, but I will definitely take you on if you want to fight!" Xiao Yan's eyes slowly turned cold as he spoke in an indifferent voice.

The noisiness of the arena suddenly ceased when everyone heard Xiao Yan's voice. Numerous gazes followed Xiao Yan's sight and looked over before eventually stopping on dark spot somewhere high above. The Fighting Arena did not lack strong people. Their faces involuntarily changed a little after sensing the overbearing and sharp force seeping out from that spot.

"You are quite bold."

A tall, large person slowly walked out from the dark corner under the focus of everyone's gazes. His body leaped out and finally landed heavily on the battleground like a cannonball. Due to the strong and violent manner in which his body landed, it resulted in the enormous rock that his leg made contact with erupting in numerous crack lines.

The tall and large figure slowly walked toward Xiao Yan. That overbearing aura carried a pressure, which caused one's breathing to become dull, enveloped the entire battleground.

Xiao Yan's eyes were ice-cold as he eyed this tall, large man with an unusually overbearing aura in front of him. His eyes narrowed. "Tyrant Spear Liu Qing?"

Chapter 529: A Slap

The man who appeared in the battleground had a tall and large body which was not much different from the ape-like body of Yan Hao. He wore a chinese garment, and had a resolute face. His eyebrows were quite thick, and he was carrying a dark-black heavy spear that was as tall as him on his back. This black-colored long spear was longer than any spear Xiao Yan had ever seen before. This spear also carried a sharp tyrant-like aura, much like its owner.

The main character of the arena appeared to have changed to this person the moment he appeared. This kind of sharp aura was something that no one dared to underestimate no matter where it was placed.

The first impression the man in front of Xiao Yan gave off could be described with one word: Tyrant!

Regardless of whether it was his figure, appearance, or even the black-colored heavy spear behind his back, they were all filled with a similar feeling. This aura was one that

belonged to only one person within the Inner Academy, third on the 'Strong Ranking,' Tyrant Spear Liu Qing!

The appearance of this man caused the entire Fighting Arena to descend into silence. Those gazes that were shot down from the viewing gallery faintly carried some fear and respect. Merely a couple of people, who could be counted with one's fingers, could talk face to face with this strong person who belonged to the peak of the Inner Academy.

The man glanced at Xiao Yan before his eyes immediately drifted to the unconscious Bai Cheng not far away. A powerful low voice was emitted faintly, "It is really unexpected that you were actually able to defeat Bai Cheng."

"I was merely lucky." Xiao Yan sucked the Heavy Xuan Ruler at one side with his palm and pulled it into his hand. His manner was totally calm, like an old well without the slightest ripple. He was not the least bit affected by the other person's status.

"We also have some conflict between us." Liu Qing did not utter any additional nonsense as he stared at Xiao Yan and suddenly spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan knit his brows slightly. Xiao Yan was naturally clearly aware that the 'some conflict' mentioned was the matter with Liu Fei back then. At this moment, he didn't make any excuses. The remaining Dou Qi within his body moved along his Qi Paths and slowly flowed, readying him to handle any fight that might erupt suddenly.

"Cousin." A few figures leaped down from the viewing gallery during the time that Liu Qing was conversing with Xiao Yan. Leading the group was a beautiful lady who happily called out to Liu Qing in a leisurely manner before she obediently stood behind him. However, the gaze which she vaguely threw toward Xiao Yan contained some pride.

"The right and wrong of the matter back then is something that others all know. Xiao Yan ge-ge did nothing wrong in this matter. Don't think that you can be filled with haughtiness within the Inner Academy just because your strength is quite strong. If you really come and stand for other people without discriminating between what is right and what is wrong, I, Xiao Xun Er, will accept the challenge." Xun Er's face sunk when she saw the circumstances. She ignored Xiao Yan, who was stopping her, as she took a step forward and coldly spoke.

Liu Qing was startled when he was reprimanded by Xun Er this rudely. His gaze immediately carried some surprise as he weighed Xun Er in front of him. With his talent and ability, there was seldom anyone who spoke in this manner to him no matter where he was. He felt quite curious now that he was rebuked by Xun Er in this manner. Moreover, his gaze had paused on Xun Er for some time due to her extremely alluring demeanor.

"Hmph, just what thing are you? Is my cousin someone you can reprimand? Don't be proud just because you have defeated Bai Cheng. That Xiao Yan is merely trash that

relied on the strength of a medicinal pill.” Liu Fei immediately became a little displeased when she saw the actions of Xun Er. This was especially the case when she saw that her cousin, who had always been indifferent to women, show some interest. A sour feeling instantly surged in her heart and she immediately took an involuntary step forward, pointed at Xun Er and spoke in a haughty voice.

Xiao Yan merely lifted his brows in the face of Liu Fei’s slander. However, he was too lazy to even turn his gaze over. He always kept such unreasonable and rude women at arm’s length. Moreover, from the very start, his gaze had paused on Liu Qing’s body. The pressure that this fellow gave was not the least bit weaker than Lin Xiuya and the rest.

Xiao Yan was able to treat Liu Fei’s scolding as wind beside his ear, but Xun Er’s face immediately became completely ice-cold. It was fine if the other party scolded her, however, scornful curses toward Xiao Yan were something that she could not endure!

“Fei-er!”

Liu Qing by the side also knit his brows slightly, clearly feeling that Liu Fei’s rebuke was a little overboard. He immediately could not help but deepen his voice. When he raised his head, he saw the coldness on Xun Er’s face, and was about to say something when his eyes shrank slightly. His body hurriedly took one step left, and coincidentally blocked Liu Fei behind him.

The instant Liu Qing’s body moved, Xun Er, who was originally silent and still suddenly flashed forward. Two afterimages surfaced along the way. The spots where the two afterimages appeared were coincidentally both the left and right side of Liu Qing.

Liu Qing’s expression changed a little the instant the two afterimages appeared. His hands suddenly passed through the two afterimages in a lightning-like manner. After which... he heard a clear slap sounding from behind him...

“Pa!”

Numerous human figures in the surrounding viewing gallery widened their mouths. Their faces were stunned as they eyed the delicate red handprint on Liu Fei’s face. In an instant, the entire Fighting Arena had descended into a strange silence under the loud and clear slapping sound.

Xun Er raised her hand slightly and glanced indifferently at Liu Fei in front of her, whose face was filled with disbelief. She coldly said, “Don’t think that you can behave recklessly just because Liu Qing is backing you up. This slap is for Xiao Yan ge-ge.”

“You, you... you slut. I want to kill you!” Liu Fei finally recovered under the provocation of the remaining pain on her face. She was given a vicious slap in public. This made her feel even worse than being hacked by a knife. In an instant, she was filled with

embarrassment and fury. Her face turned purple due to her anger. With a sharp curse, her finger clawed at Xun Er's face with great strength.

Xun Er coldly eyed the somewhat wild Liu Fei. The brilliant gold glow on her delicate hand gradually became richer. The ferocious force that was contained on it caused the expressions of the few people behind Liu Fei to greatly change. They hurriedly flashed to the front and protected Liu Fei behind them.

"This student, aren't you a little overboard?" The human figure in the front changed as Liu Qing once again blocked in front of Xun Er as he spoke in a deep voice.

"She cannot blame others since she seeks to humiliate herself." Xun Er gave Liu Qing an indifferent glance. The golden-colored glow still shined brightly in her hands. She did not show the slightest fear even when faced with the strong person who was ranked third on the 'Strong Ranking.'

"Xun Er, come back." Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows as he stood behind her before letting out a soft cry.

The coldness on Xun Er face only began to defrost slowly when she heard Xiao Yan's cry. Her toes pressed gently on the ground, and her lovely body was like a butterfly that gently drifted and landed beside Xiao Yan. She gave a saucy smile when she saw the knit eyebrows of Xiao Yan. Her epiphyllum-like smile caused the eyes of some of the males in the surrounding viewing gallery to straighten.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head before grabbing Xun Er and pulling her behind him. Although he clearly knew that this girl had a hidden strength that was likely not weaker than his, his male pride caused him to dislike leaving these matters of having a girl fight for him.

As Xun Er withdrew, the atmosphere in the arena immediately became extremely strange. Liu Fei was holding her face and crying softly behind Liu Qing. The other few people around hurriedly comforted her and Liu Qing's face sank slightly.

"Ke ke, it is really lively here today. I have just witnessed a fight between two men and now, it is the women's turn..." The strange atmosphere was suddenly broken by a laugh. A few human figures flashed down and appeared in the arena.

"Lin Xiuya? Yan Hao? Wow, just what wind has blown over the Fighting Arena today? These fellows who usually only know how to undertake secluded training have actually appeared together?"

Waves of private conversations immediately sounded from the viewing gallery following the appearance of the few human figures.

Xiao Yan was also startled when he saw Lin Xiuya and the others appear. He immediately smiled and greeted them.

Lin Xiuya first moved closer to converse a little with Xiao Yan. He then raised his thumb to Xun Er with his back facing Liu Qing and the rest before laughing softly and saying, "It really vents one's anger."

Xun Er gently glanced at Lin Xiuya in front of him. Although the appearance and demeanor of the other party was among the top, there was still not much expression on Xun Er's face. She merely nodded slightly before immediately placing her attention on Xiao Yan.

Lin Xiuya could only laugh when he saw that he was basically ignored. He rubbed his nose in embarrassment. This was really the first time in so many years that he was treated in this manner by a lady.

"Ke ke, I'm sorry. The character of this girl is like this." Xiao Yan helplessly patted Xun Er's head as he smiled and explained to Lin Xiuya.

"She has a character. The last time we had to leave in a hurry and had yet to thank you. If you had not intervened, it is likely that it would be difficult for the few of us to leave with our lives." Lin Xiuya smiled. He did not purposefully suppress his voice. Therefore, even Liu Qing and the rest behind him could clearly hear this.

Lin Xiuya's action of not suppressing his voice caused Xiao Yan to be startled. He immediately looked at the slightly frowning Liu Qing. Only then did he come to a sudden understanding and could not help but nod his head with gratitude.

"Hee hee, I must say Liu Qing, you aren't thinking of challenging Xiao Yan today, are you? He is injured." Yan Hao by the side let out a smile, but he did not mince his words as he spoke the most important thing.

"I am someone who disdains taking advantage of another when the other is in trouble." Liu Qing replied faintly, "Since he has already defeated Bai Cheng, he has also ascended and entered the 'Strong Ranking.' In that case, I think that he would be sufficiently qualified to enter the 'Strong Ranking Grand Competition' one month from now. There will naturally be a chance at that time."

"The matter today is but an argument between females. I also don't wish to find trouble here. However, Fei-er cannot be beaten in vain. At that time, you can display all your strength if we meet in the Grand Competition. I also have some interest in you." Liu Qing mused for a moment before raising his head and speaking to Xiao Yan.

These words of Liu Qing undoubtedly carried a challenge. Therefore, those numerous gazes in the arena immediately turned toward Xiao Yan's body. Being able to receive Liu Qing's challenge also undoubtedly stated Xiao Yan's strength.

Xiao Yan laughed softly under everyone's gazes. He cupped his hands slightly. The slightest fear was absent from his voice. This boldness caused many to quietly nod their heads.

"I will naturally take you on at that time."

Chapter 530: The Ranking on the 'Strong Ranking'

Xiao Yan was slumped in a chair in the spacious large hall as he listened to Xun Er tell him about the situation of 'Pan's Gate' after he had left. Occasionally, he would stretch his lazy waist and let out a big yawn. His lazy manner caused Xun Er to stop her speech and helplessly shake her head.

"How are Hu Jia's injuries?" Xiao Yan smiled and asked her a question. His spirits were slightly lifted when he saw Xun Er helplessly cease speaking.

"Her injuries are quite serious this time. However, with the medicinal pills that you have refined, it is only a matter of time before she can completely recover. Moreover, from the looks of the fluctuations in her breath, it appears that there are faint traces of her about to break through to a nine star Da Dou Shi." Xun Er smiled and replied.

Shock flashed across Xiao Yan's face when he heard this. He immediately nodded slightly. Hu Jia's and Wu Hao's training talent belonged to the very excellent category. If Xiao Yan had not supported himself with many elixirs, it was likely that he would not be able to surpass them this swiftly.

"Has the outside world become a little calmer these two days?" Xiao Yan suddenly smiled bitterly and asked as he lifted a teacup by his side to take a shallow sip.

Two full days had passed since he had defeated Bai Cheng in the Fighting Arena back then. Xiao Yan had basically stayed within the house without taking a step outside during these two days. One reason was because that battle had exhausted his spirit while the other was because he had defeated Bai Cheng and leaped into being an expert on the 'Strong Ranking'.

According to the rules, as long as there was someone who could defeat a person on the 'Strong Ranking' within the Inner Academy, the victor would be able to replace the loser's ranking on the 'Strong Ranking'. Bai Cheng was ranked thirty-four on the 'Strong Ranking'. Now that Xiao Yan had defeated him, he had catapulted up and become an expert on the 'Strong Ranking', occupying this position.

Thirty-four. This result may not appear to be close to the front, but in this Inner Academy where talents were as numerous as the clouds, it was sufficient to show the excellence of possessing this position. On the 'Strong Ranking' one would undergo extremely tough fight each time one's ranking increased by one. Although it was extremely difficult to leap into becoming an expert on the 'Strong Ranking' the great treatment was

enough to cause many people to have eyes red with envy. According to what Xiao Yan knew, this thirty-fourth rank on the 'Strong Ranking' of his would be able to obtain two hundred days of 'Fire Energy' from the Inner Academy each month. Although the current Xiao Yan did not lack 'Fire Energy' to squander freely due to the sale of medicinal pills, this was an extremely rich reward in the eyes of others.

As long as a person rose by a small rank on the 'Strong Ranking', the treatment that he received would be much richer. Therefore, there were people who began to appear in succession after Xiao Yan defeated Bai Cheng, who had occupied the thirty-fourth rank on the 'Strong Ranking'. Stacks of challenge letters were delivered to 'Pan's Gate' one after another. Although the strength that Xiao Yan had displayed in the Fighting Arena was extremely strong back then, his strength was merely that of a one star Dou Ling no matter how one put it. Therefore, many people subconsciously thought that it might not be too difficult to defeat Xiao Yan. After all, he did not have a second 'Dragon Strength Pill' to consume.

The reason Xiao Yan had not left the house was partly because the stacks of challenge letters had given him a headache. He gave the outside world the excuse of ceasing to fight because he was recuperating. This caused those people who wanted to borrow Xiao Yan as a pedal to raise their position to helplessly look on with despair. After all, the Inner Academy similarly had some rules. Those injured had the right to reject the challenge of others. Moreover, they would not have any burden.

"Ke ke, there are a lot more people who want to challenge you compared to yesterday. I think that as long as Xiao Yan ge-ge walks out of 'Pan's Gate', I'm afraid there will immediately be seven to eight people issuing a challenge to you." Xun Er covered her mouth and laughed.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He did not expect that this position of an expert on the 'Strong Ranking' would bring him such a large amount of trouble. He saw that Lin Xiuya and the others appeared to be recollected everyday. They were in no way similar to him who was badly battered by these challenge letters.

Xiao Yan was complaining in his heart. However, he had forgotten an important caveat, how many people within the Inner Academy dared challenge Lin Xiuya and the others given their strength? The treatment that he received could be considered something quite special within the entire 'Strong Ranking'.

"Ah." Xiao Yan lay in the chair feeling bored. He softly muttered, "I wonder when the Grand Competition will begin..."

"Ha ha, Xiao Yan, it is really unexpected that you have actually broken through to the Dou Ling class after not seeing you for two months. Moreover, you even defeated Bai Cheng. This news was really somewhat shocking. I did not really dare to believe it when I heard this from within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'." The tightly shut front door

was suddenly pushed open and a familiar voice was transmitted into the house. Lin Yan's figure immediately walked in.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this laughter. He immediately rejoiced as he raised his head and eyed Lin Yan who was walking in with a smiling face. With a smile, he said, "It is actually Senior Lin Yan. How are you? Have you recovered from the fire poison within your body?"

"Thanks to those medicinal liquids of yours, the fire poison has basically been removed." Lin Yan greeted Xun Er before he carelessly searched for a chair to sit. The fiery-red color in his eyes currently showed the trend of having completely disappeared. It was completely different from the bright redness a couple of months ago. Moreover, Lin Yan's demeanor was also a little less hot tempered following the removal of the fire poison. There was an additional thread of ordinary calm. Looking at his aura, it appeared that his strength had also advanced quite a lot.

"Tsk tsk, you have actually really reached the Dou Ling class. This training speed of yours really leaves people speechless." Lin Yan could not help but sigh. His gaze carefully swept over Xiao Yan's body as he sensed the aura within Xiao Yan's body that was more than a few times stronger than before.

Xiao Yan smiled and waved to Xun Er. The latter immediately and obediently took the tea from one side and handed it to Lin Yan.

"Hee hee, I heard that Junior Xun Er did not even put Liu Qing in her eyes at the Fighting Arena. Now, however, she is carrying tea for me. Xiao Yan, you really do have some skill." Lin Yan hurriedly received the tea and raised a thumb to Xiao Yan. The latter was able to partner with such an outstanding woman who was obedient to only him. This skill really caused Lin Yan to feel some admiration.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. This Lin Yan may not be as hot-tempered after expelling the fire poison, but it appeared that his mouth could not control his words.

"I have also heard of the matter within the Fighting Arena. It is really unexpected that you have really come into conflict with Liu Qing. That fellow is not an ordinary person." Lin Yan smile withdrew a little as he spoke somewhat seriously.

"Who among the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' is an ordinary person?" Xiao Yan smiled. He was not overly worried. Although his current strength was merely a one star Dou Ling, he was not too afraid of Liu Qing and the others after having leaped across that enormous threshold. If it had been in the past when Xiao Yan was merely a Da Dou Shi, he would have endured and would not have come into a head-on collision with Bai Cheng even though he had a trump card like the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame'. This was because he knew that the gap between two classes was really too enormous. Even if he had powerful Dou Techniques, it was likely that he would end up in a predicament should he fail to defeat his opponent with his attack. It was completely different now. He

had currently advanced into the Dou Ling class. Although he had a gap of many levels when compared with Liu Qing, who was at the peak of the Dou Ling class, it was likely that Liu Qing would still only be barely victorious in a fight between the both of them.

This was the gap between the classes!

Lin Yan was startled when he saw Xiao Yan's somewhat unconcerned expression. He immediately smiled and said, "What courage. It is really difficult for anyone to see through you brat. I think that you must have some capital hidden for you to be this arrogant. I have really worried too much."

Xiao Yan smiled. He did not become entangled on this topic. Instead, he mused for a moment before saying, "Does Senior Lin Xiao know just when the so called 'Strong Ranking Grand Competition' will begin?"

"Oh, ke ke. Now that you have a name on the 'Strong Ranking', this grand competition does really have something to do with you." Lin Yan smiled and nodded as he continued, "Counting the time, this grand competition should begin after one month. Why? Don't tell me that you have some intentions toward the top ten?"

Xiao Yan gave a noncommittal smile. He held his teacup and rolled it in his hand as he softly said, "I wonder just what rank does Lin Qing hold?"

Lin Yan smile became dull. He was silent for awhile before he extended three fingers.

"Third?" Xiao Yan was slightly startled. Xiao Yan was speechless. The strength of this Liu Qing had actually exceeded his expectations.

"The second is Lin Xiuya, the fourth is Yan Hao, the fifth to the eighth positions are renowned people within the Inner Academy. As for me, I am moving back and forth between the ninth and tenth. Of course, that is the ranking of the past. Now that the fire poison in my body has been completely expelled, my strength has soared by quite a bit. If we were to rank again, I believe that I will be able to squeeze into the top six." Lin Yan laughed as he explained the situation.

"Lin Xiuya is actually second?" Surprise drew across Xiao Yan's face. It was really unexpected that Lin Xiuya's ranking was actually one step higher than Liu Qing's ranking. However, he also felt relieved as he thought in his heart. Back then, Lin Xiuya was still jumping around in a lively manner after receiving a blow from the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' who had awoken its wild and violent bloodline back in the deep mountains. If it was another person at the peak of the Dou Ling class, it was likely that he would have lost his life on the spot. This fellow did indeed have quite a great strength.

"Don't underestimate Lin Xiuya. This fellow has nearly practiced his wind affinity Dou Qi until it has reached its pinnacle. Moreover, he has quite a great background. The Qi Technique and Dou Skill which he practice are undoubtedly of a high class that a

commoner can only have extravagant dreams of.” Lin Yan spoke seriously. Even a person as arrogant as him still had some admiration for this name. From this, it was sufficient to see Lin Xiuya’s strength.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Having seen the battle between Lin Xiuya and the ‘Snow Demon Sky Ape’, Xiao Yan would naturally not underestimate such a strong person. He mused a little within his heart before suddenly laughing, “There is the second and third place. In that case, who is in the first place?”

These words of Xiao Yan’s were originally just a random inquiry. However, after they left his mouth, the hands of Lin Yan in front of him suddenly stiffened. A faint fear flashed across his face. He opened his mouth, but failed to spit out the name that the older students feared like a tiger...

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Chapter 531: The Mysterious First on the Strong Ranking

Xiao Yan was slightly startled as he eyed the fear that flashed across Lin Yan’s face. He immediately knit his brows slightly, and his heart began to churn a little. Ever since he was acquainted with Lin Yan, this arrogant fellow had never displayed fear toward anyone. He merely felt some admiration for the strengths of Lin Xiu Ya, Liu Qing, and the others when facing them. However, he never showed the slightest hint of fear of them. Now, on the other hand, this Lin Yan who was renowned for being arrogant and wild in the Inner Academy had descended into silence and displayed such an expression when mentioning the person ranked first on the ‘Strong Ranking’. This caused Xiao Yan to be unable to maintain a calm heart.

“Ke ke, I was merely asking randomly. Senior Lin Yan need not take it to heart.” Xiao Yan smiled slightly after the silence continued for a while. He continued smiling while spoke and he gently placed his teacup down.

The expression on Lin Yan’s face finally became a little relaxed after hearing Xiao Yan’s words. He let out a bitter smile as he sighed, “I really don’t wish to mention that fellow. I think you will be able to see that fellow in the grand competition one month from now. However, I will give you some advice first. If you were to meet that fellow in the competition, you must not anger that fellow no matter what. You can also admit defeat if it is not possible.”

Xiao Yan pursed his lips and quietly nodded. Just how strong was that fellow who was ranked first on the ‘Strong Ranking’? Xiao Yan suddenly felt some curiosity for that

fellow as this thought flashed within his heart. He really did not know just what kind of frightening fellow that person was in order to cause Lin Yan to say such words. Could it be that he had three heads and six limbs?

“Hee hee, however, you might not meet that fellow. The difficulty of you charging into the top ten is over ten times more difficult than defeating Bai Cheng. Currently, all of those fellows in the top ten are, without exception, at the peak of the Dou Ling class. They have rich fighting experience. At the same time, each of them also possesses powerful Dou Skill in their hands. Their fighting strengths are far from what a person at Bai Cheng’s class can be compared with.” Lin Yan laughed. His straightforward words did not leave much face for Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. He could not do anything about this forthright manner of Lin Yan and could only speak vaguely, “I will just do my best.”

“Why don’t we have a fight? If you can defeat me or endure some exchanges in my hands, you might have a chance.” Lin Yan’s gaze rotated two rounds around Xiao Yan’s body. His eyes suddenly became fiery hot as he made a suggestion in a somewhat pressing manner.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He could not help but feel his entire body turn cold when he saw the thirsty manner of Lin Yan. This fellow’s addiction to fighting was nearly comparable to Wu Hao’s. He did not want to spend effort to fight this kind of person, who would turn into an insane person once they started fighting. Therefore, he hurriedly waved his hand and said, “Forget it, forget it. I have currently yet to recover. Let’s wait for the future.”

Lin Yan could only nod his head in disappointment when he heard Xiao Yan’s rejection. After training for half a month within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’, he could sense his hands becoming itchy. He really hoped that there would be someone who would allow him to have a delightful carefree fight.

Xiao Yan hurriedly pulled away from this conversation topic when he saw Lin Yan’s manner. He could not wait to find an excuse to sent the latter off after conversing for a while with him.

Xun Er could not help but smile and shake her head when she saw Xiao Yan send off Lin Yan and closed the door heavily. However, she hurriedly withdrew her smile when she saw Xiao Yan’s angry eyes being thrown over. She spoke in a saucy manner, “I know that it is not that Xiao Yan ge-ge is afraid of him, but that you are merely worried that you would injure him when sparring.”

“You can just show off...” Xiao Yan rubbed his nose in embarrassment after being given a clean slate by Xun Er. His gaze glanced at the weather outside and mused for a moment before speaking, “I want to go and take a look at Elder Hao’s place. He controls

the medicinal warehouse of the Inner Academy, and I am currently lacking certain medicinal ingredients. If he has them, I must get some from him no matter what.”

Xun Er nodded slightly when she heard this. She immediately asked, “You are lacking medicinal ingredients? Recently, the medicinal gathering group of our ‘Pan’s Gate’ was formed. Moreover, they have entered the mountains quite a number of times, and had a few great harvests. They may have what you need.”

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly. The medicinal ingredients that he needed were something that he had never even seen before. Their values were something that one could tell just by thinking. However, he could not brush aside Xun Er’s good intentions. Therefore, he finally said the name of the final medicinal ingredient that he lacked: Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit.

Xun Er’s brows frowned in deep thought for a while after hearing this name. She could only helplessly shake her head. She examined the list of what the medicinal gathering group had harvested but did not discover this medicinal ingredient among the listed names.

Xiao Yan did not feel surprise when he saw Xun Er acting in this manner. He said goodbye to Xun Er before opening the door and leaving.

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Xiao Yan looked left and right once he left the house. He found a remote place before summoning the Purple Cloud Wings. Finally, he leaped high into the sky before flying out of the new student area. His gaze glanced down when he flew past the entrance and did indeed discover some fellows were sneaking around beside the entrance, guarding it. He immediately let out a bitter laugh. As he flapped his wings, his body turned into a faint black shadow that disappeared into the distance under the cover of the sky that was gradually becoming dark.

There were many experts within the Inner Academy and Xiao Yan did not want to invite any trouble. Therefore, he landed at a place where there were few people after having avoided those fellows who had thoughts of challenging him. He withdrew the Purple Cloud Wings before he swiftly walked to the warehouse managing the medicinal ingredients of the Inner Academy.

As the place where the Inner Academy stored precious medicinal ingredients, this warehouse managing medicinal ingredients had quite the tight security. Not only was there Elder Hao, a Dou Wang, guarding this place, but there were also over ten instructors patrolling twenty-four hours a day. This kind of place was one that ordinary students were prohibited from entering. Perhaps it was because Elder Hao had given prior instructions, but Xiao Yan was not expelled from it after being stopped by a patrolling instructor. Instead, after having confirmed Xiao Yan’s identity, the latter brought Xiao Yan to Elder Hao.

“Ke ke, in the two months that I have not seen you, you have actually reached the Dou Ling class. Moreover, you even defeated Bai Cheng, who is a six star Dou Ling. You are really not bad.” Elder Hao, who was originally inspecting the medicinal ingredients being stored hurriedly placed down the things in his hands when he heard Xiao Yan had come to look for him. He ordered his subordinate to bring him in before smiling and eyeing Xiao Yan. Clearly, he had already heard of the matter at the Fighting Arena.

“I was merely lucky.” Xiao Yan bowed slightly toward Elder Hao as he smiled. Only after the instructor left did he quietly speak about the intention of his visit. “This time around, I have come to look for Elder Hao mainly because I lack a medicinal ingredient in order to refine a medicinal pill. Therefore, I wish to come here to take a look and see if I can find it. Ke ke, now that my strength has increased a little, I will likely have a higher success rate in refining that ‘Dragon Strength Pill’.”

Xiao Yan’s gaze intently observed Elder Hao’s expression. Only upon seeing the somewhat happy face of the latter after he heard those last few words did Xiao Yan sigh in relief.

“Ke ke, these medicinal ingredients that are placed here will sooner or later be taken away by those old bastards from the Alchemist Department using some excuse.” Elder Hao waved his hand and walked closer to Xiao Yan in a somewhat earnest manner. He patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders as he smiled and said, “Xiao Yan, I shall not say any other unnecessary words to you. If you are able to refine just one medicinal pill that I am satisfied with, I will allow you to take away any one random medicinal ingredient from this warehouse. What do you say?”

Xiao Yan was startled. One kind of medicinal ingredient in exchange for a medicinal pill that he would be satisfied with? This...

“You should not think that I am taking advantage of you. I think that a medicinal ingredient that even you think is difficult to find would likely be an extremely rare one. You would not lose out if you exchanged a medicinal pill for a medicinal ingredient of this tier. What do you say?” Elder Hao laughed, clearly understanding what Xiao Yan was thinking in his heart when he saw the latter hesitating

Xiao Yan nodded slightly after quietly musing for awhile. If this place really had the final medicinal ingredient needed to refine the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’, the Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit, he did not really lose out by using a ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ to exchange for it. However, he would not lose out only if he exchanged for this medicinal ingredient. If it was some other medicinal ingredient, it was likely that this business was not really worth it.

“Alright. We’ll do as Elder Hao has suggested.”

A brilliant smile surfaced on Elder Hao’s face when he heard Xiao Yan agree. The frown on his forehead also became much more relaxed. He randomly threw out a snow white

item and said, "This is the place where the management warehouse stores the most valuable medicinal ingredients. Go and search there. You can come and fulfill our transaction if you find it."

Xiao Yan hurriedly received the snow white item. His eyes glanced at it. This was actually a jade plate that was made of white jade. There were various life-like medicinal plants engraved on it. A faint medicinal fragrance seeped out from it, causing one to feel relaxed and happy.

"This Inner Academy really has a deep foundation. Even this jade plate is actually made with an extremely rare jade material." Xiao Yan muttered in his heart as he held the jade plate. He did not continue to stay, but turned around and walked to the door that led to the medicinal ingredient warehouse.

"That's right. Little fellow, remember to only search for the thing that you need. Don't randomly touch anything else. There are traces of energy on those things. I will be able to sense it as soon as it is touched slightly." Elder Hao reminded just before Xiao Yan entered. The medicinal ingredients inside were far too valuable and the Inner Academy could not tolerate not taking some precautions.

"Ke ke, Elder Hao, you can rest assured. Xiao Yan is not a greedy person." Xiao Yan laughed. He understood that Elder Hao was reminding him not to be greedy. Therefore, he immediately gave a direct reply.

Elder Hao could only smile awkwardly after Xiao Yan had exposed the meaning of his words. He waved his hands and once again sat back onto the chair to review the documents of the medicinal ingredients.

Xiao Yan smiled slightly, pushed the door, and entered. A spacious corridor was behind the door. Xiao Yan followed it until the end where a faint energy was covering the place. His gaze looked in all directions. When he saw a notch on the wall by the side, Xiao Yan took a step forward and carefully placed the white jade into it.

The energy glow in front of him gradually became weak as the white jade plate was resting in the notch. A moment later, it completely disappeared.

Xiao Yan took the white jade plate. He eyed the wooden door hidden behind the energy barrier and rubbed his hands somewhat anxiously. After which, he pushed open the door and entered this medicinal warehouse, which was engulfed by medicinal fragrances.

Chapter 532: Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit

Behind the wooden door was a spacious room that was covered by a faint fluorescent light. Xiao Yan slowly walked, in as he gazed about in all directions. Surprise gradually surged onto his face. The inner wall of the entire room was wrapped by a creamy white

layer of jade. Even the ground under his feet was put together by pieces of neatly arranged white jade without the presence of any crack lines. That faint fluorescent light was actually being emitted from these white jade pieces.

“What a grand masterpiece.” Xiao Yan clicked his tongue and exclaimed to himself. These white jade pieces were extremely expensive. However, they were quite effective when used to preserve medicinal ingredients. In this kind of airtight environment, these valuable medicinal ingredients would not lose even the slightest medicinal effect. Moreover, the time that they could be placed in storage lengthened greatly. This kind of arrangement was far from what Xiao Yan’s usage of the storage ring to store the medicinal ingredients could compare with.

The spacious room that was surrounded by white jade had a couple built-in walkways. Positioned on the two sides of the walkway were tall and large shelves that were built with white jade. Xiao Yan randomly entered one of them and his gaze drifted toward the shelves. Immediately, various unique medicinal ingredients, which one could identify as being extremely rare at a glance, were quietly placed there. Various medicinal fragrances of different scents faintly flowed out.

“‘Yin Magical Flame Grass’... ‘Purple Spirit Plastic Flower’... this appears to be called the... ‘Cold Blood Fruit’?”

Xiao Yan’s footsteps followed the walkways next to the shelves as he slowly walked around. The various unique medicinal ingredients that were placed within it caused the shock on Xiao Yan’s face to become increasingly dense. In the end, he was unable to even name some of the medicinal ingredients. However, from the medicinal fragrances that these medicinal ingredients emitted, one could tell that they belonged to a kind of elixir where one may not find one in ten thousand medicinal ingredients.

Xiao Yan completed walking a single corridor after spending nearly ten minutes. Although the Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit that he needed was absent, those other various and extremely rare medicinal ingredients caused Xiao Yan’s heart to beat much more quickly.

Xiao Yan’s throat rolled as he swallowed a mouthful of saliva. If not for his still present reasoning, it was likely that he would not be able to resist storing all of these medicinal ingredients into his storage ring. However, this thought was suppressed by him the moment it flashed in his heart. If he really did something like that, it was likely that he would not be able to stay in the Inner Academy any longer. Should this be the case, the matter of him wanting to obtain the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ would also fall through. These medicinal ingredients may be precious and rare, but they paled a lot in comparison to the latter.

Xiao Yan’s eyes stared intently at a dry tree branch which was blood red in color and formed a twisted shape that appeared like a meandering python. The rate at which his saliva was secreted in his mouth had become much faster. He was acquainted with this

thing; Yao Lao had once told him that this 'Blood Python Branch' was an extremely rare medicinal ingredient. Moreover, it was a key ingredient to refine the 'Dou Ling Pill'.

The 'Dou Ling Pill' was basically one of the most sought after tier six medicinal pills on the Dou Qi continent. This kind of medicinal pill could only be consumed within the Dou Wang class. As long as one consumed one pill during this period of time, one would be able to raise one's level by one star without any risk. Of course, one could only consume one within this class. If one consumed more than that, one would simply waste the pill due to the resistance to the medicinal effects that had formed. Just think, raising one level at the Dou Wang class was something that one might not be able to achieve even with a few years. Yet, this small medicinal pill could save many years of accumulation. Moreover, it did not have any side effects. Those elite Dou Wang could not help but go crazy over it.

"Ah. I can see, but cannot touch."

Xiao Yan did his best to shift his gaze away from the 'Blood Python Branch'. He let out a bitter laugh before forcefully turning his body and forcing himself to walk to another corridor to search for the medicinal ingredient that he needed.

There were nearly six to seven walkways in the entire spacious white jade room with over a hundred types of medicinal ingredients placed on them. Moreover, all of them were of the extremely rare category. Xiao Yan walked down one corridor after another. The movement of his footsteps suddenly paused in the final corridor as his eyes shined while he stared at the shelf in front of him.

On the shelf was an extremely exquisite jade plate with a palm-sized fruit placed on it. This fruit was quite unique. Half of it was red in color while the other half was white in color. Xiao Yan could sense the heat seeping out from the red-colored side even though he was two feet away. The white-colored side, on the other hand, emitted a completely different ice-cold temperature. These two extremely different affinities were perfectly merged into one fruit. It must be said that nature was truly incomparably unique and unusual.

Additionally, there was faint line markings spreading out on the surface of this fruit which contained the two affinities of ice and fire. These lines all over the place and appeared to have a certain hidden pattern. However, if one was to carefully study it, one would see a cluster of complete mess that one could not understand.

Xiao Yan was surprised as he eyed this unique fruit. Although Xiao Yan had never seen the so-called 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' before, he was still able to conclude from Yao Lao's description that the thing in front of him should be the final medicinal ingredient that he had searched bitterly for, the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit'!

"I have finally found it. This Inner Academy really does have a rich collection. It is even able to possess such a rare medicinal ingredient." The joy on Xiao Yan's face was

difficult to hide. He rubbed his hands excitedly and extended his hand to remove the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit'.

However, he had just extended his hand when an extremely delicate, small hand seemed to appear out of nowhere and took the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' from the jade plate under Xiao Yan's incomparably stunned gaze.

Xiao Yan was actually unable to react in time when his target was snatched. His gaze eyed the empty jade plate blankly. An instant later, he suddenly turned his head in a lightning-like manner. His gaze carried some shock as he looked to his side.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth twitched a little when his shocked gaze saw the owner of the small hand beside him.

The person who appeared beside Xiao Yan was a young girl in white clothes who was level to his waist. The little girl appeared to be twelve to thirteen years old. Her pale-purple hair was let out to her waist and her face was very soft. The girl's appearance was beautiful, white, and clear, and her pair of black watery eyes blinked at Xiao Yan. It appeared to have a demonic strength that caused the shock in Xiao Yan's heart to gradually disappear.

Xiao Yan's throat rolled a little. His gaze shifted down slowly only to discover that the little girl's left hand was holding a gold-colored medicinal ingredient that appeared to possess the gold affinity. Her right hand was tightly clenching the target of his current trip, the Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit.

Xiao Yan blinked his eyes. He recalled the scene earlier and shock suddenly swarmed into his heart. Just when did this little girl appear by his side? If she had not extended her hand to take the Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit earlier, it was likely that he would still be unaware that there was a person standing beside him...

The white-clothed little girl opened her innocent large eyes and studied Xiao Yan for a while. After which, she suddenly took the seemingly gold-like medicinal ingredient in her hand and placed it into her small mouth. From the looks of it, she was actually thinking of biting it.

"Don't!" Xiao Yan shouted as a reflex action when he saw the action of the little girl. He recognized that ingredient. It was a rare medicinal ingredient named 'Hard Gold Pu'. It could be used to refine medicine but its body was as hard as metal. Forget about using one's teeth to bite it. Even an ordinary flame would be unable to do anything to it.

The little girl completely ignored Xiao Yan's cry. Her neat, snow-white, small teeth bit down with great strength. Immediately... a clear sound like that of a mountain rock breaking began to reverberate within the spacious room.

Xiao Yan was dull as he eyed the tiny gap on the 'Hard Gold Pu'. One could still see teeth marks in the spot where the gap was. Droplets of golden yellow color liquid dripped out from the gap and landed on the snow-white jade floor, appearing extremely eye-catching.

"Creak, creak..."

The little girl's mouth wrapped around the 'Hard Gold Pu' that she had bitten off and her teeth chewed repeatedly. A thread of golden-yellow liquid spilled out from the corner of her mouth. Finally, it dribbled down her chin. That hard metallic 'Hard Gold Pu' was just like an ordinary snack in the mouth of this little girl as it was easily chewed into pieces before being swallowed into her stomach.

Xiao Yan's dull gaze continued for a long time. Finally, he slowly recovered. As he eyed the golden-yellow liquid on the corner of the mouth of the white-clothed girl in front of her, he felt a great heartache. Was this not too much of a waste of naturally rare things?

The white-clothed little girl used the pinkish back of her hand to rub away the golden-yellow liquid from the corner of her mouth. She took one glance at Xiao Yan. There was a faint indifference in her large dark-black eyes. After which, she once again lifted the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' on her other hand. She opened her small mouth and appeared to actually be intending to take a bite of this thing.

This action of the little girl immediately shocked Xiao Yan until he was terror-stricken. This 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' was something that he had found with great difficulty. If she was to just take a bite like this, just how long would it take before he would be able to find a second one?

"Don't eat it!" Xiao Yan cried out once again. Xiao Yan could not be bothered by the strange condition of the little girl in front of him. He hurriedly extended his hand out and grabbed for the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit'.

His hand had just been extended out when the small hand of the little girl, which was still holding the 'Hard Gold Pu', extended out in a lightning-like manner. Finally, she extended two snow-white-pinkish finger and gently gripped Xiao Yan's palm.

Although the actions of the little girl were quite light and agile, Xiao Yan's face suddenly changed when the two fingers gripped onto him. He tried to pull his hand with all his might, but it did not cause the little girl to even move her hand slightly. Immediately, shock could not help but surface on his face. This... what kind of a monster was this little girl? She actually possessed a strength that even a Dou Wang did not possess at such a young age. This... a thought rapidly rotated around his heart as he felt his back persperate with cold sweat.

The white-clothed little girl's small mouth moved a little after gripping Xiao Yan's palm. A crisp moving tender voice of a little girl carried an indifference as it sounded within the

room. Xiao Yan did not know whether he was mistaken, but he even felt that this tender voice contained some killing intent...

"You want to take my thing?"

Chapter 533: The Mysterious White-Clothed Little Girl

Her voice was obviously a tender one and she had a cute appearance. However, the strange aura the white-clothed little girl emitted caused Xiao Yan's mind to tense up.

He exchanged glances with her large dark-black eyes. A moment later, he laughed dryly, "Little girl, this thing tastes awful. Why don't you give it to me."

"I need to eat them if I want to grow up!" The little girl said calmly.

"It needs time for you to grow. By doing this, you are simply pulling the shoot to help it grow and does not have any benefits." Xiao Yan's face was calm, but his heart had become noisy. This strange little girl had already eaten one rare medicinal ingredient, and he was the only one who had just entered this medicinal ingredient management warehouse. It was likely that he would be in some trouble if Elder Hao was to look into the matter.

"Time is useless to me!" The little girl's face sunk a little when she heard Xiao Yan's words. She used her tender tone to speak loudly.

"Oh, heavens!" Xiao Yan weakly patted his forehead as he felt a wave of a headache. Just where had this monster-like little girl ran out from? Not only was her strength so great that it was frightening, but her words were also quite strange. If she was just an ordinary little girl, Xiao Yan would forcefully snatch the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' even if he had to bear the notoriety of being someone who bullied a child. However, when he had sensed the frightening strength of that little girl, he could only obediently keep his thoughts properly. He clearly knew that the strength of this little girl, who had caused him to be unable to move with just two fingers earlier, was likely to not end well if she were to go crazy.

"Elder Hao will find trouble with you if you eat the medicinal ingredients here." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and said.

"That old man? I am not afraid. He would not dare to do anything to me even if he knew!" The little girl snorted as she rolled her eyes cutely.

Xiao Yan's eyes twitched. His heart had started to move. This little girl was so arrogant and defiant. Could she be a granddaughter of one of the upper echelons of the Inner Academy? However, the position of Elders in the academy were similar. If their children did something wrong, none of them would dare to speak in this matter to the other

Elders. Could it be that this white-clothed little girl was the granddaughter of the First Elder who had not shown himself or the granddaughter of the mysterious Headmaster?

“My mood is good today, so I will not beat you up. You should hurry up and leave. Don’t bother me.” The little girl once again took another bite of the ‘Hard Gold Pu’. She spoke in a vague voice as she chewed her mouth. Once again, she swallowed a mouthful of the golden-yellow liquid. However, she knit her brows slightly and muttered, “It tastes really awful.”

Xiao Yan could not help but be speechless when he heard her muttering from the side. If other alchemists were to see how she ruined such a rare medicinal ingredient, and even mutter that it taste awful, they would likely be so furious that smoke would rise from their nostrils no?

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He was just about to say something when his heart moved slightly. An extremely gentle smile surfaced on his face as he squatted down and said gently, “Little sister, these medicinal ingredients taste awful, no?”

As his mouth uttered these words, Xiao Yan’s heart quietly scorned. These medicinal ingredients contained extremely pure medicinal strength. Their taste would naturally not be good if they were directly consumed.

“Ah ha, it’s awful!” The white-clothed little girl immediately nodded her small head in agreement when she heard Xiao Yan’s words. Although she appeared to have an indifference that was unusual for a normal person, at this moment, it appeared that she was no different from an ordinary little girl.

“If it taste awful, can you return this fruit to this older brother? I will treat you to something nice.” Xiao Yan smiled and made a suggestion. The smile on his face was just like that of a strange uncle deceiving a little girl.

“No! It may taste awful, but will the things that you will treat me to contain a large amount of energy within them?” The little girl immediately became alert as she shook her head when she heard that Xiao Yan wanted her to hand over the ‘Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit’.

Xiao Yan’s smile became dull. These medicinal ingredients were all born from the gathering of natural energy. How could an ordinary thing contain such a powerful energy? However, by listening to the meaning in her words, it appeared that she was eating these rare medicinal ingredients for the pure medicinal strength within them. What caused Xiao Yan to feel more flabbergasted was that the body of this little girl in front of him was able to withstand the assault of the energy from the medicinal ingredients that had yet to be refined. After all, they may possess pure medicinal strength, but that energy was even wilder compared to that of a medicinal pill. Xiao Yan had some doubts in his heart, but after he thought of the various unusual actions of the little girl, he quietly nodded. It was likely that this little girl was not an ordinary person.

Xiao Yan rubbed his head while feeling distressed. A moment later, he said in a probing manner, "Why don't I help you slightly refine the medicinal ingredients that you want to eat and turn them into something that is tastier? This is better than eating the medicinal ingredients raw."

"Refine?" The little girl's chewing mouth paused slightly. Her large dark-black eyes suddenly became a little brighter. "You are an alchemist?"

Xiao Yan thought that this matter could work in his heart when he saw the expression of the little girl. He hurriedly nodded and said, "As long as you return this 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' to me, I will help you refine the medicinal ingredients that you want to eat until they become tastier. What do you say?" Refining medicinal pills was an extremely troublesome task, but it would not consume too much effort if the task was merely refining a kind of medicinal ingredient until it turned into a Yaowan and quietly adding a little other ingredients that made it taste better.

(TL: Danwan/Yaowan - pills that have no real medicinal effect to a human and can potentially be harmful if consumed)

However, this kind of Yaowan that merely used one kind of medicinal ingredient to refine did not escape the wild and violent nature of its medicinal effect. Moreover, this kind of single medicinal effect did not have too much use. Therefore, there was seldom anyone who would waste a medicinal ingredient to refine it into a Yaowan that could not even be considered a medicinal pill.

The little girl hesitated slightly when she heard this. She eyed the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' which appeared very tasty in her hands. After hesitating for a long while, she finally nodded unwillingly and gave it to Xiao Yan. She grimaced in pain as she said, "However, if the medicinal pill that you refine is not tasty, I will not only snatch it back, but will also eat you!"

"Eat me? With that small mouth of yours?" Xiao Yan laughed in his heart. He swiftly received the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' before stuffing it into his storage ring, afraid that this little girl of unknown origin would regret her decision.

"You have already taken the thing. Hurry up and help me refine." The little girl handed over the 'Hard Gold Pu' in her hand which she had taken two bites from to Xiao Yan as she said crisply.

"Hee hee, there is no need to hurry. Let us leave first, I have taken the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' and need to account to Elder Hao." Xiao Yan said with a smile. After which, he took the lead to walk out of the medicinal warehouse. He wanted to bring this strange little girl to Elder Hao and tell him about the situation. Otherwise, if that old fellow were to blame this consumption of the 'Hard Gold Pu' on him, Xiao Yan would really suffer a great loss.

“What is there to account to that old fellow.” The little girl murmured. She did not show the slightest sign of being worried as she grabbed the ‘Hard Gold Pu’ and followed Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan only sighed in relief when he heard the sound of footsteps behind him. He swiftly walked out of the medicinal warehouse and placed the white jade onto the wall. Only after he saw the energy barrier once again appear did his face immediately let out a smile as though he had placed down a heavy burden.

“This broken defensive barrier does not have the slightest use. It is but a decoration when it is activated.” The little girl by his side smacked her lips. Her white, tender seemingly transparent hand pushed into the energy barrier. It shuttled past a couple of times and there seemed to be no resistance to her movement.

Xiao Yan opened his mouth and eyed the actions of this little girl. A loss appeared in his eyes. Was the energy barrier really a decoration? As he had this thought in his mind, he extended his hand and jabbed at the energy barrier. However, when his hand came into contact with that round light barrier, it appeared to have touched metal. He jabbed with some strength and his finger felt a faint pain, but he did not even make the slightest entry into it. Clearly, this energy barrier had an extremely shocking defense... but... how could this little girl view it as though it was nothing?

“Hee hee, stupid.” The little girl beside him eyed the actions of Xiao Yan, and immediately laughed out loud. Her clear, tender laughter reverberated unceasingly down the corridor.

Xiao Yan withdrew his finger in an embarrassed manner. He was about to say something when the white-clothed little girl snorted. She turned her body in an unrestrained manner and strode toward the exit of the corridor, leaving only the back of her head to Xiao Yan.

“This little girl... just what kind of a monster is she?” Xiao Yan was speechless as he eyed the back of the little girl. His heart could not help but feel a helplessness as he sighed.

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Elder Hao still had his head buried in the desk in front of him within the quiet room as he looked over the document within. He did not raise his head as he smiles said after hearing the door being opened, “What? Xiao Yan, have you found the medicinal ingredient that you need?”

After his words sounded, however, Elder Hao sensed that there was something wrong with the atmosphere. Only then did he lift his head and saw Xiao Yan’s face which was filled with helplessness. His gaze shifted down before a white-clothed little girl with long pale-purple hair appeared in his gaze.

Elder Hao blinked his old eyes and eyed the white-clothed little girl. A moment later, he recovered and immediately leaped from his chair. He said furiously, "Why are you here again?" When his gaze saw the 'Hard Gold Pu' in the little girl's hand where two bites had been taken, his furious eyes widened. "Are you treating this place of mine as a restaurant, coming here regularly to have a sumptuous meal? If you want medicinal ingredients, don't you know to go into the deep mountains to search for them?"

"It is so troublesome to look for them myself. There are ready-made ones here. Why can't I eat them? Old man, you really speak a lot of nonsense. If you continue to grumble, be careful of me beating you up." The little girl glanced at Elder Hao from the side of her eyes. She appeared to be protesting and had even widened her mouth to take a bite of the 'Hard Gold Pu'.

Elder Hao was angered by this little girl's arrogance until he rolled his eyes. However, this Elder who was much respected by the students in this Inner Academy could only resent with grit teeth. Looking at his matter, it appeared that he was quite fearful of this little girl in front of him.

"You should hurry up. You still need to refine something for me. If you continue to delay, I will gulp you down." The little girl's tender voice urged as her gaze turned toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan felt lost at the identity of the little girl when he saw the conversation between the two of them. He let out a bitter smile as he took a step forward and said, "Elder Hao, I have already taken the thing that I need. You can check it. Please give me two sets of medicinal ingredients for the 'Dragon Strength Pill'. I will help you refine it."

Elder Hao's expression quietly became a little better after hearing Xiao Yan's words. He took out a large pile of medicinal ingredients and placed it on the table. In a soft voice, he said, "Why have you bumped into her? Are you alright?" Hearing the meaning behind his words, it appeared that this little girl was like an evil demon that ate people. Nevertheless, it was true that the latter frequently used the words 'gulp you down' to threaten people.

"I don't know either." Xiao Yan shook his head while smiling bitterly. He stored the medicinal ingredients on the table properly and gave a short summary of the events earlier.

"Uh... you are really quite unlucky. Ah, serve this great-grandaunt properly. Don't let her go crazy. Otherwise, it will be very frightening." Elder Hao patted Xiao Yan's shoulders with some sympathy as he spoke.

TL: The word great-grandaunt is used to describe a person who is very difficult to please/serve

Xiao Yan's entire body felt uneasy because of this manner of Elder Hao. He could not resist asking, "Just what kind of person is she?"

"Person? Who said she is human?" Elder Hao rolled his eyes, twitched his mouth and replied.

TL: The words for person / human are the same in chinese but the translation is different.

"She... she is not a human?" Xiao Yan was slightly startled. His forehead was filled with cold sweat as his voice formed words.

Chapter 534: Not a Human

Xiao Yan's eyes did not blink as he viewed the white-clothed little girl seated cross-legged opposite him within the quiet room. He really did not expect that such a cute little girl had originally transformed from a Magical Beast... Since he was born, this was the first time that he had seen a human transformed from a Magical Beast. Therefore, he felt surprise and gained a sudden understanding in his heart.

"No wonder she dares to eat medicinal ingredients raw. Her original form is actually a Magical Beast. With the strong body of a Magical Beast, the wild and violent medicinal strength is still within the boundary of her resistance."

"Have you seen enough? Hurry up and help me refine!" The little girl became slightly angry as she was being studied by Xiao Yan. She immediately threw the 'Hard Gold Pu' in her hand to him and furiously spoke. Earlier, Elder Hao may have spoken to Xiao Yan in a soft voice but she could still clearly hear what he said.

Xiao Yan received the 'Hard Gold Pu' and smiled with a nod. He waved his hand and summoned his medicinal cauldron. The last time, his medicinal cauldron had exploded during the competition. Therefore, the medicinal cauldron which he used this time around was something which he had bought from the Trading Area after the event. Its grade was not very high and was similar to the medicinal cauldron that he had used before. However, it was still passable to use.

With a wave of his hand, a wisp of green-colored flame formed on the tip of Xiao Yan's finger. He was just about to throw it into the medicinal cauldron when he was surprised to discover that the little girl was scooting away in a somewhat panicked manner beside him. Xiao Yan was startled when he saw her faintly anxious pupils. Immediately, he came to a sudden comprehension. It was likely that she had sensed that this 'Green Lotus Core Flame' was not ordinary. Normally speaking, as long as one was not a fire affinity Magical Beast, a Magical Beast would have some faint rejection for fire.

“Ke ke, it’s alright.” Xiao Yan comforted. He threw the wisp of flame into the medicinal cauldron. The little girl’s tensed body only gradually relaxed after seeing the flame enter the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan waited for the flame to grill the medicinal cauldron for awhile. After which, he threw the ‘Hard Gold Pu’ into it. With a wave of his hand, the fiery flame immediately began to rise intensely within the medicinal cauldron. This refinement was not considered difficult. It was alright as long as the flame had sufficient heat. Therefore, it did not exhaust too much of Xiao Yan’s spirit.

Besides refining, Xiao Yan split his attention and turned his gaze toward the white-clothed little girl by his side. His heart had become much more curious about her ever since he learned of her identity.

At this moment, the little girl’s large dark-black eyes stared into the medicinal cauldron without blinking.

“Little sister, *cough*, I wish to ask you a question. Will you answer me?” Xiao Yan let out a cough before he smiled and asked a question.

“What?” The little girl did not turn her gaze. She merely carelessly opened her mouth.

“I remember that if a Magical Beast wants to transform into a human form, it must at the very least reach the Dou Huang class, no? Don’t tell me...” Xiao Yan smiled and asked her a question. He really had some difficulty believing that this little girl in front of him possessed the ability of a Dou Huang. Although her strength was extremely frightening, Xiao Yan had quietly weighed it, and it had appeared around the strength of the Dou Wang class.

“I am not that strong. It is just that I accidentally ate a rarely seen ‘Body Transformation Grass’. After which, I turned into this manner and can no longer transform back. The reason for me eating these medicinal ingredients is to quickly grow up. After which, I will be able to transform between my beast body and human body as I please.” The little girl frowned. It appeared that she was not really interested in mentioning this. Therefore, her voice carried a humming tone.

“Body Transformation Grass? No wonder...” Xiao Yan came to a sudden understanding when he heard this. The ‘Body Transformation Grass’ was a key ingredient to refine the ‘Body Transformation Pill’. Therefore, it also possessed some of the transformation effects of the ‘Body Transformation Pill’. However, if a beast who had yet to reach required strength were to consume it, the beast would get stuck in its transformation in human form until its strength suddenly broke through to the Dou Huang class.

“Where are your parents?” Xiao Yan glanced at the ‘Hard Gold Pu’ which was gradually melting under the grilling of the green flame within the medicinal cauldron as he randomly asked.

"I don't have any." The little girl lowered her head and folded both legs. Her hands hugged her knees as her snow-white neat teeth tightly bit her lips. Those large dark-black eyes had some moisture. "Since I have gained consciousness until now, I have been living alone deep in the mountains. When I was young, I was bullied by the other fellows and could only flee gloomily... until I ate the 'Body Transformation Grass'. It was then that I met the First Elder of the Inner Academy. He brought me to the Inner Academy and I have remained here."

Xiao Yan was startled. He eyed the stubborn manner in which the little girl tightly bit her lips. Even Xiao Yan could vaguely sense the sadness in her heart. He let out a soft sigh and did his best to use a gentle voice to speak, "At the very least you will not be bullied in this place."

"Those fellows are so afraid of me. How would they dare to bully me? For someone like you, I can eat you up in one gulp." Pride was lifted on the little girl's face once again as she spoke.

"Do not say that you will eat someone up in one gulp if you meet anyone in the future. You are now of the human form." Xiao Yan shook his head in a speechless manner. She should see how hilarious it was when this small body spoke such words.

"Hmph. This is the truth, but I haven't eaten a human before." The little girl grunted. Her attitude had become much better after conversing with Xiao Yan for a while.

"Then it is best that you do not eat one..." Xiao Yan muttered. He waved his hand and a lump of powder fell into the medicinal cauldron. Immediately, it merged together with the golden-yellow liquid. Xiao Yan's ten fingers suddenly danced swiftly. Following the dancing of his fingers, the golden-yellow liquid within the medicinal cauldron swiftly separated. Finally, it transformed into dozens of tiny liquid clusters.

"Coagulate!" Xiao Yan cried out gently. The liquid swiftly solidified. In the blink of an eye, they turned into dozens of shiny gold Danwans, rolling and rotating above the green fire.

TL: Danwan/Yaowan - pills that has no really medicinal effect to a human and can potentially be harmful if consumed

"This kind of refinement is really easy. How good would it be if refining medicinal pills can be this relaxing..." Xiao Yan let out a bitter laughter as he eyed the Danwans that were emitting a golden-colored glow. With a wave of his hand, the dozens of golden-colored Danwans carried the golden glow as they shot out from within the medicinal cauldron. Finally, they landed in a jade bottle in Xiao Yan's hand.

"Hey, why don't you try it. The taste should be much better than the medicinal ingredients that you eat raw." Xiao Yan smiled and suggested as handed over the jade bottle to the little girl by his side. She had been eagerly watching him..

“Ai ai,” The little girl nodded repeatedly as she swiftly poured out a gold-colored Danwan. She ignored the remaining heat present on it and directly threw it into her mouth. She used her great strength to chew.

“How tasty...” The little girl chewed the Danwan into pieces after two to three bites before swallowing it. She licked her lips and eyed the jade bottle in her hand, wishing to continue eating.

Xiao Yan smiled and waved his hand to take out the medicinal ingredients to refine the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ from his storage ring. He arranged them as he said, “You should keep these Danwans for your own consumption. Do not give anyone else this to eat. Otherwise, you will torment that person to death.” This kind of Danwan could not even be called a medicinal pill. Only she, who had a strong Magical Beast constitution could endure this kind of wild and violent medicinal strength. If a human were to consume this, it was likely that he would lose a layer of skin or even die.

“I myself feel that they are inadequate...” The little girl muttered. She stood up and purposefully acted in an aged manner as she patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders. “You have done quite well. You can come and find me if there is anyone who bullies you in the future. I will stand up for you. There is no one in this Inner Academy who dares offend me.”

Xiao Yan felt neither able to laugh nor cry as he shook his head. He gently rubbed the extremely cute head of the little girl as he smiled and said, “Alright, I will definitely look for you.”

“Then if I have eaten all of these, can you help me refine more? Treat it as a reward for me protecting you.” The little girl immediately rejoiced when she heard this. She sat in a kneeling position in front of Xiao Yan. Those large dark-black eyes were filled with anticipation.

“...” Xiao Yan rolled his eyes. This little girl was actually planning something like this. He nearly thought that she had a good heart.

“Alright, alright. You can look for me after you have finished eating all of them. Remember my name and the place where I reside.” Xiao Yan waved his hand and replied somewhat weakly.

“I know. It’s Xiao Yan. That old fellow from earlier said it. I will also know your place of residence.” The little girl laughed. She no longer needed to consume those awful tasting medicinal ingredients. This caused her to really jump for joy. Xiao Yan was given the title of an extremely good person in her heart.

“In that case, you should continue refining. This medicinal refinement is far too dull. It is fortunate that I did not learn it. Otherwise, I would be bored to death.” The little girl

finally stood up with satisfaction after achieving her aim. She extended her tongue toward Xiao Yan and laughed as she responded.

Xiao Yan once again shook his head, feeling speechless. He eyed the little girl who was about to leave before suddenly shouting, "That's right. Little sister, I still don't know your name."

"I am called Zi Yan. It is a name that the First Elder give me. However, those fellows in the Inner Academy are extremely afraid of me. They privately call me 'Brute Force Queen'. Humph, all of them think that I am unaware of it." The little girl quietly knit her nose. Her fist danced violently in front of her. Immediately, a sharp sound suddenly appeared and a couple of invisible fist shadows shot out like the wind. Finally, they nestled close to Xiao Yan's face as they flew by before heavily smashing into the specially made wall that was as hard as metal. At that moment, a couple of deep dark-black holes that carried some crack lines surfaced on it.

Cold sweat dripped down from Xiao Yan's forehead. He rubbed his forehead in a stunned manner. It was a long while later before he threw a furious stare at Zi Yan, "Little monster, do you want to kill me?"

The small hand covered her mouth. She secretly extended her tongue before giving a hurried bow to Xiao Yan. Currently, Xiao Yan was like a parent providing food for her; she must not offend him.

"Xiao ge-ge, you can continue to refine. I will be leaving first. I will come and look for you after I finish eating them." Although she spoke like this in her mouth, Zi Yan had hurriedly fled out of the door.

Xiao Yan could only laugh bitterly when he saw that Zi Yan had escaped. This little girl was indeed cute, but she was a little too violent... Xiao Yan sighed. He waved his hand and a wisp of green-colored flames once again formed on the tip of his finger.

"That's right, Xiao ge-ge, I have a ranking in the Inner Academy. It is that whatever 'Strong Ranking'. I am the first, alright. If there is anyone who bullies you in the future, you can just mention my name." A small head suddenly extended in from the doorway. She smiled at Xiao Yan before hurriedly fleeing.

"Puff..."

The green-colored flame that was curling upwards suddenly disappeared completely. His mouth widened as he stared at the door in a stunned manner. It was a long while later before his entire body twitched as he muttered, "I... I... she is that top person on the 'Strong Ranking' that caused Lin Yan to greatly tremble with fear?"

Xiao Yan only felt that this world was filled with drama at this moment.

Chapter 535: The Final Medicinal Ingredient

It was a long while before Xiao Yan, who was within a quiet secret room, finally recovered from the shocking news that Zi Yan had spat from her mouth. He rubbed his face with great strength and laughed bitterly. It was really unexpected that the first on the 'Strong Ranking', which was described by Lin Yan until it appeared that she was an immortal, was actually such a little girl. No, it should be said that it was a powerful Magical Beast with a human appearance.

"This little girl is also quite cute. I wonder why Lin Yan is so afraid of her. However, with her strength, she is really able to sit in the top position. Looking from her frightening strength, it is likely that even an elite Dou Wang would not dare to fight her head on." Xiao Yan muttered softly.

"Although this little girl's strength is so frightening that it is a little overboard, she appears to completely rely on her physical strength from the way she attacked earlier. She did not exert even the slightest energy." Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded from within Xiao Yan's heart in a slow manner.

"Is Teacher able to see just what kind of Magical Beast Zi Yan is?" Xiao Yan inquired.

"I cannot tell... she has consumed the 'Body Transformation Grass'. Therefore, if she does not reveal her true form, an ordinary person would have difficulty identifying just what kind of Magical Beast she is." Yao Lao mused for a moment before saying, "However, from this intelligence of hers and the frightening strength that she displayed, I think that her original form should be a kind of extremely rare unique beast from the ancient times. After all, it is definitely impossible for an ordinary Magical Beast to train until the Dou Wang class without at least a hundred years if it are not be blessed with extremely good opportunity. Yet, after examining this little girl's aura, it did not appear like a Magical Beast that had trained for a hundred years. Hence, her original form should have quite an extraordinary origin."

"Oh..." Xiao Yan nodded slightly. Although Zi Yan's actual strength was very powerful, it appeared that her mind was just like a twelve to thirteen year old little human girl. Of course, this was excluding the indifferent aura that she would occasionally reveal.

Xiao Yan withdrew his curiosity for Zi Yan in his heart. He placed his entire focus back to the medicinal ingredients that had filled the area in front of him. Even he did not dare to say that he would succeed on the first try when refining this 'Dragon Strength Pill'. Therefore, when he had opened his mouth he asked for two sets of medicinal ingredients.

"Ah, refining this thing is really a toil on my mind. However, I can only go all out for that 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit'..." Xiao Yan let out a bitter laughter. He once again summoned a wisp of green flame and threw it into the medicinal cauldron. A moment

later, his mind gradually agglomerated as he used his entire focus to begin the refinement once again...

The refinement of the 'Dragon Strength Pill' was nearly a hundred times more complicated and troublesome than refining the 'Hard Gold Pu' for Zi Yan earlier. It was fortunate that Xiao Yan's strength had already advanced to the Dou Ling class. Regardless of whether it was in terms of the degree of force of the Dou Qi, or his control of the flame, he possessed an extremely obvious improvement. Hence, the training this time around was much more relaxing compared to when he competed with Han Xian. However, this was merely relatively speaking. From the looks of the dense perspiration that repeatedly seeped out from his forehead, he needed to put in all his effort in order to be able to refine this 'Dragon Strength Pill'.

The green flame passed through the medicinal cauldron and was imprinted on the wall within the quiet room. It danced around, making threatening gestures as though it was a vicious beast. As the flame rose, the medicinal ingredients that were placed in front of Xiao Yan were also swiftly being reduced.

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Time passed swiftly during the refinement. After spending nearly eight hours, the troublesome refinement finally entered its end stage.

"Coagulate!"

The cry sounded from within the quiet room. Immediately, a dark-red glow shot out from within the medicinal cauldron. Finally, it was grabbed firmly in Xiao Yan's palm. He observed it up and down before nodding with satisfaction as he placed the jade bottle into the storage ring.

Although he had successfully refined a 'Dragon Strength Pill' during this refinement, he had also destroyed a set of medicinal ingredients. However, Xiao Yan did not feel much heartache just because of this. He clearly knew that being able to possess this success rate of fifty-percent was already quite a good result.

Xiao Yan immediately collapsed with exhaustion after finishing all of this. He took out an 'Energy Recovery Pill' from his storage ring and stuffed it into his mouth. He ignored the fatigue that was emitted from all over his body as he hurriedly sat cross-legged and entered into his training mode. Training in this kind of situation where the Dou Qi in his body was completely exhausted reaped twice the benefits with half the effort. The matter of training was just like using drops of water to form a river. One cannot slacken even a little.

The training this time around used up a total of over an hour. Only then did the feeling of an empty interior in Xiao Yan's body disappear. He sensed the powerful Dou Qi flowing within his veins. He was slightly joyful to discover that the Dou Qi in his body had been

enhanced by quite a bit. From the looks of it, the refinement of medicinal pills may cause him to be so tired that he was about to die, but this process was not completely without any benefit.

Xiao Yan exhaled a long breath and stretched his lazy waist. As he heard the sound of his bones cracking against one another, a comfortable and delightful feeling of recovering from extreme fatigue spread out from deep within his heart, causing a smile to hang on the corner of his mouth.

“Now that we have obtained the ‘Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit’, I only lack the final rank 6 water affinity Monster Core before it is possible to refine the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’.” Xiao Yan’s finger gently rubbed his storage ring. Immediately, that alluring fruit that had ice and fire in one entity appeared in his hand.

“Rank 6... ah, that is equivalent to a Magical Beast that is as strong as an expert of the Dou Huang class. Where would I go and find it...” Xiao Yan rubbed his head and spoke softly.

“Let’s think of a solution. I can faintly sense that the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ in the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ is becoming increasingly stronger recently. I’m afraid that the uprising that I have mentioned isn’t far away..” Yao Lao said slowly.

“The moment of the uprising of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ will be our best opportunity to snatch it. We must not let it slip by. Otherwise, it is likely that the trouble we will encounter if we want to snatch it in the future would be at least ten times what it is. Hence, we must bring forward the refining of the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ as soon as possible.”

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. He sighed, “I’ll do my best.”

“Ke ke, you can relax. If it is really not possible, we can at the very most go into the deep mountains to search for a rank 6 Magical Beast. It is not possible that there isn’t a rank 6 Magical Beast hidden within such a vast mountain range.” Yao Lao comforted with a laugh.

Xiao Yan smiled when he heard Yao Lao’s comforting words. However, he was not completely at ease. Perhaps there was indeed a rank 6 Magical Beast hidden within the mountain range. However, in what way was it easy to kill a Magical Beast of this rank? Moreover, even if he could kill it, it was certain that a large earthshaking battle would erupt. At that time, it was likely that Teacher would be exposed should it alarm the Elders of the Inner Academy. That would be a little troublesome...

Xiao Yan sighed once again. Xiao Yan could only hide these worries. He stored the medicinal cauldron into his storage ring and patted himself. Finally, he stood up and slowly walked out of this quiet room.

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Elder Hao watch as Xiao Yan came out of the room. He hurriedly stood up and asked uneasily, "How's your refinement? Did you succeed?" Elder Hao understood a little about medicinal pill refinement. Therefore, he also understood just how high the failure rate of refining a tier five medicinal pill was.

"Ke ke, I failed once, but fortunately, I did not disappoint Elder's expectations." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He stepped forward and took out a jade bottle that stored the 'Dragon Strength Pill' before gently placing it on the table.

Elder Hao hurriedly grabbed the jade bottle on the table after seeing it. He carefully took out a round dark-red medicinal pill from within and said in a joyous manner, "You have really succeeded. Little fellow, you really do have some ability. No wonder you are even able to rein in the 'Heavenly Flame'."

Xiao Yan smiled and replied with some modest words when he heard this.

"Since you have refined a 'Dragon Strength Pill', that 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' shall be yours. Ke ke, your eyes are really sharp. The rarity of this thing could be ranked among the top ten even within the entire medicinal warehouse." Elder Hao stored the 'Dragon Strength Pill' properly, and waved his hand in a generous manner. He jokingly said, "If there is any other medicinal ingredients that you need in the future, you can just come and look for me. However, remember our transaction. Ha ha."

"Again? Refining one 'Dragon Strength Pill' has nearly caused me to collapse..." Xiao Yan smiled and thanked Elder Hao while he muttered in his heart. He cupped his hands and was about to bid Elder Hao goodbye when his heart stirred. He asked in a probing manner, "Elder Hao. I still urgently need something at this moment. May I inquire if Elder Hao can help me look for it. If it is possible, Xiao Yan will do his best to refine any medicinal pill that Elder asks for!"

"Oh? What is the thing you need?" Elder Hao's eyes brightened when he heard this as he asked with some interest.

"A rank 6 water affinity Monster Core." Xiao Yan stared intently at Elder Hao's face. When he spoke these words, he clearly sensed the other party's face twitch a little.

"Rank 6... why do you need such a high ranked Monster Core? A rank 6 Magical Beast is equivalent to an elite Dou Huang... With my current strength, I don't have the courage to look for their Monster Cores. Looks like there is no hope for this transaction." Elder Hao smiled bitterly and shook his head. His back was emitting cold sweat. Was the appetite of this fellow not a little too great? He actually opened his mouth and directly asked for a rank 6 Monster Core. Did he really think that it was a stone that could be picked up by the road side?

Xiao Yan could only sigh in disappointment when he heard the words of Elder Hao. He said with a bitter smile, "We shall forget about it since Elder does not have one."

Xiao Yan turned his body and left when he said this. However, after Elder Hao fondled his beard and thought for awhile, he suddenly opened his mouth and said, "It is true that I don't possess a rank 6 water affinity Monster Core, but I may perhaps be able to refer you to an Elder. He coincidentally has a rank 6 water affinity Monster Core in his hands. One that he had luckily obtained back then."

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. A wild joy immediately swarmed onto his face. "Really? If Elder Hao is able to refer me to him, Xiao Yan will definitely not forget about Elder Hao's benefits should I be able to obtain the rank 6 Monster Core."

"You should not get too excited now. That fellow has a stingy character. Back then, he had risked his life in order to rely on some luck to kill a rank 6 Magical Beast that was already seriously injured. Therefore, he has been holding onto the rank 6 Monster Core like a treasure. Occasionally, he will even boast about it in front of us. If you want to exchange for this rank 6 Monster Core from his hand, you need to take out something that he likes. Otherwise, you can be prepared to bleed profusely. Follow me." Elder Hao waved his hand and immediately led the way out of the door.

Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded. He swiftly followed Elder Hao. Being able to obtain news about a Rank 6 Monster Core at a juncture when he was pressed for time was undoubtedly good news to him. He must obtain that Rank 6 Monster Core no matter the price it took.

Chapter 536: Exchange

Xiao Yan followed Elder Hao as he walked out of the medicinal management warehouse. They walked slowly while following the main road. There were occasionally some students who saw the two of them walking side by side along the way. Surprise flashed across their faces. Elder Hao always looked at the others with a cold face. Therefore, other people both feared and respected him. All of them felt extremely surprised when they saw that he engaged in a smiling conversation with Xiao Yan. On top of being surprised, they could not help but view Xiao Yan a little more seriously. Everyone clearly knew the authority of these Elders within the Inner Academy. If someone did not open their eyes and offended them, these Elders may find trouble. Abusing one's authority for one's private purposes was something that inevitably existed even within this Inner Academy.

Xiao Yan did not pay much attention to those gazes along the way. Due to Elder Hao being by his side, even some of the students who recognized him and wanted to step forward to issue a challenge also weighed the situation and shrank back. Therefore, it saved Xiao Yan a lot of trouble.

“That Elder is called Liu Ying, he is the Tower Guardian Elder of the fifth level of the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’. It is his turn to rest today, therefore, we can directly go to his living quarters.” Elder Hao told Xiao Yan some of the matters related to that Elder along the way.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly when he heard this.

“You can simply state the purpose of your visit when you see that fellow. Although his temper is a little strong, you need not be afraid of him. He will not do anything to you.”

Xiao Yan smiled. He mused for a moment before asking, “Does this Elder Liu have anything that he specially likes?” Xiao Yan naturally needed to cater to the Elder’s liking if he wanted to successfully obtain the rank 6 Monster Core from the other person’s hands.

“What does he like... you should clearly understand that upon reaching a class like ours, it is very difficult to move us with ordinary valuables. Instead, some of the things that could aid us in our training possess an enormous attraction to us. Although that fellow is stingy, he is extremely obsessed with training. If you are able to take out an item that would benefit his training, I think that he should be attracted.” Elder Hao voiced his thoughts.

“Something that benefits his training...” Xiao Yan muttered softly, “May I know what is the affinity of the Qi Method that this Elder practices?”

“Fire affinity. It is precisely because of this that his temper is a little strong.” Elder Hao replied and smiled.

“Fire affinity...” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded slightly. He now had a small understanding within his heart.

Elder Hao could not help but be a little stunned when he saw the manner of Xiao Yan. Was this fellow really able to take out something that would move that stingy old fellow? That’s right. He is an alchemist. Ordinarily speaking, he should have stored some treasures.

As the two of them conversed along the way, they had unknowingly approached the inner regions of the Inner Academy. This place was the residence of the Inner Academy Elders and Instructors. The environment was quiet and peaceful. It was many times better than the hostel of the students. This was nothing strange. With the powerful strength of these Elders, the treatment that they received was naturally not something that students like them could compare with.

They passed through a lush green area before Elder Hao gradually slowed his footsteps a while later. Finally, he stopped at a house that was completely built by emerald-green bamboo.

"This Elder Liu really knows how to enjoy himself." Xiao Yan could not help but feel some surprise in his heart when he saw this bamboo house.

Elder Hao in front of him had lifted his hand and was just about to knock on the door when a powerful and impatient voice was emitted from behind the door, "Just come in if you want to. Why do you need to knock the door? You like this antiquated method. Can't you be more direct?"

Xiao Yan let out a bitter laugh when he heard the words that were transmitted from within the house. Only then did he understand why Elder Hao told him to directly express the purpose of his visit. Clearly, this was an impatient fellow. He would not accept someone who spoke to him in a roundabout manner.

Elder Hao did not feel anything at this moment. He pushed open the door as though he was used to it and walked in while holding a smile on his face as he said, "Elder Liu. I have brought someone with me and I'm afraid that you will have to see him."

"Who is it?" Xiao Yan also followed Elder Hao and walked into the house. However, he coincidentally saw a red-robed old man walking in the house. At this moment, the old man's sleepy eyes were still a little bleary. It appeared that he had just escaped from his sleep. He spoke as he walked and only raised his head when he was at the front of the house. When his gaze drifted toward the young man whose appearance was unclear because of the light from behind him, Elder Liu could not help but frown and said, "Brat, where have you come from. Don't tell me that you have been chased out of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' by some Elders and want me to go and plead for you?"

"Student Xiao Yan greets Elder Liu." Xiao Yan smiled slightly, took a step forward and spoke with his hands cupped together.

"Ah... huh? Xiao Yan? That Xiao Yan who is able to refine a tier five medicinal pill?" Elder Liu had merely responded with an indifferent sound initially. After all, he had seen too many students who had come here to beg for mercy and was already too lazy to be bothered by their complaints. However, he was a little startled after he heard the somewhat familiar name. His gaze hurriedly shifted to Xiao Yan's face as he opened his mouth and spoke in a surprised manner.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He did not expect that his status as an alchemist was so useful. Even this Elder had hurriedly changed his expression when he heard his name.

"Ke ke, this name is extremely well known. Sit. What reason do you have to look for me?" Elder Liu smiled and waved his hand toward Xiao Yan. He sat on the chair before returning to his impatient character as he asked in a pressing manner.

Xiao Yan tilted his head slightly toward Elder Hao and exchanged glances with him when he heard this. The latter spread his hand, indicating that Xiao Yan would have to handle the remaining matters. Xiao Yan helplessly nodded and mused for a moment.

He exercised some discretion in his words before he smiled and said, "This time around, I have come to look for Elder Liu mainly because this little me is currently lacking something. Coincidentally, Elder Liu is in possession of this thing. Xiao Yan will definitely provide a great reward if Elder Liu promises to exchange this thing with little me."

"Lacking something?" Elder Liu was a little startled. His expression did not change as he placed down the teacup in his hand and said, "What is it? Tell me. I will not reject as long as it is not an extremely valuable item."

"A rank 6 water affinity Monster Core." Xiao Yan mentioned casually.

"Crack!"

Xiao Yan's words had just sounded when the teacup in Elder Liu's hand in front of him could not resist the sudden increase in strength. With a clear sound, it turned into a pile of fragments.

"*Cough*..." Elder Hao coughed softly by the side. This fellow really did view that thing as his life. It appeared that it was going to be quite difficult for Xiao Yan to obtain it this time around.

"Hmph. This randomly gossiping fellow is the one who tells you that I possess a rank 6 Monster Core right?" Elder Liu rubbed away the water traces on his hand and stared at Elder Hao. Although the First Elder had quietly informed them to look after Xiao Yan, they did not need to look after him to such an extent did they? A rank 6 Monster Core was a rare thing no matter how one placed it. Moreover, this thing is something that he had obtained after risking his life back then. How could he easily give it to someone else?

"I will openly tell you that I will not give the rank 6 Monster Core to anyone. You should not waste your effort." In an attempt to remove this thought of Xiao Yan's, Elder Liu's first sentence was extremely firm.

Elder Hao shook his head helplessly. It appeared that there was not much hope for the manner today.

"Ke ke, Elder Liu, a rank 6 Monster Core may indeed be valuable, but it is not something that truly does not have a price. You practice fire affinity Qi Method. Such a water affinity Monster Core does not have the slightest benefit to you. The only reason that you reject me without even thinking should be that you are worried that I am unable to take out something that would truly attract Elder Hao, no?" Xiao Yan did not feel dejected just because of Elder Liu's firm manner. He smiled slightly before speaking in a slow manner.

Elder Liu rolled his eyes but did not reply. A rank 6 Magical Beast was something that even the current him could not defeat. Although he viewed this rank 6 Monster Core as a treasure, he was not a fool who hugged it until his old age. This Monster Core may possess a powerful energy but that was a kind of wild and violent energy that had not been refined. A human body would not easily absorb it. Therefore, he would naturally not reject if there was someone who was able to take out something that would move him to exchange for it. However, with the age of Xiao Yan in front of him, Elder Liu really had difficulty believing just how valuable the thing that he could take out was.

“Elder Liu should also know that this rank 6 Monster core is unable to be of much use in your hands. Therefore, it would be the best choice to exchange it for something. Elder need not be stubborn. Why don’t you open your mouth and tell me what you want. If Xiao Yan possesses it, I will naturally take it out.” Xiao Yan spoke softly.

“Hey, I say, you should not be so antiquated. Although Xiao Yan is young, there might be more treasures on him than you. There will no longer be this shop once you pass this village.” Elder Hao fanned the flames by the side.

TL: There will no longer be this shop once you pass this village - meaning there will no longer be this opportunity once you miss it.

Elder Liu’s face alternated between green and white. A long while later, his tensed face finally relaxed. He rubbed his nose and said, “It is possible if you want to exchange for this rank 6 Monster Core from my hands as long as you give me a ‘Dou Ling Pill!’”

“Dou Ling Pill? Don’t you have a lion’s mouth, old fellow who won’t die?” Elder Hao by the side immediately leaped up when Elder Liu’s voice sounded. The former widened his eyes and scolded, “That is a tier 6 medicinal pill. How can Xiao Yan refine it with his current strength? Aren’t you making things difficult for others?”

Elder Liu smacked his lips and ignored him. He only used his gaze to watch Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. His finger gently tapped on the surface of the table. It was a long while later before he shook his head slightly and said, “I am indeed unable to take out this ‘Dou Ling Pill’.”

Elder Liu was immediately disappointed when he heard this. He waved his hand in a dispirited manner and said, “Please leave if you don’t have it.”

“However...” Xiao Yan smiled. He flicked his finger gently on his storage ring. Immediately, a thumb-sized green-colored lotus seed appeared in his palm. The green-colored lotus seed had just appeared when a powerful fiery hot energy reverberated within the room.

Xiao Yan smiled and spoke as he eyed Elder Liu, who had straightened in an instant. “I think that Elder Liu might have some interest in this thing.”

Chapter 537: Obtaining It

The green-colored lotus seed lay quietly in Xiao Yan's hand emitting a faint glow. Although it was quite small, the powerful hot energy that it contained caused even Elder Liu's and Elder Hao's faces to be filled with surprise.

This green-colored lotus seed was the additional item that Xiao Yan had found when searching for the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' within the Great Tager Desert, the 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. This kind of Fire Lotus Seed was agglomerated and formed from fire affinity energy after a long duration of time. Therefore, it greatly benefited those who practiced fire affinity Dou Qi. Back then, Xiao Yan had obtained a total of eleven 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. He had consumed one himself. Hence, he was left with only ten of them.

Back when Xiao Yan had just obtained the Fire Lotus Seeds, Yao Lao had told him that he should try his best to avoid revealing it in front of others. Otherwise, he might end up with a lot of trouble for no other reason besides the arousal of other people's greed. Things were different now. Currently, Xiao Yan was no longer that small Dou Shi he was back then. There were also many trump cards that he had now. Even if he were to face an elite Dou Wang, Xiao Yan would be able to withdraw in one piece. Moreover, he was currently within the Inner Academy, and did not need to worry that these Elders would quietly attack him just because they desired his things.

The atmosphere within the room was quiet. The slightly hot energy fluctuation appeared to have created a faint hot wind within the room.

Elder Liu's eyes stared directly at the 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. The glow in his eyes grew increasingly intense. If he were able to absorb all of this powerful energy, it was likely that his strength, which had not seen any movement for a long time, would once again obtain an advancement! He let out a heavy sigh in his heart. It was really unexpected that Xiao Yan was actually able to take out such a treasure. Although this 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' did not possess an attraction that was as large as a 'Dou Ling Pill' in the eyes of a Dou Wang, Elder Liu also clearly understood that unless he met a true sucker, it would be quite difficult for him to exchange a 'Dou Ling Pill' from the hands of other alchemists with this rank 6 Monster Core. The exchange terms that he had mentioned earlier was just as Elder Hao described earlier. He really had a lions mouth, demanding more than what was fair.

“*Cough*” A soft coughing sound suddenly sounded, causing the two Elders, who had descended into silence to recover. They exchanged glances with one another, and gave awkward smiles.

Elder Liu coughed dryly. His gaze partially loomed over Xiao Yan's hand as he studied it. His originally somewhat sunken face had an additional smile, “May I know what this thing in your hand is?”

"This is a lotus seed formed from the coagulation of the core flame. It is something that the little me had obtained with luck. It is rumored that it requires at least a hundred years for such a lotus seed to take form." Xiao Yan smiled. Since no one recognized it, the other party would be stunned even if he said it took a thousand years.

"Oh." Elder Liu nodded slightly. The skin on his face twitched a little, feeling uncertain about whether he should believe it.

"What do you say, Elder Liu? This 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' may not be comparable to a 'Dou Ling Pill,' but it is also an extremely rare item. Moreover, it even possesses such pure fire affinity energy. I'm afraid that the benefits it has for you are far more than what that rank 6 water affinity Monster Core can compare with." Xiao Yan smiled and said.

Elder Hao licked his mouth. His expression was filled with hesitation and indecision. Although this 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' was rare, he really felt that it was difficult to just hand over the most precious rank 6 Monster Core to exchange for it within this short period of time. His finger knocked against the table and the expression on his face was volatile. It was a long while later before he slowly spoke, "I would lose out if my rank 6 Monster core is exchanged for just one 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'..." He suddenly slammed the table at the end of his words and said, "If you were to take out another 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed', I will endure the pain in my heart and hand this rank 6 Monster Core to you."

Elder Hao's face twitched when he heard these words by the side. However, he did not open his mouth to interrupt. Instead, he merely used his gaze to glance at Xiao Yan, appearing to be waiting for his decision.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. This 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' was extremely rare. He had been unwilling to consume it unless it was a critical moment. This was because he was uncertain whether he would need them when he wanted to refine some higher tier medicinal pills in the future. These things only formed in the place where the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' was born. However, just how many places in this world could one find the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'? Therefore, he would basically lose one 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' each time he used it. It was already his limit now that he had taken out one pill to exchange for Elder Liu's rank 6 Monster Core. It would be Xiao Yan's turn to feel pain if he were to add another one.

"Ah, I have only luckily obtained one 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. Elder Liu, you are really making things difficult for me if you want me to add another." Xiao Yan let out a sigh and shook his head. He slowly withdrew his palm and kept the 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. From the looks of it, he actually had the intention to give up this transaction.

Anxiety flashed across Elder Liu's eyes when he saw Xiao Yan's action. He forcefully suppressed the impulse in his heart as he gave Xiao Yan a forceful smile and said, "Little fellow, this 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed' may be rare, but you should also clearly be aware of the value of a rank 6 Monster Core. How many people would dare to place

their intention on a Magical Beast that could contend against an elite Dou Huang? With the exception of the First Elder, this rank 6 Monster Core in my hands is perhaps the only one among all the many Elders of the Inner Academy.”

The meaning of these words were undoubtedly secretly reminding Xiao Yan that only he himself possessed a rank 6 Monster Core in his hand within this Inner Academy. If Xiao Yan did not exchange with him, the former might end up empty-handed.

“I also wish to. Unfortunately, I am unable to fork out the price that Elder wants.” Although Elder Liu hid his anxiety quite well, his original character was not suited for such concealment of his feelings. Therefore, Xiao Yan, who was sitting on the opposite side, was able to clearly grasp this thread of emotion. Immediately, he let out a snicker within his heart. On the surface, however, he sighed and shook his head. He actually stood up slowly and stored the ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’ back into his storage ring. After which, he cupped his hands toward Elder Liu before speaking to Elder Hao beside him with a bitter smile, “Elder Hao, let’s leave.”

“Ah, forget it. It is alright that you are unable to exchange for it. Later, I will help you inquire with the First Elder.” Elder Hao helplessly nodded as he stood up and spoke to Xiao Yan.

The eyes of Elder Liu, who was seated beside him, twitched upon hearing this. He was slightly furious as he quietly cursed. When he saw that Xiao Yan had turned around and was about to leave, he was finally unable to endure it any longer. He hurriedly stood up and said, “Little friend Xiao Yan, don’t be in such a hurry to leave. We can continue to discuss.”

Xiao Yan’s footsteps paused for a moment. His heart finally sighed in relief when he heard Elder Liu open his mouth. He turned his head slightly, only to see the smile on Elder Hao’s face and was instantly startled. Elder Hao had actually understood Elder Liu’s impatient manner. Therefore, he had fanned the flame.

Xiao Yan threw a gaze of gratitude to Elder Hao. Only then did he turn around and speak with a helpless look on his face, “Elder Liu, it is not that I am unwilling to exchange but I am really unable to take out a second ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’.”

Elder Liu’s face turned slightly red. He wanted to obtain that ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’, but felt heartache over the value of the rank 6 Monster Core. He became somewhat silent immediately. After struggling in this manner for a while, he finally sighed in a dissipated manner and said, “It is fine that you don’t add another ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’. However, you must promise me one thing.”

“What is it?” Xiao Yan asked cautiously.

“Help me refine one ‘Dragon Strength Pill’.” Elder Liu sighed. He was dissatisfied to simply take one ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’. Therefore, he must definitely get something else. Only then will his heart be in equilibrium.

“Refining a ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ huh...” Xiao Yan rejoiced within his heart when he heard this. On the surface, however, he hesitated for a moment before speaking, “Alright. However, according to the rules, Elder Liu must prepare the ingredients for the refinement by yourself.”

“You... you stingy fellow!” Elder Liu immediately blew at his beard somewhat angrily when he heard Xiao Yan’s words. After cursing loudly, however, he suddenly became dispirited. With a wave of his hand, he said, “Alright I will prepare the medicinal ingredients by myself, by myself. Little fellow, you are a little too stingy. Can’t a young person be a little more generous?”

“I cannot be a little more generous on this. Even I myself cannot gather all the ingredients needed to refine the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’, where will I find them to help you refine it?” Xiao Yan muttered in his heart. The ‘Dragon Strength Pill’ that he gave Elder Hao was refined from the medicinal ingredients that the latter had prepared himself. Although these medicinal ingredients cannot be compared to the ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’, they were still quite rare. It was likely that he would have to waste a lot of time if he were to go and search for them by himself.

A glow flicked from the storage ring on Elder Liu’s hand. An azure-colored crystal body that was the size of a fist appeared in his hand. Following the appearance of the azure-colored crystal, the originally dry room immediately became somewhat fresh and cool as well as a little moist.

Elder Liu rubbed this azure crystal body whose shape was not uniform, unwilling to part with it. A moment later, he clenched his teeth and gently placed it on the table. He said, “Ah, take it, take it.”

Xiao Yan’s eyes stared intently at the blue-colored crystal on the table. The slight glow which it emitted was gentle and did not pierce one’s eyes. One could even vaguely hear a little wave sounds resonate from the crystal body. A fieriness rose quietly within Xiao Yan’s heart. His expression did not change as he took a step forward. He held it in his hand under the extremely painful gaze of Elder Liu. Only after he sensed the powerful water affinity energy like a surging river did he sigh in relief and appeared to have been freed from a heavy burden. He had finally obtained this final thing that he needed to refine the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’.

“Ke ke, Elder Liu. You can keep this ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’ first. As for the ‘Dragon Strength Pill’, I will help Elder refine it once you send the medicinal ingredients that you have gathered to ‘Pan’s Gate’.” Xiao Yan swiftly stored the rank 6 water affinity Monster Core into his storage ring before smiling and respectfully handing over the ‘Ground-Fire Lotus Seed’ in his hand to Elder Liu.

Elder Liu shook his head with a bitter smile. He grabbed this 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. Only after sensing the enormous fire affinity energy within it did his expression become a little better. He let out a faint 'ai' sound before waving his hand toward Xiao Yan and Elder Hao.

Xiao Yan knew that Elder Liu was definitely in somewhat of a bad mood at this moment. Therefore, he did not dare to continue remaining here. He secretly laughed in his heart before exchanging a look with Elder Hao. The both of them left with their limbs feeling light, leaving behind Elder Liu, whose expression alternated between joy and pain as he held the 'Ground-Fire Lotus Seed'. The latter was alone in the room, tasting the feeling of conflict.

Chapter 538: Refining the Ground Spirit Pill

Xiao Yan and Elder Hao exchanged glances with one another as they walked out of Elder Liu's room. Both of them involuntarily laughed out loud.

"Elder Hao, I really have to thank you very much this time around." Xiao Yan walked a little closer and softly said, "There will definitely be a reward for you in the future."

"Ke ke, this is but a small matter. Our ears will be a little quieter now that that fellow has lost the thing he boasts about in front of us." Elder Hao waved his hand. However, from the looks of his expression, Xiao Yan's words still caused him to be quite happy. After all, he already had some intention of befriending Xiao Yan after witnessing the latter's refinement skills. He was already quite happy at being able to get a tier five alchemist to owe him a favor that was neither large nor small.

The two of them chatted and laughed as they walked out of this quiet area where the Elders resided. The two of them separated at a fork in the road. Elder Hao needed to return to guard the medicinal warehouse, and Xiao Yan needed to return to 'Pan's Gate'.

Xiao Yan stood at the forked road and eyed Elder Hao's back which had disappeared. He let out a long sigh, and the joy within his heart involuntarily surfaced on his face. Now that he had fully prepared all the things he needed, all that was left was the refinement. However, the 'Ground Spirit Pill' was a tier 6 medicinal pill. With his current strength, he could merely refine some common tier 5 medicinal pills. He need not even be bothered about thinking of a tier 6 medicinal pill. Therefore, it was likely that Yao Lao would need to act to refine the 'Ground Spirit Pill'.

"Now, we are pressed for time. There is no telling when the 'Fallen Heart Flame' will erupt. Therefore, it is best to refine this 'Ground Spirit Pill' as soon as possible." Yao Lao's voice also quietly sounded within Xiao Yan's heart while the latter was in deep thought.

Xiao Yan raised his head slightly. He eyed the deserted area around him and nodded his head without leaving a trace. His footsteps walked toward the area where 'Pan's Gate' was located as he softly asked in his heart, "In that case, when does Teacher intend to act?"

"It is for best that we do it during these next few days." Yao Lao voiced his thoughts, "You should first rest for one to two days. After which, we will need to enter deep into the mountains once again. Some unusual phenomenon occurs in the sky when refining a tier 6 medicinal pill. Moreover, this 'Ground Spirit Pill' can be considered among the top even within the tier 6 medicinal pills. Hence, there might be quite a great movement. As such, we will definitely be exposed if we were to refine it within the Inner Academy."

Xiao Yan nodded his head, indicating that he understood. He quietly mused for a while within his heart before he gradually hastened his footsteps. A short while later, he appeared outside of 'Pan's Gate'. Perhaps it was because it was currently at night, but the people who were waiting at this place to challenge him had all disappeared. This caused Xiao Yan to save the trouble of secretly flying in again. He arranged his robes before openly walking in through the main entrance.

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Xiao Yan spent the next two days training quietly within 'Pan's Gate'. He did not enter the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Moreover, no problems occurred within 'Pan's Gate' during these two days. Currently, the sale of medicinal pills by 'Pan's Gate' dominated seventy-percent of the market of the academy. An increasing number of older students had also wanted to enter after hearing the name of 'Pan's Gate'. Moreover, the number of alchemists in 'Pan's Gate' increased from the original three to the current six after a stringent selection period. Therefore, the speed at which the medicinal pills were refined had also increased by quite a lot.

Currently, the strength of 'Pan's Gate' was already a faction that was sufficient enough to rival that of some of the top tier factions within the Inner Academy under the support of the powerful 'Fire Energy'. Moreover, two strong people who had reached the strength of three star Dou Lings ended up joining 'Pan's Gate' due to the attraction of the reward and punishment system that Xun Er and the others had set up. This was something that Xiao Yan had not expected.

Hence, 'Pan's Gate' currently possessed three elite Dou Lings if these two Dou Ling were included. This line-up caused it to have the qualification to truly become a top tier faction. Moreover, under the support of its powerful finances, someone who was able to become a member of 'Pan's Gate' already possessed the capital to boast to people around them.

The current 'Pan's Gate' was as different as the clouds in the sky and the mud on the ground when compared to the 'Pan's Gate' formed from new students half a year ago.

By being able to transform a mediocre faction into a powerful one within half a year, Xiao Yan's name also began to spread around the Inner Academy in an increasingly loud manner. Although he was merely ranked thirty-four on the 'Strong Ranking', his reputation was enough to catch up with those top experts in the top ten.

Xiao Yan finally ended his training retreat on the third day. He had firmly stabilized his strength at the one star Dou Ling level today. Moreover, his Dou Qi had also advanced quite significantly due to him refining medicinal pills a couple of times. According to this speed, he would not need much time to enter into the peak of a one star Dou Ling.

Xiao Yan walked downstairs after coming out of his room. He saw Hu Jia's figure within the hall, and felt a much stronger Qi from her. Xiao Yan understood that she had actually benefited from her misfortune of being injured this time, allowing her to breakthrough to the level of a nine star Da Dou Shi. With her training talent, she might not need much time before she truly breakthrough to become a Dou Ling. At that time, 'Pan's Gate' would have an additional Dou Ling. Oh no, it should be two more. He must not exclude that battle lunatic Wu Hao. With the way he crazily fought everyday in the Fighting Arena, Xiao Yan guessed that the latter might well enter the Dou Ling class earlier than Hu Jia.

Xiao Yan walked into the hall and carelessly ate some breakfast. He briefly told Xun Er that he needed to once again enter the deep mountains this time around. The latter also felt somewhat stunned when she heard that Xiao Yan was going back after having only just returned for a couple of days. However, she found it hard to say anything to stop Xiao Yan when she saw his serious expression. All she did was merely nod her head obediently.

"Go, be careful. I will take care of 'Pan's Gate'." Xun Er said with a soft smile when she saw Xiao Yan standing up and preparing to leave after having eaten his breakfast.

"Ai, you have all worked really hard. I will return after a couple of days this time around." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded to Xun Er and Hu Jia. He pulled open the door and an eye-piercing sunlight caused him to narrow his eyes. Immediately, he let out a smile and proudly walked out.

Xiao Yan ran to the exit of the Inner Academy after leaving 'Pan's Gate'. Only after leaving the Inner Academy did he search for a remote location. After which, he summoned his Purple Cloud Wings and swiftly rose into the air. His body transformed into a black shadow that swiftly flew into the deep mountains.

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Xiao Yan flapped the Purple Cloud Wings and flew for nearly an hour. After he figured out that he had already entered the middle region of the mountain range, he gradually slowed down. He spent half an hour searching a precipitous mountain peak that was merely a few dozen feet wide before slowly descending.

These few mountain peaks were nearly completely vertical. If one did not borrow the help of wings, it was impossible to climb to its peak without the support of powerful Dou Qi. Moreover, there were a couple of even taller mountain peaks standing around it. Coincidentally they covered this small mountain peak within enormous lush green trees.

Yao Lao's figure immediately drifted out when Xiao Yan landed on the top of this small mountain. The former eyed his surroundings before nodding with some satisfaction.

"You should not be too far away while I am refining the 'Ground Spirit Pill'. You need to carefully observe my refining methods. Although you are able to be extremely sought after no matter where you are given your current medicinal refinement skills, you still have an extremely large gap when compared with a true alchemist grandmaster." Yao Lao spoke to Xiao Yan in a solemn manner.

"Yes." Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded when he heard this. Being able to observe an alchemist grandmaster refining a medicinal pill was something that one might encounter, but could not wish for. It had extremely great benefits for him.

TL: something that one might encounter, but could not wish for - meaning that if one is lucky one will meet it. Otherwise, one will not get the chance regardless of how much they desire

"Of course, you must keep a distance from the unnatural phenomenon when the pill is formed. Otherwise, it would be troublesome if you are accidentally injured." Yao Lao sat cross-legged on the grass as he reminded.

Xiao Yan nodded once again.

"Take out the medicinal ingredients." Yao Lao's expression gradually became solemn as he exhaled a deep breath of air and instructed.

Xiao Yan swiftly took out the few extremely rare medicinal ingredients from his storage ring when he heard Yao Lao's instruction. He placed them orderly in front of him. In an instant, a rich medicinal fragrance covered this small mountain peak. When one inhaled a deep breath, it caused one to feel relaxed and happy.

Yao Lao's gaze slowly swept over the few medicinal ingredients. He nodded slightly before waving his hand toward Xiao Yan. The ancient dark-black ring on the latter's hand immediately came off automatically. Finally, it floated in front of Yao Lao.

The black-colored ring glowed and flickered. Immediately, a five-foot-tall, dark-black medicinal cauldron suddenly appeared.

The entire body of the dark-black medicinal cauldron had strange flame lines painted all over it. At a glance, those flames appeared to have intelligence. They wiggled slightly appearing to be living creatures.

The appearance of this medicinal cauldron caused Xiao Yan's mouth to salivate more. Back then, he had seen Yao Lao summon it before. However, he was basically a novice back then. How would he be painstakingly aware of just how valuable this medicinal cauldron was within the alchemist world?

"Black Demon... tsk tsk. When can I get my hands on one of these medicinal cauldrons which is on the 'Heavenly Cauldron Ranking'?" Xiao Yan's gaze was blurred as he eyed this dark-black medicinal cauldron with an extraordinary aura. His tone was filled with desire as he spoke. The medicinal cauldrons that he used in the past were totally piles of garbage when compared with this 'Black Demon'.

Yao Lao eyed those glowing eyes of Xiao Yan and shook his head, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. He said, "This kind of medicinal cauldron which is ranked within the 'Heavenly Cauldron Rank' possesses some spirituality. Moreover, I have also applied a spiritual imprint on this 'Black Demon'. Currently, you are unable to use it. I will be able to remove the spiritual imprint once I possess a body that can host a spirit. You will be able to randomly use it at that time."

Xiao Yan let out silly laughter.

"Alright. The refinement is about to begin. Little fellow, don't be distracted." Yao Lao laughed. His face gradually became serious. It was apparent how serious he was toward this refinement through his act of summoning the 'Black Demon' to refine the medicinal pill.

A shriveled eagle claw like illusionary hand extended slightly. Immediately, a cluster of thick white flame appeared out of nowhere.

The surrounding temperature declined greatly the moment the thick white flame appeared. Although the temperature had declined, the flame rose even more intensely. The two completely opposite perceptions caused it to appear extremely strange.

Yao Lao waved his hand. The thick white flame instantly swarmed into the medicinal cauldron. In an instant, a raging intense flame rose from within the cauldron.

At this moment, the refinement of the tier 6 'Ground Spirit Pill' had officially begun!

Chapter 539: Stir of Activity

A dense white-colored flame was partially visible among the green shade of the lush green mountain peak, much like a ghostly flame.

Yao Lao's expression was serious as he eyed the swiftly rising dense white flame within the medicinal cauldron. Due to the quality of the 'Black Demon' cauldron being exceptionally extraordinary, this initial step of warming the cauldron required a little bit longer compared to other ordinary cauldrons. However, Yao Lao's medicinal refinement

skills and his degree of control over the 'Bone Chilling Flame' naturally enabled him to forego this extra time needed. Therefore, Yao Lao's hand waved at the few medicinal ingredients on the ground in front of him after the flame withered for nearly one minute. Immediately, the fiery red 'Flame Core Ganoderma' slowly flew up and was finally thrown into the medicinal cauldron.

The moment the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' entered the medicinal cauldron, the dense white flame swallowed it like a hungry wolf pouncing on its meal. In an instant, the former began to swiftly wither.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the interior of the medicinal cauldron. Although the flame within the cauldron was blazing, he was able to sense that the temperature of the flame had been suppressed by Yao Lao to a very precise degree. Therefore, this flame may have appeared ferocious, but it did not incinerate the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' until it turned into ashes. Instead, under a gradual withering, blood-colored tiny and dense water droplets seeped out from within the 'Flame Core Ganoderma'. Finally, they rolled down along the surface and were suspended over the flame, repeatedly rolling and turning.

Following the repeated grilling and blood-colored water droplets seeping out, the fiery red-colored surface of the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' also swiftly withdrew. An instant later, the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' was completely transformed into a withered gray color. At this moment, the medicinal strength essence that was contained within it had been completely forced out by the flame. Hence, its original body had completely turned into a useless scrap.

Yao Lao waved his hand. The withered 'Flame Core Ganoderma' rushed out from the medicinal cauldron. Finally, it landed on the grass to the side. It turned into a pile of gray-colored soot the instant it landed on the ground, and scattered with the winds.

"He is indeed an alchemist grandmaster. This refinement technique is far from what I can compare with." Xiao Yan quietly praised as he eyed the soot-stained ground. He basically completely burned the medicinal ingredient when he was refining medicinal ingredients in the past. This could not be attributed to the ferocity of the flame. Instead, it could only be said that his degree of control of the flame had yet to truly reach the pinnacle. Only by being able to control the temperature the instant the medicinal ingredient was truly withered and being able to toss the withered remnants out of the medicinal cauldron with ease just like Yao Lao, could one be said to have truly perfect control.

A cluster of blood-red liquid rolled and rotated within the medicinal cauldron. It was just like a blood-colored droplet. This blood-colored liquid was the medicinal strength essence that came from the initial refinement of the 'Flame Core Ganoderma'. The energy that was contained in it was so large that it left one speechless.

After the agglomeration of this blood-red liquid, this liquid did not quietly comply with the refinement like the medicines that Xiao Yan had refined in the past. Instead, numerous blood threads extended out. An extremely powerful energy was contained in the threads of blood. When each blood thread struck the interior wall of the cauldron, it would emit numerous clear sounds of metal colliding.

Under the random collisions of these blood threads, even the medicinal cauldron trembled slightly.

Xiao Yan was startled as he eyed the dense blood tentacles being shot around explosively within the medicinal cauldron. He could not help but smack his mouth. It was indeed worthy of being a medicinal ingredient needed to refine a tier 6 medicinal pill. It actually even possessed the ability to retaliate. From the looks of the strength of these blood threads, it was likely that those ordinary medicinal cauldrons which Xiao Yan had used would at the very most be able to withstand a couple of hits before it would be filled with holes.

The violent movement of these blood threads did not cause Yao Lao's expression to change. He waved his hand faintly and the dense white-colored flame within the medicinal cauldron suddenly soared. Those blood threads appeared to be shocked the moment they came into contact with the flame, because they hurriedly shrank back. In this way, the originally packed blood threads were completely suppressed into that cluster of red liquid under the large scale encirclement of flame. The liquid no longer dared to randomly charge out under the covetous gaze of the surrounding flame.

“Puff!”

A cluster of dense white flame separated out. Finally, it was suspended below the blood-colored liquid. As the flame rose, it unleashed an extremely hot temperature. In an instant, the surface of the blood-colored liquid immediately began to boil. Numerous tiny bubbles were being formed.

As the bubbles were formed, wisps of extremely faint gray-colored smoke immediately rose. This smoke contained impurities within it. In order to refine a good quality medicinal pill, one must completely expel these impurities. Otherwise, one might end up having difficulty forming a pill due to the saturation of these impurities.

Eliminating the impurities of ordinary medicinal ingredients might at the very most require over ten minutes. However, it was obvious that the ‘Flame Core Ganoderma’ did not belong to that category. Therefore, it only spat out impurities in a lethargic manner even with the presence of such a powerful ‘Heavenly Flame’ like the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ grilling it. In the end, it basically required the flame to grill it for over ten minutes before it would slowly spit out a wisp of gray-colored smoke. Such stubborn impurities caused Xiao Yan, who was watching from the side, to be somewhat speechless. This was still the result obtained under Yao Lao's control. If he were to be the one in control,

it was likely that he would waste nearly a day's time just on refining the medicinal ingredients. This tier 6 medicinal pill was indeed extremely difficult to refine.

The wait time was extremely dull. However, Xiao Yan did not let himself get distracted. His gaze did not shift away from the medicinal cauldron even once for nearly three hours.

Following three hours of refinement, the impurities within that blood-colored liquid were finally completely removed. The blood-colored liquid with all its impurities removed not only became even rounder, but its color also became a little more transparent. If one were to look at it carefully, one could even see bubbles billowing within.

Yao Lao's face also relaxed a little with the completion of the refinement. He gently flicked his finger, and that cluster of blood-colored liquid within the cauldron immediately slipped out after being wrapped by a cluster of thick white flame. Finally, it was poured into a jade bottle together with the flame.

Xiao Yan was a little surprised when he saw this unique preservation method Yao Lao used. His gaze looked at that jade bottle only to realize that there was actually a faint layer of flame film at the mouth of the bottle. He was immediately startled. Only after musing for a moment did he come to an understanding.

"This kind of preservation is able to allow the medicinal liquid within it to maintain the temperature and purity as when it exited the cauldron. Moreover, it would not be doped with the impurities in the air. However, it requires a high degree of control of one's flame. A jade bottle is brittle. If the temperature is too high, the jade bottle would be burned until it cracked. In the event when one was caught off guard and could not react in time, it would cause the refined medicinal liquid to become completely worthless." Yao Lao slowly said as he waved his hand once again and tossed the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' into the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan nodded slowly. He quietly remembered this tip within his heart.

The refinement of the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' was not any easier than that of the 'Flame Core Ganoderma'. Due to the material that the former was made of, its flame resistance was something that even caused Yao Lao to be surprised. The time needed to just expel the medicinal strength from the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' was over an hour. The refinement that followed took an even longer time. This long four hours caused Xiao Yan to wipe the cold sweat off his face. Yao Lao was able to endure this long because of his powerful spiritual strength. With Xiao Yan's current ability, he could at the very most last for over three hours while refining medicinal pills before he needed to rest. He could only continue refining after waiting for his Dou Qi to recover!

Night had already covered the entire mountain range by the time the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine' turned into a cluster of green-colored liquid that was also preserved in a

jade bottle. The thick white flame that was on the peak of a mountain was a little eye-catching amid the nighttime darkness.

Yao Lao did not rest for even a moment after he had completed refining the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine'. He once again began refining the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit'.

Xiao Yan's somewhat tired eyes were once again stimulated with energy as he eyed Yao Lao's tense expression. He once again focused on the refinement. In his heart, he clearly knew that observing a pill refinement of such a level would be extremely beneficial to him. He could not just waste such an opportunity.

The time needed to refine the 'Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit' was similar to that needed to refine the 'Green Wood Celestial Vine'. It was already late into the night by the time the refinement was completed. The stars that were spread across the sky flickered, scattering a weak light,

It must be said that refining a tier six medicinal pill was an extremely troublesome and tiring work. Just the refinement of the medicinal ingredients had nearly taken an entire day. However, it was fortunate that Yao Lao had an extremely great ability. He still did not show the slightest sign of being tired even after refining for an entire day without stop. On the other hand, Xiao Yan already had dark circles forming under his eyes.

That rank 6 water affinity Monster Core was also completely refined by Yao Lao into a pile of blue-colored powder on the second day. This segment alone exhausted over ten hours of Yao Lao's time. The resistance of the rank 6 Monster Core to the flame was more than dozens of times more intense compared to that of those medicinal ingredients. Moreover, due to the restraint that both elements had with each other, the rich water affinity energy had nearly even rushed out of the medicinal cauldron. However, it was fortunate that Yao Lao had anticipated this. Therefore, it did not result in much losses. However, such torment naturally exhausted a large amount of time.

Xiao Yan sat by the side. He could not help but feel some palpitations as he watched Yao Lao contend with that rank 6 Monster Core. If it was him doing it, he would likely have difficulty subduing this stubborn Monster Core even if he spent three to four days. Moreover, if it was an ordinary flame that was being used, it might even be extinguished by the rich water affinity energy.

However, no matter how tough the process was, the refinement was finally completed. On the third day, the repellence of the few medicinal ingredients, and the powder from the Monster Core began to gradually weaken under the grilling by the 'Bone Chilling Flame' which went on for day and night. With this, they finally began to merge together.

Although it was merging, the speed at which it was doing so was just like a tortoise crawling. It was so slow that it was difficult for one to endure. During this period of time, Xiao Yan could not resist dozing off once even with his mental strength.

Fusing was the most important step in the refinement of medicinal pill. As long as one makes a slight mistake during this period of time, the medicinal ingredients that they had refined with great difficulty would be instantly incinerated. Therefore, even with Yao Lao's ability, he did not dare be distracted on this step. He was too busy to bother even when Xiao Yan had been secretly snoozing off.

Although this step was extremely risky, it was fortunate that there was Yao Lao, who was an alchemist grandmaster, controlling it. Therefore, the worst case scenario did not occur. After two full days of fusing, a faint blue-colored embryonic medicinal pill was slowly forming within the medicinal cauldron.

The instant this embryonic medicinal pill was formed, Xiao Yan clearly sensed the energy around him begin to fluctuate suddenly. That condition was just like a huge rock being thrown into the surface of a calm lake where the enormous waves rolled.

Yao Lao's expression did not change even slightly because of the fluctuating energy in the outside world. His mind was focused intently on the change of the medicinal pill within the medicinal cauldron. This kind of critical juncture did not allow him to be even slightly distracted.

Following the flow of time, that embryonic irregular-shaped pale-blue medicinal pill gradually became round. A bright glow was emitted from within it, rendering the pill until it became like a blue-colored gem.

The instant the medicinal pill started emitting a bright glow, Xiao Yan was somewhat stunned to discover that circular somewhat substance-like energy ripples began to repeatedly surge out in all directions with the medicinal cauldron at its center. That unceasing momentum was quite spectacular.

Xiao Yan swallowed a mouthful of saliva. He did not expect that this tier 6 medicinal pill would actually create such a large reaction when it was formed. No wonder Yao Lao said that they must come into the deep mountains to refine it. If this was in the Inner Academy, it was likely that it would immediately attract everyone from within over.

"You should step back a little. An even greater reaction will come later!" Yao Lao's gaze stared at the interior of the medicinal cauldron in an intent manner as his mouth suddenly let out a reminder.

The Purple Cloud Wings on Xiao Yan's back nearly sprang out together as he heard this. With a flap of the wings, Xiao Yan's body rushed to a region away from the peak of the mountain.

The seal on Yao Lao's hand suddenly changed when he saw that Xiao Yan had moved aside. He let out a low cry from his mouth. In an instant, the thick white flame within the medicinal cauldron suddenly soared. It nearly filled the entire medicinal cauldron. In that

instant when his eyes were filled with a thick white color, the bright blue-colored light became increasingly eye-piercing.

The blue-colored light shrank and expanded. Following this expansion, waves of energy ripples began spreading even more quickly. Looking down from above, the mountain rocks rolled and the tree trunks broke wherever these energy ripples spread to. Even the turf flipped open. This powerful destructive strength caused Xiao Yan's throat to involuntarily roll.

The blue-colored glow shrank and expanded at an increasing rate. It was as though the glow was brewing something. This continued for nearly half an hour before the glow suddenly shrank to its smallest point.

The serious look on Yao Lao's face was even denser than it was anytime before this. The glow had shrunk in such a swift manner!

"Bang!"

The spot of light which had suddenly shrunk was maintained for a couple of minutes. Suddenly, it was expanded under Xiao Yan's pupils, who was focusing intently on it. Eventually, the surge in the blue-colored light wrapped around the entire mountain peak. A thunder-like explosion occurred from nowhere. Immediately, a blue-colored light pillar that was twenty feet thick shot into the sky from the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan was stunned as he eyed the enormous blue-colored light pillar that shot into the clouds. He involuntarily inhaled a deep breath of cold air. This reaction... was a little too big right? Even though this place was far from the Inner Academy, it was likely that it would not be possible to escape the senses of some of the powerful Elders, no?

"Hopefully, it will not attract the people from the Inner Academy. Otherwise, there will be some trouble..." Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva. He eyed the light pillar, that did not disappear for a long time, as he muttered with a bitter smile.

Chapter 540: Medicine Emperor, Han Feng!

Two human figures were seated in a quiet room of a pavilion home within the deep regions of the Inner Academy. One of them was wearing a large black robe and had white hair. His old face was like a monk where it was difficult for a shred of emotion to ripple over it. The back of his hand rested by the window as he eyed the lush greenery outside. A long while later, he spoke in an indifferent voice, "Qin Xuan, what is the activity within the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' recently?"

"First Elder, the 'Fallen Heart Flame' is becoming less and less calm. Currently, it will writhe out once every half a month. If the Elders had not joined hands to lay an energy mirror knot, it is likely that a great number of deaths and injuries would appear among

the students training within the tower.” A yellow-clothed old man who was a little hunched was bowing respectfully from behind as he replied.

“It is becoming sooner and sooner huh...” The old man who was addressed as the first Elder sighed gently. He muttered, “Back then, the Headmaster had established the Inner Academy in this place after he discovered the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. At that time, he had said that the repression and seal could only obtain a temporary effect. Instead, the more vicious the seal was, the even more terrifying the eruption in the future would be. From the looks of the trend of the ‘Heavenly Flame’ this time around, it is indeed extremely powerful. If we are not careful, it might well destroy the entire Inner Academy.”

“What can we do?” Anxiety flashed across the face of the yellow-clothed old man as he asked softly, “Why don’t we inform the Headmaster to return?”

“The headmaster is roaming around in places far away. He shows himself at times then quickly disappears. How can we inform him?” The First Elder shook his head. He waved his hand and spoke, “From today on, all the leave of the Elders are cancelled. All the Tower Guarding Elders must return to their post. Once anyone discovers that there is any unusual movement of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ everyone must join hands to seal it. We must not let it completely erupt. Otherwise, the aftermath will be too serious.”

“Yes sir!”

“Additionally, prepare a backup plan. Expel all the students from the tower when the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ becomes violent. Do not let any student enter!” The First Elder’s face was calm and steady. Orders were being given one after another in an orderly fashion from his mouth, “Inform the Outer Academy and tell all the strong people within the academy to prepare to await for orders anytime. If the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ were to suddenly erupt, the mirror seal that covers the space of the Inner Academy would shatter. At that time, those fellows from the ‘Black-Corner’ region would definitely sense the powerful fluctuations of the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’. Chaos would arrive once they come to ascertain what it is.”

“First Elder is worried about Medicine Emperor Han Feng from the ‘Black-Corner Region’ right?” The yellow-clothed old man was quiet for a moment before he suddenly spoke.

The glow in the First Elder’s eyes flashed as he nodded slowly and said, “Han Feng is an alchemist. The attraction that the ‘Heavenly Flame’ poses to him is incomparable. Back then, he had faintly guessed about the existence of a ‘Heavenly Flame’ in the Inner Academy. However, he cannot be certain. It is due to this that he does not dare to have any rash actions. After all, our Jia Nan Academy is not something that just anyone can offend.”

"This time around, the eruption of the 'Fallen Heart Flame' will be stronger than any other previous ones. When the seal is broken at that time, Han Feng, with his abnormally sharp Spiritual Perception, will definitely sense the fluctuations from the 'Heavenly Flame'. At that time... he will definitely go all out to snatch it!"

"We naturally need not be afraid of him if he is merely an ordinary elite Dou Huang, However... this fellow has another identity. He is a tier 6 alchemist. The excellence of his medicinal refining skills are something that even Old Huo from the alchemist department cannot compare with. Once he wants to snatch the 'Heavenly Flame', it is likely that he will use his connections... You should clearly understand just what kind of frightening ability to summon people a tier 6 alchemist has. Moreover... according to the intelligence that I have gathered, Han Yue appears to be also be in control of a kind of 'Heavenly Flame'..." The First Elder's face already carried a slight seriousness when he spoke his last few words.

"What? That fellow already possesses a 'Heavenly Flame'?" The yellow-clothed Elder immediately revealed a shocked face when he heard this. For an alchemist at Han Feng's level, possessing a 'Heavenly Flame' was similar to adding a pair of wings to a tiger. On this point, one could clearly understand just how enormous the help a 'Heavenly Flame' provided an alchemist from the way Xiao Yan was able to refine a tier 5 medicinal pill with just his Dou Ling strength.

"Do not forget who the teacher of this fellow is." The First Elder said indifferently.

"Yao Zun-zhe (Also a power level), Yao Chen!" The face of the yellow-colored old man changed slightly. He spat out a name that was once extremely prominent on the Dou Qi continent. He finally recovered from the shock of that name a long while later. With a frown, he said, "It is rumored that Yao Cheng was also in possession of a kind of 'Heavenly Flame'. Now that he has fallen, it is likely that he passed on that 'Heavenly Flame' to Han Feng, right?"

"I'm not certain. Yao Chen's fall is really too strange. Other than Han Feng, no one is clear about what actually happened. Although the latter said that he had died from a backlash while refining a medicinal pill, this kind of excuse appears a little too far-fetched. With Yao Cheng's medicinal refining skills that were unrivaled in the world, how would he make such a mistake? Perhaps, there are some tricks involved." The First Elder let out a cold laughter as he spoke.

"First Elder, your meaning is...?" The yellow-clothed Elder was startled. He immediately lowered his voice as he questioned.

"Who knows? I heard that Yao Chen's old friend, Feng zun-zhe has been investigating this manner during these many years. I think that he does not believe that Yao Chen would die in such a dubious manner." The First Elder replied with a deeper meaning hidden in his words. He immediately waved his hand and said, "Alright, these matters do not have much relation with us. Currently, the most important thing is that we should

tighten our guard against Han Feng. If he were to gather those factions from the 'Black-Corner Region' and cooperate with one another, even our Jia Nan Academy would face a headache."

"Yes, I will immediately go and settle this matter." The yellow-clothed Elder nodded as he spoke.

The First Elder nodded slightly before asking abruptly, "That's right, how is that new student who also possesses a 'Heavenly Flame', Xiao Yan, like recently?"

"Ke ke, it is rumored that he had entered the deep mountains to train for two months. By the time he returned, he had already broken through to the Dou Ling class. This training speed really leaves one speechless. Moreover, in a pill refining competition with Han Xian, he had even successfully refined a tier 5 medicinal pill." The yellow-clothed Elder's voice was filled with amazement.

"Oh?" The face of the First Elder moved slightly. He nodded and said, "He is also an alchemist. Moreover from the looks of the circumstances, his refining ability is quite great. Moreover, he also possess quite a great training talent. It is within reasoning to have such a training speed. Give the instruction that everyone should try their best not to make things difficult for this little fellow. Allow him to do what he wants to do. We might need to rely on him in the future."

"Yes." The yellow-clothed Elder nodded once again. The last time they heard this they wondered what use could a feathering boy have. However, ever since news got out that Xiao Yan could refine a tier 5 medicinal pill, the opinion these Elders had toward him had changed quite a lot. A tier 5 alchemist. This status was much more distinguished compared to these Elders whose strengths were at the Dou Wang class.

If a tier 5 alchemist and an elite Dou Wang were to be placed in the same place to get people to invite them, the person who was issuing the invitation would definitely choose a tier 5 alchemist without any hesitation as long as he was not a fool. Although the latter was strong in combat, this little strength was not even worth mentioning under the value that an alchemist could create!

All the Elders in the Inner Academy were extremely clear about this point.

"You should leave first. Pass my instructions to every single Elder." The First Elder waved his hand. He was just about to ask the yellow-clothed Elder to leave when his expression changed abruptly. Surprise surfaced on his rippleless, old, well-like face at this moment. His eyes looked through the greenery outside the window and directly shot toward the deep mountain range in the distance.

"First Elder?" The yellow-clothed Elder involuntarily cried out in an uncertain manner when he saw this behavior of the First Elder. With his strength, it was still impossible to sense the enormous energy undulation from such a great distance away.

“What a strong undulation. This activity can only be created by a medicinal pill that is at least tier 6!” A glow flashed across the First Elder’s eyes. His gaze appeared to be able to see through the gap in space and was studying a mountain peak deep within the mountains.

“A tier 6 medicinal pill?” The expression of the yellow-clothed Elder by the side also changed greatly. He cried out involuntarily, “There is no one within this Inner Academy who can refine a medicinal pill of such tier.”

“I will need to go and take a look. You should do as I have ordered. Someone who is able to refine a tier 6 medicinal pill... could it be Han Feng?” The First Elder muttered. His expression immediately and suddenly became extremely ugly. It would be something that was far from reassuring if such a great enemy was to quietly sneak into the Inner Academy.

The body of the First Elder shook the moment his voice sounded. By the time the yellow-clothed Elder raised his head, a black-colored afterimage was already slowly disappearing in front of him. The latter hurriedly lifted his head, and saw a faint black shadow that appeared fleetingly within the sky.

The moment the First Elder discovered the energy fluctuations within the deep mountains, a man within a certain quiet pavilion house in the chaotic region on the other side of the mountain range also raised his head slightly. The man was wearing a green-colored, long-sleeved garment with a maple leaf sewn on the back of it, and the direction his gaze was drawn in was actually the spot where the energy had suddenly erupted from.

The face of the green-clothed man was quite handsome and outstanding. His long black-colored hair dangled to his shoulders. He also appeared to be carrying a strange medicinal fragrance on his body, causing people to involuntarily have a feeling of wanting to get close to him.

“This undulation... it is something that appears when a tier 6 medicinal pill is formed.” The green-clothed man muttered softly. A moment later, he frowned slightly and said, “The other side of the mountain range should be the place where the Jia Nan Academy is located. Could it be old man Huo who is refining it? However, with his medicinal refinement skills, it seems that he would have some trouble refining a tier 6 medicinal pill, no? Don’t tell me that his medicinal refining skills have soared during the few years that I did not see him?”

“This undulation is within the boundary of the Jia Nan Academy and it is not easy for me to go and investigate. Although I am not afraid of the repercussions, there would be some trouble if I am discovered by those old fellows.” The green-clothed man slowly turned around as he shook his head. There was an ancient medicinal cauldron badge on his chest. On it, there were six strange golden flickering slight ripples that pierced people’s eyes until they felt pain.

Six golden lines. It was something that only a tier 6 alchemist had the qualification to wear in the alchemist world. This man whose appearance seemed to be that of someone in his thirties was actually able to wear it. There was only one person of such ability within the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Medicine Emperor, Han Feng!

Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 541: Pill Formed - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 541: Pill Formed

Chapter 541: Pill Formed

In the azure sky above the vast mountains, a somewhat coarse energy glow shot into the clouds and did not disappear for a long while.

Yao Lao slowly sat up from the ground. He glanced at the enormous light pillar and frowned slightly. With a beckon of his extended hand, the light pillar immediately trembled. Finally, a thread of blue-colored glow rushed down before being suspended above his hand.

The blue-colored glow gradually diminished. Immediately, it revealed its actual body. It was actually an azure medicinal pill that was the size of a dragon's eye. The surface of the medicinal pill was extremely round and sleek, much like the surface of a sea. The blue lines that faintly remained on it were like numerous waves, appearing extremely mysterious.

Following this thread of blue-colored glow escaping from the light pillar, the enormous light pillar appeared to have lost the support of its energy. It shook slightly before it gradually became illusionary and eventually disappeared altogether.

Xiao Yan only heaved a sigh of relief after eyeing the enormous light pillar completely disappear from the sky. If this activity were to continue, it was likely that the Elders in the Inner Academy would rush over after being alerted. Xiao Yan flapped his wings and slowly landed on the peak of the mountain. He curiously eyed the blue-colored medicinal pill above Yao Lao's hand as he said, "This is the 'Ground Spirit Pill'?"

Yao Lao smiled and nodded. There appeared to be a little tiredness on his face. It appeared that refining a tier 6 medicinal pill as a spiritual body was still quite a burden to him.

Xiao Yan's eyes did not miss the tiredness of Yao Lao's face. He said, "Teacher, you should return to the ring to rest now that the pill has already been refined."

“Alas, this spiritual body does indeed have difficulty unleashing all my strength. When did refining a tier 6 medicinal pill require so much time in the past? Now, not only does the process take a long time, but it is also extremely exhausting on my energy.” Yao Lao shook his head and sighed.

“Teacher, you can rest assured. Once I obtain the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, I will begin to try and refine a body that can accommodate your spirit. At that time, you can once again be revived should I succeed in my refinement.” Xiao Yan comforted with a smile.

“I am not really anxious about the matter of my revival, having already waited for so many years.” Yao Lao smiled. However, one could see the smile on his face when he spoke these words. It revealed he still felt a little pleased from the words Xiao Yan spoke.

Xiao Yan laughed. He extended his hand and grabbed toward the medicinal pill that was suspended above Yao Lao’s palm. His hand had just grabbed it when that ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ transformed into a blue glow and shot away. Finally, it lingered beside Yao Lao, appearing to have a spirit of its own.

Xiao Yan was startled as he eyed the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ that actually dodged his palm. He said in a stunned voice, “Don’t tell me that all tier 6 medicinal pills possess some level of intelligence? It actually even knows how to dodge?”

“Not all of them. A medicinal pill of this tier does indeed possess some intelligence. However, it is merely the kind that gives it an extremely vague sense. An ordinary tier 6 medicinal pill would usually not possess such intelligence. However, this ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ could be considered among the top within the tier 6 medicinal pills. This is especially after being catalyzed with my ‘Bone Chilling Flame’. It naturally has a richer intelligence when compared to the other medicinal pills of the same tier.” Yao Lao smiled and explained. He immediately waved his hand and the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ that was suspended by his side automatically flew into his hand. He took out a jade bottle and stuffed it in before tossing it to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan carefully received the jade bottle. He eyed the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ that was suspended within the jade bottle and smacked his mouth in surprise. He said, “A tier 6 medicinal pill already has such intelligence. Won’t even higher tier medicinal pills be able to speak a human language?” A few drops of perspiration involuntarily flowed down from Xiao Yan’s forehead when he thought of a medicinal pill being able to chat with a person.

“Ke ke, a tier 7 medicinal pill does indeed have greater intelligence. Some of the medicinal pills might even automatically fly away after coming out of the cauldron if one is not careful, causing an alchemist exhausted from refining it to be stunned. A tier 8 medicinal pill can even fight with a human, do you think that is mysterious?” Yao Lao laughed out loud.

Xiao Yan was speechless. A medicinal pill that can fight with a person? This... tier eight medicinal pills were actually this overwhelmingly strong?

“A tier 8 medicinal pill is already this strong. What about tier 9 and tier 10? Won't they oppose the heavens?” Xiao Yan laughed bitterly.

“It is rumored that there are some tier nine medicinal pills can even take a human form.” Yao Lao's first sentence caused Xiao Yan's head to spin around. It was becoming more and more ridiculous. A medicinal pill that can even turn into a human?

“Jiu jiu is the most honored. Above it is not called tier 10. Instead, it is the completely unique 'God Tier'. A medicinal pill of this tier has never appeared ever since the ancient times. I have once read some ancient books. The meaning of the vague description on it seems to imply that this 'God Tier' medicinal pill faintly had some relationship with the rank of Dou Di, the level that merely exists in legend.” Yao Lao laughed. His final sentence was suppressed until it was very soft, seemingly afraid that someone else would hear it.

TL: jiu jiu - 'nine nine' - alternatively, it can sound like 'long long' meaning forever, which is a number held in high regard

TL: God tier (Di tier) - the Di comes from the rank Dou Di (strongest rank). which means god. It should be noted that the rank Di is usually the ultimate level in BTTH

Xiao Yan wiped his cold sweat. This 'God Tier' is actually so frightening? Don't tell me that one requires this kind of 'God Tier' medicinal pill to breakthrough to a Dou Di?

“No one has been able to refine a 'God Tier' medicinal pill in a thousand years. The first reason is that there is a lack of a medicinal formula. A medicinal formula of this tier basically has an innate difference compared to the medicinal formula that we use. We are refining an elixir between the heaven and the earth. The 'God Tier' medicinal pill refines the heavens and earth, the mountains and the sea.” Yao Lao's faint voice gave Xiao Yan a great shock. Refining the heavens and earth into pills? Was this not a little too frightening?

“The second reason is that no one possesses that kind of strength.” Yao Lao smiled before adding, “Even if I were to recover to my peak, I am also unable to reach that extent.”

Xiao Yan nodded quietly as he inhaled a deep breath of air. He did not expect that the journey of refining pills actually still possessed such a tactic that went against the heavens. This really caused him to be extremely shocked.

“Alright, there is not much use for you to know about these now. You will naturally know all that you should need to know when you reach that level in the future.” Yao Lao waved his hand and stored the 'Black Demon' medicinal cauldron on the ground into the

dark-black ring. After which, the ring shook and was placed on Xiao Yan's finger with extremely great accuracy.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly and smiled as he said, "Since the 'Ground Spirit Pill' has been successfully refined, shall we first return to the Inner Academy?"

Yao Lao randomly nodded. His body was just about to enter the dark-black ring when his expression changed slightly. He suddenly turned his head around and eyed somewhere far away within the mountain range.

"Teacher, what is it?" Yao Lao's action also caused Xiao Yan to become slightly anxious as he hurriedly asked.

"You should hide first. Someone is coming. Moreover, the strength of the person who is coming is very strong! I think that he must have been attracted by the activity when the 'Ground Spirit Pill' was formed earlier." Yao Lao said in a slightly deep voice. He pondered a little before his figure turned into a light barrier that covered Xiao Yan's body. A soft voice sounded beside Xiao Yan's ears, "Go and hide quickly. With your strength you will definitely be unable to escape his search. Therefore, I can only use Spiritual Strength to wrap around you. Hurry!"

Xiao Yan was also able to sense the great strength of the person who was rushing over upon hearing the anxiety in Yao Lao's voice. He flapped his Purple Cloud Wings and searched quickly around him. Immediately, his body charged into a large mountain peak. Finally, his body completely disappeared within the lush greenery.

Xiao Yan's body entered the lush green forest and hid in a covert area. His gaze passed through the gaps between the tree branches and eyed the distant sky.

Not long after Xiao Yan completely hid his body, a slight rushing wind sound suddenly appeared. A blurry, black shadow suddenly appeared in the distant sky. The instant his body paused, Xiao Yan could vaguely sense an extremely large invisible ripple spread over. Finally, it wrapped around all the nearby mountain peaks.

This invisible ripple was just like a radar. It repeatedly scanned the place up and down. However, it was fortunate that Xiao Yan was wrapped by Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength. Therefore, he was not discovered.

The scanning came to a stop after it continued for a while on the ground. The black figure paused. When it next appeared, it appeared on the small mountain peak that Yao Lao had refined the medicinal pill on.

"What frightening speed." Xiao Yan's heart felt shocked at the speed that the black shadow displayed. His gaze was extremely obscured as it passed through the tree branches and quietly swept over the latter. However, he was only able to identify that the other party was an old man who had white-colored hair.

“This person should be someone from the Inner Academy. However, his strength is much stronger than that of those Elders. If my thinking is correct, this should be the First Elder with the greatest prestige within the Inner Academy.” Xiao Yan quietly guessed and muttered in his heart.

“May I know which friend is refining medicinal pills in my Inner Academy and where you come from? If it is possible, can you come out to meet me?” The gaze of the black-robed old man looked all around him as his body landed on the top of a mountain. Looking at his calm turbid eyes, one could faintly see a flicker that was just like lightning.

A sound that was doped with powerful Dou Qi repeatedly reverberated in this area. It was mighty and did not rest even after a long while.

Xiao Yan would naturally not do as he asked and appear. His body was like a corpse as he lay within the thicket without making the slightest movement. His heartbeat was also suppressed to its lowest point. Adding the cover of Yao Lao’s spirit, he believed that no matter how strong the black-robed old man was, he should not be able to sense Xiao Yan’s position.

The mighty sound reverberated through the air. A long time later, it completely disappeared. However, the surroundings were still as quiet as they were before. This caused the black-robed old man to involuntarily frown.

“Don’t tell me that he has already left?” The black-robed old man sighed gently. He could only once again leap his body and leave. After a couple of flashes, he quietly disappeared into the horizon.

Xiao Yan only let out a gentle relieved sigh when he saw the black-robed old man quietly disappearing. His body had just moved when Yao Lao’s deep voice sounded beside his ear, “Don’t move!”

Xiao Yan’s body, which had just twisted a little, once again stilled. He pulled at the corner of his mouth and could only maintain this posture. This continued for nearly half an hour. Just when he was about to reach the limit of his endurance, his eyes that were looking toward a mountain peak in the distance suddenly shrunk.

He could see a slight breeze suddenly blow past the mountain peak, which was originally devoid of anyone. A black-robed human figure slowly appeared within Xiao Yan’s sight just like a ghost.

Xiao Yan eyed the human figure who had clearly gone far away, but had once again strangely appeared. Cold sweat instantly covered his forehead. This old fellow... was really cunning. If he did not have Yao Lao’s reminder earlier, it was likely that he would be caught red-handed the moment he appeared. This did not appear to be the first time he had met something like this.

The black-robed old man who had once again appeared looked all around him. At this moment, he was finally certain that the person who had refined medicinal pill here had already gone far away. He let out a sigh. With a shake of his figure, he once again disappeared from the original spot.

This time around, Xiao Yan finally completely relaxed his tense mind following the disappearance of the black-robed human figure. His body weakly lay on the tree branch, appearing to have lost all his strength as he allowed the cold sweat to drench his clothes.

Chapter 542: The Talent to Hunt Treasures

Xiao Yan once again stayed for half a day within the deep mountains after avoiding the search of the black-robed old man. Only then did he display his Purple Cloud Wings and return to the Inner Academy with a relaxed heart.

With the help of the dim sky, Xiao Yan once again successfully shook off those nosy people who wanted to challenge him. He entered 'Pan's Gate' and swaggered back to the pavilion home. However, when he pushed open the door and entered, a white figure suddenly flashed in front of him, causing him to hurriedly take a cautious step back. He focused his eyes and took a look, and was involuntarily a little stunned. This white figure in front of him was actually that so-called first rank on the 'Strong Ranking', the avatar of a Magical Beast, Zi Yan.

At this moment, the white-clothed little girl was eyeing Xiao Yan at the entrance with an anticipation-filled gaze. Her dark-black eyes were filled with desire.

"*Cough*, Zi Yan, why have you come?" Xiao Yan relaxed his tensed heart. He let out a dry cough before rubbing Zi Yan's little head. After which, he moved sideways and entered the room. Upon entering the room, he discovered that Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were present. At this moment, the three of them were using a strange gaze to look at him.

"I have eaten all of those Danwan that you have helped me refine." Zi Yan was just like a follower at this moment, closely following behind Xiao Yan's body. Her small face was slightly red as she spoke in an embarrassed manner.

TL: Danwan/Yaowan - pills that has no really medicinal effect to a human and can potentially be harmful if consumed

Xiao Yan could not help but wipe off some cold sweat when he heard this. This little fellow was indeed worthy of having the constitution of a Magical Beast. She was actually able to consume all of the Yaowan that contained such a wild and violent medicinal effect within a couple of days. Based on Xiao Yan's knowledge of her, it was likely that the latter had eaten those Yaowan as though they were sweets.

Xiao Yan swiftly walked into the hall and heard Hu Jia quietly muttering, "Just who is this little girl? She had suddenly came and found our 'Pan's Gate' this morning and told us that she wanted to find you. When she heard that you are not around, she simply sat down and did not leave. Her small face was so icy-cold that it was frightening. The other party is a little girl, so it is not nice for us to use force."

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. With a bitter smile, he said, "Fortunately, all of you did not use force. Otherwise, this entire pavilion would be torn down."

"Huh?" Upon hearing these words, Wu Hao and Hu Jia by the side were somewhat stunned as they eyed the little girl whose ice-cold face had defrosted ever since Xiao Yan appeared. Such a cute little girl actually possessed this kind of violent strength?

"Although this little girl may be very young, her body appears to contain an extremely great strength. If she were to really fight, there is really hardly anyone here who can handle her." Xun Er by the side was not too surprised. By hearing these words of hers, it appeared that she had faintly sensed Zi Yan's strength.

Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised as he eyed Xun Er. This sensitivity of hers did not appear to be something that a Da Dou Shi could possess. However, it was not the first time that Xiao Yan had experienced Xun Er's mysteriousness. Therefore, the surprise merely lasted for an instant before it swiftly disappeared.

Hu Jia and Wu Hao exchanged looks with one another. They involuntarily muttered, "It's not possible, right? She is only this young..."

"You cannot just look on the surface of everything." Xiao Yan smiled. He had also felt shocked when he learned Zi Yan possessed such a powerful strength at such a young age before he had ascertained her identity. Therefore, he understood the emotions of Hu Jia and Wu Hao at this moment.

Xiao Yan sat on the chair. He suddenly could not help but feel a fatigue. His eyes narrowed as he rubbed his forehead with his fingers. Observing Yao Lao refining the 'Ground Spirit Pill' these past few days had also exhausted quite a lot of his energy.

"Snap, snap..."

A wave of crashing noises suddenly sounded just as Xiao Yan had managed to sit down. He opened his eyes uncertainly, only to see that the table was piled high with medicinal ingredients. Zi Yan beside the table was wearing a ring on her little finger.

"This is what that old man who guards the medicinal warehouse asked me to deliver. He said that these medicinal ingredients were prepared by some Elder Liu." This matter was clearly not Zi Yan's main aim. Therefore, after she threw all these things out, she immediately took out a pink-colored lumpy medicinal ingredient that looked like the root of a plant. Her dark-black eyes looked at Xiao Yan with great anticipation. She used a

tender voice and said, "Additionally, you have said that I can come and look for you when I finished consuming all the Yaowan."

Xiao Yan glanced at the medicinal ingredients on the table and randomly looked over them. He nodded slightly. That Elder Liu was not overly stingy with regards to this. There should be three sets of ingredients among the medicinal ingredients here. Clearly, he was also worried that Xiao Yan's failure rate would be too high. Therefore, he had clenched his teeth and taken out a little more. All he hoped was that Xiao Yan would be able to successfully refine one 'Dragon Strength Pill' among these three sets of medicinal pill ingredients.

Xiao Yan only received that root like medicinal ingredient from Zi Yan's hand after looking through the other medicinal ingredients. He flipped it around and took a look and could not help but sigh. He recognized this thing. This was a kind of rare medicinal ingredient called 'Fire Spirit Root'. It contained a rich fire affinity energy within it. Even he himself was involuntarily attracted to it.

"This fellow is really a bafloon who ruins medicinal ingredients." Xiao Yan shook his head and laughed bitterly, "Elder Hao will definitely be angered to death by you."

"Nonsense. This medicinal ingredient is something that I have found by myself in the deep mountains. From the very beginning, I possess a kind of special sense for these natural spiritual items. I did not steal them from that old fellow." Zi Yan's large dark-black eyes narrowed as she angrily responded upon hearing Xiao Yan's words.

"Special sense?" Xiao Yan's heart involuntarily moved slightly when he heard this phrase. This Zi Yan was originally a unique beast from ancient times. Did she possess a natural born treasure hunting like talent?

Xiao Yan's eyes quietly became a little brighter. If this was the case, was this little fellow's existence not just like a bowl that gathered treasure? With this mysterious sense of hers, it would undoubtedly save a lot of trouble if one wanted to search for a natural spiritual object within the deep mountains.

"You are able to sense those medicinal ingredients that are buried deep in the ground?" Xun Er by the side was also somewhat surprised as she asked.

Zi Yan glanced at Xun Er. For some unknown reason, she felt a faint fear for this beautiful elder sister. Therefore, her words did not appear cold, "Hmph, I naturally know where the deep mountains of the Inner Academy hide medicine. However, most of the medicine is protected by powerful Magical Beast. For example, a 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' in that deep mountain is definitely guarding something good. However, I have been beaten by him and forced back during the few times I went there. Later on, I met a lady in the Inner Academy who has silver-colored hair. She appears pleasing to the eye so I told her about the thing that the 'Snow Demon Sky Ape' is protecting. I wonder if she succeeded. She said that she would even give me a share if she did."

The expression of the few people within the hall had varying kinds of changes when these words were emitted from Zi Yan's mouth.

Hu Jia and Wu Hao had eyes that were filled with shock as they watched Zi Yan. They had naturally heard of the name 'Snow Demon Sky Ape'. It was really unexpected that this little girl actually dared to exchange blows with such a ferocious beast? One could likely find hardly anyone with such strength even within the entire Inner Academy.

"It is really unexpected that the reason for Han Yue knowing that the 'Core Quenching Body Milk' was hiding in the mountain valley was actually because Zi Yan had told her about it... this matter was really interesting." Xiao Yan clicked his tongue and shook his head. A lady who has silver-colored hair. It seemed that there was only Han Yue within this Inner Academy, right?

"Hee hee, Zi Yan, why don't we make a deal?" Xiao Yan's eyes rolled. A smile suddenly gathered on his face as he asked Zi Yan a question.

"What are you planning to do?" Zi Yan immediately took a step back and cautiously asked when she saw Xiao Yan's smile.

"I can put aside everything and help you refine some more once you have consumed all your Danwans in the future." Xiao Yan smiled and said. "However, I have an exchange condition. You must follow me when I need to enter the deep mountains to search for medicinal ingredients." As an alchemist, his requirement of valuable medicinal ingredients was a desire greater than anything else. Moreover, Zi Yan's treasure seeking talent undoubtedly possessed an enormous attraction toward him.

"You want me to help you search for medicinal ingredients?" Although Zi Yan was young, she was not stupid. Hence, she immediately understood Xiao Yan's intention.

"Helping you refine medicinal ingredients also consumes a lot of strength. You cannot let me do it for free right?" Xiao Yan spread his hands and said.

Zi Yan frowned. She considered this for quite a while before nodding her head unwillingly. She muttered, "It's up to you. In any case, I will only bring you to search for medicinal ingredients. You will have to handle yourself if you met a Magical Beast guarding the medicinal ingredient. Of course, it is also possible if you really want me to act. However, you will need to give me a reward."

Xiao Yan nodded. He placed the large pile of medicinal ingredients into his storage ring. After which, he waved the 'Fire Spirit Root' in his hand toward Zi Yan and said, "I will help you refine this thing tonight. You can come and take it tomorrow."

"No, I will wait for you here." Zi Yan hurriedly shook her head and said when she heard this.

“Up to you. Xun Er, arrange a place for her. I am really too tired after these past few days and need to rest a little first.” Xiao Yan nodded indifferently before instructing Xun Er.

Xun Er smiled and nodded. She eyed Xiao Yan who had turned around and went to the next floor. Her mouth moved slightly. That manner of hers where she wanted to speak only to stop herself seemed to imply that she had something she wanted to tell Xiao Yan. A moment later, however, it turned into a soft sigh. She lowered her head and smiled to Zi Yan by the side. After which, she bid Hu Jia and Wu Hao goodbye and led Zi Yan to a room.

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Night covered the entire Inner Academy. The occasional flicker of some light expelled a little of the darkness.

Xun Er was standing in a slender and elegant manner by the window in a room within the pavilion home. The weak moonlight shot through the window and wrapped around her delicate, slim, lovely body. Her black hair blew with the wind, giving her an animated demeanor.

A dark shadow suddenly wiggled at a dark spot within the quiet room. Finally, it agglomerated into an old human figure.

“Xiao-jie.” The human figure appeared and respectfully bowed to Xun Er. From his appearance, this person was Ling Ying.

TL: xiao-jie - young miss/lady from a well off or powerful family

“Old Ling, just tell me if there is something you want to say.” Xun Er turned around. A faint smile appeared on her exquisite and flawless face as she softly spoke.

Ling Ying hesitated a little when he heard this. His gaze stared at Xun Er’s face. A moment later, he finally said softly. “Little miss, the clan head has transmitted an order over...”

Xun Er’s straight lovely body under the moonlight, trembled gently in an unnoticeable manner the moment Ling Ying’s voice sounded.

“Speak.”

The young lady’s voice appeared a little cold under the cover of the moonlight.

Chapter 543: Urgent Matter?

"The matter of the clan head of the Xiao clan being missing has been spread to the clan." Ling Ying eyed Xun Er as he said with a bitter smile, "Currently, the clan is a little chaotic. Xiao Zhan's disappearance may also mean that the portion of the 'key' belonging to the Xiao clan has also disappeared with him. Xiao-jie also knows just how seriously the clan views that thing."

TL: xiao-jie - young miss/lady from a well off or powerful family

"Did the clan send someone to investigate the whereabouts of uncle Xiao Zhan?" Xun Er knit her eyebrows slightly before suddenly asking a moment later.

"They have begun to investigate. However, they don't have any news for the time being. The only ones who know about the details of Xiao Zhan's disappearance is perhaps the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect who had given chase back then. Unfortunately, Xiao Yan has already killed him in his anger." Ling Ying shook his head and said.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge values uncle Xiao Zhan greatly. Xiao Zhan was chased by the Misty Cloud Sect until he ended up disappearing. Xiao Yan was naturally furious to the point that he lost a little of his reasoning." Xun Er sighed. Immediately, she changed the topic and said, "Tell me about Father's order first."

"The clan head has said that if xiao-jie (young miss) continues to be unable to find that portion of the key, you will have to immediately return to the clan. Since, the key has already gone missing following Xiao Zhan's disappearance, there is no need to waste your time on young master Xiao Yan." Ling Ying said softly, "Xiao-jie (young miss), with your repeated refusal to return and your staying with young master Xiao Yan, the clan head might have vaguely guessed something. He appears to be extremely dissatisfied with this. There are some Elders in the clan who also think this way. They think that young master Xiao Yan is not worthy of you."

Xun Er's face was calm. Her face did not even move a little because of this. A long while later, she finally said indifferently, "They will naturally know whether he is worthy of me in the future."

"However, you cannot wait until the future. Xiao-jie should have already returned to the clan when young master Xiao Yan left Wu Tang City back then. You have already dragged this matter along for three years. There is an increasing amount of dissatisfaction within the clan. After all, your importance to the clan is not something the other offshoot young miss and young master can compare with." Ling Ying said softly, "Therefore, this time around, the clan head has issued a strict order. If you do not return within one month's time, there might be people from the clan who will personally come over. Xiao-jie likely doesn't wish to allow the current young master Xiao Yan to come into contact with the clan, right? You should clearly know that young master Xiao Yan's current strength does not give him the slightest qualification to be viewed seriously by the clan."

The back of Xun Er's teeth bit her lower red lip. She clenched her delicate hand. A moment later, she nodded slightly. "Ah, I know."

Although she already knew where the so called portion of the 'key' belonging to the Xiao clan was, she did not reveal it. This was because she clearly understood that Xiao Yan would definitely disappear should this news be spread into the clan.

Ling Ying helplessly sighed as he eyed Xun Er's beautiful face that was as calm as water. He twisted his body and turned into a blurry black shadow before rushing into the darkness. Finally, he wiggled slightly and disappeared.

It was a long while after Ling Ying disappeared before Xun Er slowly moved her footsteps and came before the window. She eyed the vast night sky, and a faint bitterness involuntarily surfaced on her face. She had never had the slightest doubt about Xiao Yan's potential. Even during the time that he had fallen into being a cripple from a genius back then, she had also believed that he would sooner or later once again stand at the peak where others looked up to. However, a genius was still just a grain in a vast sea in front of that faction that was so enormous that it caused people to be shocked. He could not cause them to pay much attention to him. The countless number of years of heritage had caused that ancient faction to witness the sudden rise and fall of geniuses, one after another. Therefore, the term genius would not cause them to be even the least bit attentive. What they cared about was only what kinds of achievement one currently had accomplished!

Currently, Xiao Yan was merely a Dou Ling. Although he was not even twenty years old, this did not mean much. After all, the journey of one's cultivation was incomparably dangerous. No one dared to be certain or believe that Xiao Yan would be truly able to walk all the way to the peak of this cultivation journey and look down on everyone. That ancient faction was far too big. Therefore, unless one reached that pinnacle level, one would ultimately appear to be just like the difference between fifty and a hundred steps. There was basically not much fundamental difference between them.

"They do not believe..." A faint ridicule was lifted on the corner of her mouth as Xun Er softly muttered, "It is fine with just me believing..."

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After one night of rest, Xiao Yan's energy was once again lively the next day. The moment he got out of bed, he spent half an hour completing the refinement of Zi Yan's 'Fire Spirit Root'. Since Elder Liu did not state a time where he needed that 'Dragon Strength Pill', Xiao Yan was not in a hurry to refine it.

Xiao Yan walked out of the room. He had just walked down the stairs when Zi Yan's figure flashed and appeared like a ghost. Her dark-black eyes blinked as they stared at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan was neither able to laugh nor cry when he saw this manner of hers. He threw the jade bottle into her hand and could not help but quietly laugh in a bitter manner when he saw that joyous expression. This little girl may be very strong, but her mentality was not much different from someone of her age.

Zi Yan finally ceased pestering Xiao Yan after obtaining some delicious Danwan that was filled with energy. However, she felt a little embarrassed at immediately wanting to leave after just obtaining the thing. Hence, she obediently sat in one corner. That tender and cute manner of hers caused Hu Jia by the side to have a desire to charge forward and viciously pinch her.

At this moment, Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were all present within the hall. Today, Wu Hao did not hurry over to the Fighting Arena. Even Xiao Yan and the others felt a little speechless at the fanaticism that this fellow had toward fighting.

Xiao Yan inquired about the recent matters occurring for 'Pan's Gate' from Xun Er and the rest during the time that he ate breakfast. He only sighed in relief after ensuring that everything was fine. No matter how one put it, he was ultimately the leader of 'Pan's Gate'. Although he was not very responsible as its leader, he had never denied his status.

Xiao Yan was just about to get up after eating his breakfast when the tightly shut door to the room was pushed open. Immediately, that loud voice of Lin Yan howled loudly within the hall.

"Xiao Yan, I heard that you have returned? Ha ha. Do you have time to spar today? These few days, I have not had any fun while fighting a couple of matches in the Fighting Arena. Those bastards simply run after seeing me." Lin Yan, who appeared looking careless, swaggered into the room. He ignored the helpless expressions of Xiao Yan and the others and directly came to the side of the table. He randomly grabbed a bun on the table and viciously took a bite while speaking in a vague manner.

"Huh, who is this little girl... grug..." While the bun was being chewed in his mouth, Lin Yan ignored Xiao Yan and the others and suddenly turned his gaze toward Zi Yan who was seated by the side. He had just smiled and inquired when his face swiftly stiffened under Xun Er's, Xiao Yan's, and Wu Hao's stunned gazes. The bun which was chewed to pieces in his mouth was being violently spit out along with his saliva. A moment later, his entire face was filled with shock as he hurriedly withdrew as though he had been electrocuted.

"You... why are you here?" An extremely shocked and sharp voice was emitted from Lin Yan's mouth as he stepped back.

Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were at a loss when they saw this sudden change of Lin Yan. Only Xiao Yan understood that it was likely that this fellow had recognized Zi Yan.

“Why are you shouting so loudly?” Zi Yan covered her ears and said with extreme dissatisfaction to the shocked Lin Yan.

Lin Yan swallowed a mouthful of saliva. He only quietly relaxed a little when he saw that Zi Yan had no other special action. He made a detour around the large table in the hall and carefully went behind Xiao Yan and the others. He said softly, “Dammit, why is this fellow here? Are all of you alright?”

“We are very well.” Xiao Yan spread his hands and smiled as he replied.

Lin Yan involuntarily widened his eyes when he saw Xiao Yan’s calm attitude. “Do you know her identity?”

“Yes.” Xiao Yan smiled. He walked to Zi Yan’s side and rubbed her head as he smiled and said, “A very cute little girl.”

“Cute...” The corner of Lin Yan’s mouth twitched as he spoke in his heart. If you are able to see the frightening scene of how this fellow kicked all the competitors down from the arena during the last ‘Strong Ranking’ Grand Competition, you might no longer think so.

“I have already finished eating. Hmph, I’m leaving.” Zi Yan stuffed the breakfast into her mouth. She swung her head and shook Xiao Yan’s hand off. With a snort to Lin Yan, she began leaping up and down as she walked out. She even turned to face Xiao Yan to speak just when she was about to exit through the door, “Remember our agreement. Additionally, I feel that you are pleasant to look at. You can come and find me if there is anyone who dares to bully you. I will give a punch to every single one of those fellows just like that one beside you.”

The little girl proudly waved her little fist after saying this. After which, she swung her purple ponytail before leaping and disappeared from the sight of Xiao Yan and the others.

“Dammit. Xiao Yan, when did you actually get to know the Brute Force Queen?” Lin Yan only recovered his normal state following the disappearance of Zi Yan. His fist was smashed on Xiao Yan’s shoulders as he spoke with surprise.

“It is really unexpected that the person ranked first on the ‘Strong Ranking’ that you said you are extremely afraid of is actually such a little girl.” Xiao Yan shook his head and teased.

Lin Yan’s face turned somewhat flushed when he was mocked by Xiao Yan. He snorted and said, “With this monster protecting you, do you still need to be afraid of Liu Qing. That fellow can only take another path when he sees her.”

"I am hoping for a little girl to back me up?" Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. As an alpha male, he really did not wish to rely on a little girl's name to swagger around triumphantly.

Xiao Yan smiled and patted Lin Yan's shoulders. He was just about to say something when a hurried knocking sound was suddenly emitted from the door. Immediately, a human figure hurriedly charged inside after Xun Er responded in a soft voice.

"Atai? What is it?" Xiao Yan was involuntarily spoke in a stunned manner when he eyed the panting man who had rushed in.

"Hee hee, chief, there are some matters that involves you." Atai rubbed his head and said, "Yesterday, I had taken leave to return to the Outer Academy, only to hear that someone is looking for you urgently."

"Oh? Who?" Xiao Yan was slightly startled as he inquired with a frown.

"It seems that she is called Xiao Yu. She even said that she is your older sister." Atai said, "From her expression, she appears to have some urgent matters to inform you of. The Inner Academy doesn't allow the students from the Outer Academy to enter. Therefore, she asked me to inform you to go to take a trip to the Outer Academy no matter what."

Xiao Yan's expression changed slightly. He understood Xiao Yu very well. She would not be so anxious unless something big that had happened. However, what could have happened while in the Outer Academy?

Xiao Yan took two steps back and forth. He finally could not endure it any longer as he turned around and walked out of the door. He said in a deep voice, "Let's go!"

Chapter 544: Return to the Outer Academy

A few human figures flashed out from the illusory exit of the Inner Academy. From the looks of their appearances they were actually Xiao Yan, Xun Er and the rest. Behind them was Lin Yan who had followed out of curiosity.

The moment when Xiao Yan and the others had rushed out from the forest, a faint old voice sounded above the heads of everyone, "You must obtain a letter from an elder if you want to leave the Inner Academy. What does the large group of you plan to do by leaving?"

Xiao Yan and the others hurriedly raised their heads when they heard this voice, only to see an old man standing on the top of a tree branch. Looking carefully, he was that Elder Su whom they had seen when they had first entered the Inner Academy.

“Elder Su, I am Xiao Yan and I have an urgent matter that requires me to make a trip to the Outer Academy. Please accomodate me!” Xiao Yan took a step forward, suppressing the anxiety in his heart. He respectfully spoke to the Elder on the tree branch.

“Oh? Xiao Yan?” Elder Su was startled when he heard this. His gaze was hurriedly thrown to Xiao Yan’s body. When he saw that somewhat familiar face, there was immediately an additional smile on his originally indifferent face. “Ke ke, it is actually student Xiao Yan. Why? Have you become bored after staying in the Inner Academy and want to take a walk outside?”

“Where would I have such leisure? It is just that there is an urgent matter that requires me to go and take a look.” Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. He cupped his hands toward Elder Su and said, “Elder, please.”

Elder Su paused for a second since according to the Inner Academy rules, without a letter, they couldn’t randomly let people leave. However, Xiao Yan was different. He was someone that the First Elder personally said to give extra attention. In addition, although he had been stationed here, he had also heard about Xiao Yan being able to refine a tier five pill. Thus, he was quite happy to help Xiao Yan.

“According to the rules, I cannot let you pass since you have no letter in your hands. However, on the account of student Xiao Yan, I will bend the rules once today.” Elder Su mused for a moment before finally waving his hand and speaking with a smile.

“Thank you very much, Elder!” Xiao Yan immediately rejoiced when he saw Elder Su nodding his head.

“Hei, your face is quite big. I have come to find this Elder a couple of times and he always showed me the face of a dead person. If you do not hand over a letter, you are not allowed to pass. It is really unexpected that he would be lenient to you.” Behind Xiao Yan, Lin Yan was a little surprised as he spoke.

Xiao Yan smiled. He was also clearly aware that the reason for these Elders being so courteous was most likely because he could refine a tier 5 medicinal pill. After all, as an alchemist, he clearly understood just what kind of an attraction a tier 5 alchemist had toward these Elders whose strength were at the Dou Wang class.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, you need not be too worried. There should not be any overly big matters that would occur within the Jia Nan Academy.” Xun Er, who had been paying attention to Xiao Yan suddenly spoke softly. Although the former hid it well, she was still able to discover a faint anxiety between Xiao Yan’s brows.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he spoke with a soft voice, “However, you should also know Xiao Yu well. She has a haughty character. Unless there is really a big matter, she would definitely not come find me. No matter how one put it, we are also of the

same clan. Moreover, the Xiao clan had been reduced to this state because of me. I also feel a little sorry for them.”

Xun Er smiled. Her delicate hand gently held Xiao Yan’s palm, indicating that he need not be overly worried.

As the two conversed softly, the space of the open area in front of them suddenly fluctuated intensely. Immediately, the space appeared to be forcefully torn open by an invisible hand. A silver-colored dazzling door appeared within their sights.

“I have already sent a signal out. Therefore, there will be some Griffins waiting for you. The deep mountains of the Inner Academy are filled with many Magical Beasts. If there was no Griffin to ride, you would likely need to waste a week’s time in order to reach the Outer Academy.” Elder Su gently landed on the ground from the tree branch and smiled as he spoke to Xiao Yan’s group.

“Elder Su, thank you very much. I will definitely return the favor that was made today.” Xiao Yan cupped his hands to Elder Su with gratitude. He did not stay for long as he took the lead to swiftly walk toward the silver-colored door. After which, his figure disappeared with a flickering glow.

Xun Er and the rest followed closely after Xiao Yan. With the flicker of some silver glow, the forest had once again become empty.

“Seeing that anxious manner of Xiao Yan, it appears that he does indeed have an urgent matter. I’m afraid that I will need to report to the First Elder about this.” Elder Su mused for a moment after the final person disappeared behind the silver-colored doorway. He turned around and leaped into the sky. A pair of Dou Qi wings appeared as he rushed toward the Inner Academy.

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The moment they exited the silver-colored door, a boundless mountain range appeared in Xiao Yan’s sight. There was a deep bottomless gorge that extended out and finally disappeared into the edge of their sight not far in front of them.

At this moment, there was an enormous Griffin which was flapping its wings beside the gorge. There were even two people driving the Griffin.

“Ke ke, the few of you are heading for the Outer Academy right? Come aboard.” A person who was driving stood up and smiled. He spoke to Xiao Yan and the rest upon seeing their appearance.

“Thank you very much.” Xiao Yan did not say any unnecessary words. He waved his hand and took the lead to leap onto the Griffin before his body stood straight without moving on the back of the Griffin, which was quite slippery. Xun Er and the others

followed closely behind him. All of them were people with extraordinary strength. Therefore, they would naturally not show the embarrassing matter that some new students displayed back when they first entered the Inner Academy.

Seeing these steady movements, the two drivers of the Griffin also let out quiet praise. Those students were indeed worthy of being students of the Inner Academy. This kind of agility was something that was far from what the Outer Academy students could compare with.

“Sit tight!” A cry was let out. The Griffin suddenly flapped its wings and set off in a wild gust of wind. An enormous body lifted into the sky before finally swiftly flying toward the mountain range of the Outer Academy.

In the Griffin anchorage open ground of the Outer Academy.

Due to the Griffins being extremely eye-catching, there were quite a number of Outer Academy students who had gathered around the open ground. These students were immediately startled when they saw a group of people filing down from a Griffin that had just landed. Xiao Yan, Xun Er, Hu Jia, and Wu Hao were basically stars that everyone in the Outer Academy knew before the four of them entered the Inner Academy. Even though over half a year had passed since then, there were still quite a number of students who remembered them. Therefore, waves of private conversations sounded when the four people showed themselves. Their eyes were filled with a fiery heat.

Xiao Yan, who was in a hurry, naturally did not bother about these gazes. He led the group out of the open ground and relied on his memory to walk to Instructor Ruo Ling’s residence.

“Hei, that green-clothed girl is really beautiful. Why have I not seen her before? It is really unfortunate. If I had met her before, I might even have been able to get close and possess such a beauty.” Some of the voices involuntarily became much louder as they eyed the group of people who had disappeared from the edge of their sight. There was another batch of new students who had entered the Outer Academy during this half a year. Therefore, they had never seen Xun Er and the rest before. However, looking at the imposing manner of the group, these new students who had just arrived did not dare to be overly loud. Their voices naturally appeared now that the group had left.

“Chi, brat, your skin is really itchy. That is Senior Xiao Yan’s woman. You actually want to get close to her with just your strength?” A student who appeared to be older glanced at a new student who had appeared beside him and said with a cold laughter.

“Who is Xiao Yan? I have only heard of the new student king chief Yan Cheng and don’t know any Xiao Yan.” That new student was also like a thorn. Immediately, he retorted with anger.

“New student king Yan Cheng? Hee hee, that is just some stuff that a group of new students who don’t know the immensity of the Heavens and Earth created, yet you dare compare with him? Back when Senior Xiao Yan entered the Inter Academy, he was already a six star Da Dou Shi. Now that he has undergone tough training within the Inner Academy for half a year, his strength will definitely have advanced a lot. He might well have reached the peak of the Da Dou Shi class. What is the rank of that Yan Cheng? With just one slap down, he would not even recognize his old mother.” An older student ridiculed. That so-called new student king was merely something that this batch of new students had chosen in their gathering. The strength of that Yan Cheng was the most outstanding one. Therefore, he was supported by a group of new students to become whatever new student king. Although the strength of the new students was not considered strong, they won in having large numbers. Therefore, it was also quite a strong faction in the Outer Academy.

The expression of that new student also changed a little when he heard of that so-called peak Da Dou Shi strength. He was also clear about the enormous gap between the two and immediately no longer dared to say any frivolous words. He only tucked his tail and fled in a crestfallen manner.

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Xiao Yan’s group naturally did not know of the changes that had occurred in the Outer Academy during this half a year. Moreover, they would not pay attention to it even if they knew. With the strength of the current ‘Pan’s Gate’, it was able to be ranked among the top even in the Inner Academy. Why would they need to bother about these new students who had just entered this Outer Academy?

They followed the road and walked toward the place where Instructor Ruo Ling rested. Due to Xun Er and Hu Jia, they had attracted quite a number of gazes along the way. Some of the older students did recognize the few of them. However, some of the new students had faces filled with curiosity as they halted and looked over while repeatedly conversing privately among themselves.

They hurried throughout the entire journey. Around ten plus minutes later, Instructor Rou Ling’s elegant home appeared in Xiao Yan’s sight. He quietly sighed in relief as he increased the pace of his footsteps. A moment later, they finally arrived in front of the door before knocking on it gently.

“Creak!”

The door emitted a sound as it opened. A thin, pallid, pretty face that was somewhat familiar appeared in Xiao Yan’s sight. With that straight lovely figure and the extremely representative long sleek legs, who else could it be but Xiao Yu?

Xiao Yu, who had opened the door, was also stunned when she saw the large group of people in front of it. However, when her gaze turned to Xiao Yan’s face, she was

immediately startled. The crystal clearness in her pretty eyes brewed gradually. It showed the traces of a storm rolling down.

“Don’t cry, don’t cry. Just what happened? I have rushed out without stopping.” Xiao Yan watched Xiao Yu reveal this soft and weak attitude in front of him for the first time. He was greatly stunned and immediately spoke hurriedly.

The back of Xiao Yu’s teeth bit her lower red lip tightly. She finally did not cry out. All she did was pull his hand and hurriedly ran into the house. Under this unusual behavior of hers, Xiao Yan did not dare resist even a little, and allowed her to pull him forward as she pleased.

With Xiao Yu leading them, the group passed through the living room and finally arrived in front of a door. Only then did the former slow his footsteps and gently push open the door.

Xiao Yan’s hand suddenly trembled slightly as he eyed Xiao Yu’s expression. He slowly walked into the room and immediately saw a bed as well as the man lying on it.

The man was around twenty-five years old. At this moment, he had his eyes tightly shut and his complexion was as white as sheet. Moreover, it even contained a suffering look and his body would occasionally quiver slightly. That face of his was actually a little similar to Xiao Yan’s.

Xiao Yan’s eyes stared intently at the familiar face. His fist suddenly tightened. There was faintly some blood traces spreading out from his dark-black pupils. A moment later, a low voice that suppressed an incomparable fury was quietly emitted from his throat.

“Second Brother!”

Chapter 545: The Unexpected Change In the Clan

The atmosphere in the room was so pressuring that it caused people to feel like they were suffocating. Lin Yan and the others eyed Xiao Yan, who was displaying such a boundless fury in front of them for the first time. They were quietly a little speechless. This fellow usually appeared to be gentle and filled with smiles when one saw him. It was really unexpected that he was actually this frightening when he was truly angered.

Xiao Yan’s eyes stared intently at the pale-white face of Xiao Li. A long while later, he inhaled a deep breath of air and forcefully suppressed the fury within his heart. He turned around and spoke to the red-eyed Xiao Yu in a deep voice, “Just what happened? Shouldn’t second elder brother be in the Jia Ma Empire? Why has he suddenly arrived at the Jia Nan Academy?”

“Two days ago, older cousin Xiao Li suddenly appeared at the entrance of the Jia Nan Academy and got someone to inform me about it. When I hurried out, I had already

seen him in such a weak manner. Upon seeing me, he merely said one sentence before falling unconscious.” Xiao Yu said softly.

“What sentence?” Xiao Yan’s heart leaped as he asked in a hoarse voice.

“Inform Xiao Yan, something has happened to the Xiao clan!”

“Bang!”

A powerful force suddenly surged violently from the room. Xiao Yu, who was positioned closest to Xiao Yan was shaken and forced to take a couple of steps back. Immediately, her pretty face was shocked as she eyed Xiao Yan, whose expression had suddenly become frighteningly dark and solemn. This aura... was even stronger than that of Instructor Ruo Ling! They had not seen each other for only half a year, yet Xiao Yan’s strength had already become this strong?

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, don’t be agitated!” A figure hurriedly rushed to Xiao Yan’s side. Her delicate hand tightly grabbed Xiao Yan’s arm as a faint golden glow surfaced. While being shined by this golden glow, Xiao Yan’s aura, which was somewhat out of control, began to gradually calm down.

Xiao Yan hurriedly panted a couple of times. His hands still gently trembled in an involuntarily manner. The Xiao clan had already been secretly moved by Xiao Yan to the Mercenary Company that his big brother Xiao Ding was at before Xiao Yan left. Now, Xiao Li, who was the Second Company Leader of the ‘Desert Metal Mercenary Company’ had actually appeared in the Jia Nan Academy that was over ten thousand kilometers from the Jia Ma Empire. That meant that the entire mercenary company along with the Xiao clan, should have received an extremely frightening destructive blow.

Xiao Yan’s fingernail pierced deeply into his palm. Fresh blood flowed from the gap between his fingers and dripped down. Xiao Yan eyed Xiao Li on the bed whose face was as white as sheet. Remorse was just like a knife, causing his heart to transmit waves of pain. It was really unexpected that by having the Xiao clan move to where his big brother was, he had instead harmed them...

The atmosphere in the room had become overcast due to the pressure. Xiao Yu’s eyes had turned slightly red. With the trouble the Xiao clan was in, it was likely that her parents would have difficulty escaping from those murderous hands. This kind of unexpected turn in events also caused her to completely lose her own opinion. They did not know how many members of the Xiao clan were still surviving within the Xiao clan. Perhaps, if the situation was the worst, there may be only them, the younger generation, who were outside... Xiao Yu could not help but feel a misery within her heart the moment she thought of how an originally large clan had ended up in such a miserable situation. She began to weep softly.

Xiao Yan sat down gently by the side of the bed. He suppressed his trembling hands and held Xiao Li's arm. A thread of Dou Qi was transmitted into the latter's body and he only released the latter's hand a moment later. The gloominess on his face finally become a little fainter. However, his voice was still hoarse, cold and stern, "Second brother has quite the serious internal injuries. It was likely that he was seriously wounded when exchanging blows with others. Fortunately, his life is not in danger."

Xiao Yan took out a healing medicine to cure internal injuries from within his storage ring. He stuffed it into Xiao Li's mouth. A moment later, the pale-white complexion of the latter become much better. Only then did Xiao Yan let out a gentle relieved sigh.

"Let's wait for second brother to wake up now. Once he wakes up, we will be able to know exactly what happened to the Xiao clan." Xiao Yan's face was dark and gloomy. His soft voice had a dark and cold killing intent that caused people's bones to turn cold.

"Don't tell me that this was done by the Misty Cloud Sect?" Xun Er said in a soft hesitating manner.

"If it is really the Misty Cloud Sect, I, Xiao Yan will fight with them to the end, all the way until the sect is destroyed!" A ferocious smile was suddenly pulled on the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth. His voice appeared to have been transmitted from hell and did not contain even the least bit of emotion.

Xun Er sighed softly. Within the Jia Ma Empire, it was likely that there would be hardly any other faction other than the Misty Cloud Sect who would dare to act so viciously toward the Xiao clan...

During the time that they waited for Xiao Li to wake up, the atmosphere within the room was overbearing and depressing. It resulted in Hu Jia and the others sighing quietly before quietly leaving in a somewhat unwilling manner, leaving this room for Xiao Yan's relatives.

"*Cough* ..."

An intense coughing sound appeared within the silent room. Xiao Yan, who was seated by the side of the bed, abruptly lifted his head only to see Xiao Li slowly opening his eyes.

The two pairs of eyes looked at each other. The relationship between brothers linked by blood caused the expression of the both of them to quietly become warmer.

"I am finally able to see you xiao-Yan-zi, I thought that I would not to able to walk over here." Xiao Li leaned on the soft pillow. The wild joy that was on Xiao Li's face when he saw Xiao Yan was gradually withdrawn. He smiled before sighing, "Three months. If it were not for me relying on a flying Magical Beast, I'm afraid that I would at least need a year in order to arrive here from the Jia Ma Empire."

TL: xiao-Yan-zi - nickname - xiao (meaning small, not the surname) Yan (From Xiao Yan) zi (boy).

Xiao Yan eyed Xiao Li's pale-white face. His nose involuntarily felt a little grief. Half a year ago, his second brother was still high-spirited and filled with fighting intent. Now, however, all that remained in his eyes was an increasingly dense ruthlessness.

"Second brother, what happened? Where is big brother?" Xiao Yan held Xiao Li's arm and softly inquired.

The smile on Xiao Li's face disappeared. A moment later, he raised his head and laughed. The laughter was filled with an extremely rich sorrow and fury. Under such a desolate laughter, the tears of Xiao Yu by the side rolled down.

"Is it the Misty Cloud Sect?" The back of Xiao Yan's hand trembled rapidly. A fury and killing intent filled his heart and nearly buried his reasoning.

"Everything was calm during the two months after the Xiao clan had moved to the Desert Metal Mercenary Company. The search of the Misty Cloud Sect did not spread to the border areas. However, they came quietly just as we thought that the tense atmosphere was about to reach an end."

"That night was coincidentally the time when our Desert Metal Mercenary Company would rejoice every month. However, it had turned into a blood feast. There were quite a number of people who surrounded and killed our Desert Metal Mercenary Company that night. Although they hid their identities, how can the sword aura that the unique Qi Method of the Misty Cloud Sect be hidden?" Xiao Li laughed faintly. His face had an unforgettable vengeance. "The people who had surrounded and attacked our Desert Metal Mercenary Company were also extremely strong. Almost all the brothers of the mercenary company were killed or injured. Although the Xiao clan had a few elders who fought to their deaths in order to protect it, it also suffered quite serious losses."

"Misty, Cloud, Sect... looks like that old bastard Yun Shan really plans to wipe all of us out!" Xiao Yan's dark-black eyes were filled with blood traces. His face was so savage that it was frightening. Xiao Yan's body trembled rapidly as a rich killing intent filled the entire room. A moment later, he stood up abruptly only to be hurriedly held back by Xun Er. "Xiao Yan ge-ge, where are you planning to go?"

"I am returning to the Jia Ma Empire! I want to let all the members of the Misty Cloud Sect be buried with those who died!" Xiao Yan's dark voice carried a rich killing intent and ferocity.

"What else can you do other than ending up going to die for nothing if you return now? The Xiao clan is faced with a great disaster. Who else other than you can rescue them? If you were to die, how would I account to Uncle Xiao?" Xun Er understood that Xiao

Yan had begun to lose control due to his fury when she saw this savage manner of Xiao Yan. She immediately cried out loud.

“Xiao Yan, stand still! The reason big brother got me to risk this life to travel for such a long distance to search for you is not to let you just run back in this manner!” Xiao Li angrily scolded, “This blood vengeance is something that we must avenge and you have a responsibility that you cannot shrink from. However, can the current you kill Yun Shan when you return?”

Xiao Yan’s body stiffened. His hair was scattered down from his forehead. A fury and killing intent that had been suppressed to the limit nearly caused him to become crazy.

“Moreover, this matter is also not so simple.” Xiao Li said in a dark and solemn voice.

Xiao Yan only recovered some of his calmness upon hearing this. His hoarse voice was just like a broken bellow. “What?”

“That night, there appeared to be something other than those from the Misty Cloud Sect that was hidden among those who had come to destroy our mercenary company that night...” A stern glint flickered in Xiao Li’s eyes. He did not hide his malice that was etched on his pale-white face. “Those fellows may have hidden in the darkness, but I was still able to sense that kind of dark and cold aura. They were just like a cluster of black shadows with a face that could not be seen. Moreover, they had an extremely clear target. All of them were targeting the members of our Xiao clan. Their attacks could not be blocked. Occasionally, a dark-black chain would shoot out from the darkness. These black-colored chains were extremely strange. It could even penetrate Dou Qi. Each time the metal chain rang within the dark night, there would be a clan member who would have his body pierced and dragged off.”

“Each time after these mysterious black shadows dragged off a member of our Xiao clan, they would search their bodies. From the looks of their actions, they did not appear to have been hired to kill. Instead, they seemed to be searching for something.”

“Black shadows? Metal chain attack?” These foreign terms entered Xiao Yan’s mind, only to cause his mind that had been filled with killing intent to suddenly feel an icy-cold wave. His mind moved swiftly and scene after scene swiftly flashed past. Finally, the image paused abruptly!

It was the black shadow, the black-colored chains... that he had haphazardly saw within the black storm in the ‘Black-Corner Plains’.

A coldness gradually rose in his body. Yao Lao’s and Xiao Yan’s voice carried a solemnness as they nearly sounded simultaneously, “Hall of Souls!”

“Why would they eye the Xiao clan? The Xiao clan does not have the slightest association with them!” Xiao Yan’s body stiffened. His hair had fallen down and covered his face while he muttered in his heart while carrying a thread of dark coldness.

Yao Lao had also become silent at this moment. He also could not understand why such an enormous and mysterious faction like the ‘Hall of Souls’ would be implicated with a small Xiao clan. It did not really appear to be possible that it was because of him. After all, it was impossible for the ‘Hall of Souls’ to know that he was by Xiao Yan’s side.

“We do not know what exactly they were looking for. However, the First Elder had spoken to big brother and me just before he died.” Xiao Li suddenly raised his head and eyed Xiao Yan when he spoke until this point. He said, “He asked that you must preserve the jade of the Xiao clan, and must definitely not allow it to fall in the hands of an outsider!”

An icy-cool feeling suddenly surfaced in Xiao Yan’s mind. A thread of cold wind was spat out from Xiao Yan’s mouth as an awed voice slowly sounded in his heart, “So it’s... their aim is... the ‘Tou She Ancient God’s Jade!’”

Chapter 546: The Participation of the ‘Hall of Souls’

Silence once again surfaced in the room. It was a long while later before Xiao Yan, who had understood the cause and effect, to slowly let out a breath of air. His voice was low as he asked, “How is big brother?”

“We were being chased all the way. With our strength, the Xiao clan’s elimination would not be unexpected if it continued. However, it was fortunate that some reinforcements appeared at a critical point which saved our remaining Xiao clan.” Happiness appeared on Xiao Li’s pale-white face when he spoke until this point.

“Reinforcements? There is still a faction in the Jia Ma Empire who dares to contend with the Misty Cloud Sect?” Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this as he spoke with a frown.

“The reinforcement appeared in the dark-black forest. At first, we also did not know about it. Those who came only revealed their identities after pushing back those that were giving chase. That person is also someone you know. It is that old man who had once followed beside you.”

“Hai Bodong? Old Hai?” Xiao Yan was slightly stunned. The face of an old man who always had a cold and indifferent expression slowly surfaced in Xiao Yan’s mind. Xiao Yan nodded as he came to a sudden understanding. He kept gratitude within his heart. This kindness of Hai Bo Dong who had took action to rescue the remnants of the Xiao clan was quite great. It was likely that Xiao Yan had to return it properly to the other party in the future.

“Big brother may have also been seriously injured, but it was fortunate that he retained his life with the help of that old man. That person appears to have an extremely high position within the Primer clan. Therefore, the remnant members of the Xiao clan who had survived have been secretly moved under their protection to a place beyond the reach of the Misty Cloud Sect. The flying Magical Beast that I rode to the Jia Nan Academy was also borrowed from the Primer clan. Otherwise, with our current financial ability, I would only be able to walk to the Jia Nan Academy on my feet.”

“However, this ‘Black-Corner Region’ is indeed worthy of being the most chaotic place. Hee hee, I had been secretly backstabbed a couple of times during this period of time and had nearly left this little life of mine there. These injuries were also obtained from the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Those fellows are really as vicious as hungry wolves.”

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly. He had personally experienced how chaotic and bloody the ‘Black-Corner Region’ was and naturally clearly understood that Xiao Li could have been considered to have traveled tens of thousands of kilometers, climbed mountains, and waded through waters in order to come and inform him about the unexpected change in the Xiao clan.

Xiao Li smiled bitterly and said, “Currently, the Desert Metal Mercenary Company is completely finished. The Xiao clan is a little better off. However, it is in a battered shape. Its strength is no longer like it was in the past. We have to live in secret and struggle to survive while at death’s door.”

Xiao Yan held Xiao Li’s hand. He said in a soft voice that has a repressed vengeance, “Second brother, I will definitely avenge this blood debt!”

“We must naturally avenge it. This Misty Cloud Sect has forced our Xiao clan into this manner. How would we account to those Elders who had fought to their death to protect it if we don’t kill that old dog Yun Shan?” A malice surfaced on Xiao Li’s face as he spoke with a thick smile, “As long as us three brothers are still alive, we will let the Misty Cloud Sect suffer great losses!”

Xiao Yan nodded quietly. His heart felt a little wider. At least, nothing had happened to his big brother and second brother. He really dared not think whether he would be able to retain his sense of reasoning like he did now if his big brother and second brother were to die in an attack by the Misty Cloud Sect.

“Older cousin Xiao Li, my... are my parents alright?” Xiao Yu at the side suddenly spoke. Her voice carried a tremble.

“Ke ke, Xiao Yu, you are really becoming more and more beautiful after not seeing you for a couple of years...” The malice on Xiao Li’s face disappeared as he eyed Xiao Yu, whose eyes had turned red. He mused for a moment and said in a somewhat ashamed manner, “Aunt Xiao is alright, but uncle lost an arm during the battle...”

Xiao Yu's eyes became even redder. However, it was fortunate that the worst situation that Xiao Yu had expected did not occur. Therefore, her extremely tense mind did not collapse because of this. She quietly stood to one side after nodding slightly.

"Second brother, you should first recuperate from your injuries. The blood feud of our clan must be avenged, but you can rest assured that I will not be reckless. It was just that the blood had rushed to my head earlier." Xiao Yan once again took out a medicinal pill from his storage ring and handed it to Xiao Li as he spoke softly.

Xiao Li received the medicinal pill and stuffed it into his mouth without the slightest hesitation. His eyes stared directly at Xiao Yan and he said in a deep voice, "Other people can be reckless, but you can not. Now, you are the only hope of the entire Xiao clan. The matter of Father's disappearance also requires your strength. Your big brother and I possess training talents that are inferior to you. We can die, but you can not! If any accident were to befall you, the Xiao clan would be completely finished!"

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he smiled and patted Xiao Li's hand. He spoke to Xiao Yu, "Can you take care of second brother first? I need to speak with Xun Er." Once he said this, he lifted his chin toward Xun Er before the two of them slowly withdrew out of the room.

"Tell me some information about the so called 'Hall of Souls'. With your background, I think that you should have heard of them." Xiao Yan's expression once again turned dark and solemn on the roof as he spoke indifferently to Xun Er.

"'Hall of Souls'? How do you know about them?" Xun Er's face immediately changed a little when she heard this name pop out of Xiao Yan's mouth.

"I have once met them by chance. The attacking method of those black shadows that second brother described is nearly completely the same as those few people from the 'Hall of Souls'. I think that they are definitely somehow involved in this matter." Xiao Yan waved his hand. His eyes stared at Xun Er as he spoke in a deep voice, "Tell me."

Xun Er hesitated a little while under Xiao Yan's gaze. She finally smiled bitterly and nodded. She arranged the information related about the 'Hall of Souls' within her mind before speaking slowly, "The 'Hall of Souls' is an extremely mysterious and strange organization on the continent. The thing that they like to do most is to search for spiritual bodies all over the continent. After which, they capture them. Even I am not certain why they want so many spiritual bodies... this organization has traces that are all over the continent. It is just unexpected that they would infiltrate even a conservative country like the Jia Ma Empire."

"The 'Hall of Souls' has existed for quite a long time. Therefore, they are similarly aware of many secrets on the continent. I think that the reason for them to look for the Xiao clan should be related to the 'Tou She Ancient God's Jade' in Xiao Yan ge-ge's hands." Xun Er sighed softly. She quickly continued, "The piece of 'Tou She Ancient God's

Jade' in Xiao Yan ge-ge's hand is actually merely a portion of a 'key'. There are other portions that were left in other places of the continent. My clan has a portion. Additionally... this 'Hall of Souls' also possesses a portion."

"These 'keys' contain an extremely great secret. I am also not the slightest bit aware of what exactly this secret entails. The only thing I can tell Xiao Yan ge-ge is that no matter whether it is my clan or the 'Hall of Souls', they value these 'keys' to the extreme. Back then, in order to fight for these 'keys', my clan fought with the 'Hall of Souls'. Although we were finally victorious, we did not get what we wished."

"Now that the 'Hall of Souls' has attacked the Xiao clan, it is likely that they had obtained some news about that portion of the 'key' from some unknown source. Otherwise, the strength of the Xiao clan would have been insufficient to attract them to take action. What is a little unexpected is how the Misty Cloud Sect has become associated with the 'Hall of Souls'." Xun Er said softly.

"However, from what second brother has said, that old man called Hai Bo Dong was able to force back those people chasing the Xiao clan. From this, it seems that the 'Hall of Souls' did not really send their true experts. Of course, my clan is constantly observing their actions. Therefore, their true experts could not have gone."

"Key, key, it is that damn key again!" Xiao Yan's hand violently smashed on the wall in front of him as he spoke furiously.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, remember the words that I spoke to you the last time. You must not tell anyone about the matter of the 'Tou She Ancient God's Jade' being in your hand. Do not even tell older cousin Xiao Li. Otherwise, should he accidentally leak the information, the 'Hall of Souls' would come after you just in a never ending manner like the maggots in the tarsal bones." Xun Er took a step forward. Her soft body was pasted on Xiao Yan's body as she lowered her voice and spoke to him in a serious manner.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly and eyed the elegant face that was just next to him. He sniffed the faint fragrance that drifted into his nostrils as his hands embraced abruptly, violently pulling Xun Er into a hug. He had been unable to hide the remorse he felt in his heart in front of the person closest to him. His voice was hoarse as he said, "If I had not acted in a young and arrogant manner back then and created the whatever Three Year Agreement with Nalan Yanran, I'm afraid that things would not become like what they are today. I would also have not implicated the clan until it became ruined, and my relatives would not have to be separated!"

"If a person did not act frivolously, their youth would have been in vain. Xiao Yan ge-ge, you are not wrong." Xun Er's soft and gentle cheek leaned on Xiao Yan's shoulders as she replied gently, "Wealth would bring greed and bring harm. Even if Xiao Yan ge-ge did not come into conflict with the Misty Cloud Sect, that 'Hall of Souls' would have sooner or later arrived at the door of the Xiao clan. Moreover, with their vicious means,

they would definitely have wiped out everyone. At that time, the Xiao clan would have either suffered serious losses or have been completely destroyed.”

“The only thing that you can do now is to get yourself to become stronger. It is just as second brother said. Both the vengeance of the clan, and the matter of the disappearance of uncle Xiao Zhan must rely on you. You are currently the support pillar of the Xiao clan. If you were to fall, the entire clan would no longer have the chance to stand up!”

“Therefore, Xiao Yan ge-ge, you must remember that the Xiao clan has yet to fall at this moment. Big brother is currently in the Jia Ma Empire leading the remaining members of the Xiao clan. They still require you to return.”

The gentle voice that came out like a strength-draining drug that caused Xiao Yan’s heart, which had been filled with vengeance and killing intent, to gradually recover its previous clarity and brightness. It was a long while later before Xiao Yan eventually raised his head and inhaled a mouthful of icy-cool air. He relaxed his arm that was embracing Xun Er’s waist. That delicate and handsome face lacked the lazy smile that was usually carelessly hanging on it. Instead, there was an additional faint cold sternness. At this moment, Xiao Yan could have been considered to have completely extracted himself from the tenderness of youth under the blow of the changes in the Xiao clan.

A person would only truly change and grow up after experiencing a setback.

“Relax, I will no longer be reckless in the future. I will return once I have sufficient strength. At that time, I will get the Misty Cloud Sect to repay all its debt by a hundred times!” Xiao Yan’s hand touched Xun Er lovely and tender face. His voice was, however, dense, cold, and dark.

Chapter 547: Xiao Li’s Plan

Due to Xiao Li’s injuries, Xiao Yan was not in a hurry to return to the Inner Academy. Instead, he stayed in the Outer Academy for a couple of days. During this period of time, Xiao Li’s injuries had not only recovered quickly under the numerous expensive medicinal pills of Xiao Yan, but his strength had also advanced greatly.

Xiao Yan had naturally probed Xiao Li’s current strength during the period that the latter was recuperating. He was currently at the peak of the Dou Shi class and could break through that barrier anytime, leaping to become a Da Dou Shi.

Xiao Yan pondered a little about this before he secretly added a drop of ‘Core Quenching Body Milk’ during Xiao Li’s recuperation. Borrowing this enormous energy, Xiao Li finally broke through the Dou Shi barrier as he had desired, and took the first step in advancing to a Da Dou Shi!

Although Xiao Li's wounds had been completely cured and his strength had advanced greatly, his entire aura had undoubtedly become much darker and sterner than before after undergoing such a great change. He was still a little better when faced with his relatives like Xiao Yan. However, when he talked to an outsider, the thick cold glint in his eyes that was as sharp as an eagle caused other people to have the feeling of sitting on needles.

Xiao Yan did not have any other solution with regards to this. It was impossible not to change a little after experiencing such a great disaster. The problem that he currently needed to think about was how to arrange for his second brother, Xiao Li, to stay. This Jia Nan Academy was after all a renowned academy in the continent. A person of questionable background could not continue to stay within it. If he had not borrowed the status of Hu Jia and Wu Hao during this period of time, it was likely that there would have been members of the academy's Law Enforcement Unit coming to expel Xiao Li.

Xiao Yan had originally intended to introduce Xiao Li to the Jia Nan Academy. After all, the training talent of the latter was quite good. However, after experiencing this change, the dark and cold aura of Xiao Li was not suitable to stay for long in the academy with its calm atmosphere. Moreover, with the latter's character, it was likely that he would not be an obedient student within the academy.

Just as Xiao Yan was having a little headache, Xiao Li took the lead to look for him. The decision that Xiao Li spoke caused Xiao Yan to be stunned.

"I wish to go into the 'Black-Corner Region'." Xiao Li licked his mouth within the room as he eyed Xiao Yan's stunned manner. A smile was revealed on his cold and stern face as he spoke, "I discovered that the atmosphere there is very suitable for me. When I was in the Jia Ma Empire in the past, there was always something restricting me regardless of what I did. On the other hand, there are no rules within that 'Black-Corner Region'. Therefore... I can use any means, including unscrupulous ones to build some things there."

"Although the 'Black-Corner Region' is a place without rules, it is also overly chaotic. A person who is weak is unlikely to have a large chance to survive for long." Xiao Yan, who had personally experienced that chaos was naturally not too willing to allow Xiao Li to go to that kind of place. Therefore, he did his best to persuade the latter.

"Relax. No matter how one puts it, I am considered someone of the Da Dou Shi class now. Moreover, in that kind of place, it is not as though one must use force for everything." Xiao Li waved his hand. Seeing that Xiao Yan was still hesitating, he could only helplessly take out two scrolls, where a silver-colored bright glow was flickering, from his chest pocket. He said, "This is a set of a lightning affinity Qi Method and a Dou Technique. Its level is sufficient to reach the Middle Xuan class. Moreover, if the two of them are used in unison, their strength would increase by multiple times. Even if one were to use a High Xuan class Qi Method and Dou Technique, the attack's strength would have difficulty matching with it."

“Uh? Where did you get this from?” Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this as he spoke in a stunned voice. A Qi Method of this class was not only that of the rare lightning affinity but was actually a set. This price was something that even an ordinary High Xuan Qi Method would have difficulty matching.

“Hee hee, this was given by that girl Xun Er.” Xiao Li laughed, “After not having seen her for so many years, she is still completely obedient and docile toward you. You better not let her down. She may have grown up in the Xiao clan since she was young, but she is not a member of the Xiao clan. I think you should be aware of this.”

“As expected...” Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and shook his head. He just knew it. Who else other than that girl Xun Er could simply just take out such a valuable Qi Method? Xiao Yan had also automatically ignored the last few words of Xiao Li. The current him did not have the time and qualification to discuss these matters.

“Therefore, you need not be the least bit concerned. With my lightning affinity Dou Qi and adding this Qi Method and Dou Technique, even an ordinary four or five star Da Dou Shi can do nothing to me.” Xiao Li smiled. However, his smile hid a little bloodthirst. “Moreover, the both of us are now carrying a vengeance. Therefore, I cannot just die this easily.”

Xiao Yan studied Xiao Li’s eyes. It was a long while later before he sighed softly. He understood Xiao Li very well. As long it was something that the latter had decided, it would be difficult for even nine bulls to pull him back...

Xiao Yan frowned as he mused for a moment. He suddenly flipped his hand and a strange dark-black scroll suddenly appeared in his hand. After rubbing it carefully, he handed it to Xiao Li and said softly, “This is a Flying Dou Technique scroll. It is named ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings’. After you practice it, you will possess a flying ability just like a strong Dou Wang. However, it greatly exhausts your Dou Qi. Additionally... Unless it is a crucial time where you need to flee, it would be best for second brother not to easily display it. The origin of this thing is shady. If someone were to recognize it, it is likely that will bring about an unexpected calamity.”

This ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings’ was something that Xiao Yan had obtained from killing the junior sect leader of the ‘Blood Sect’ back then. It had once shown itself in the auction house and many people knew that the junior sect leader of the ‘Blood Sect’ had purchased it. Now that the person had died, it was likely that those fellows from the ‘Blood Sect’ would send someone to kill Xiao Li if this kind of dirty item was identified to be in Xiao Li’s hands.

For the sake of Xiao Li’s safety in the ‘Black-Corner Region’, Xiao Yan had also quietly told him about this secret in order for him to be cautious of the ‘Blood Sect’.

“Hee hee, this is really a good thing.” Xiao Li’s face was filled with joy as he received the dark-black scroll. He was not the least bit courteous as he stuffed it into his breast

pocket. He immediately spoke with a dark vulturous tone, "Relax, I will pay attention to that 'Blood Sect'. I have also heard about them when I passed by the 'Black-Corner Region'."

"You should temporarily stay for these few days. I will refine some medicinal pills for you to protect yourself." Xiao Yan nodded slightly before immediately hesitating a little as he spoke.

"Ke ke, alright." Xiao Li also clearly understood that Xiao Yan was worried about him making a living within the 'Black-Corner Region'. Therefore, it was likely that Xiao Yan was unwilling to let him leave. Hence, Xiao Li did not reject Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan sighed gently. He gave a bitter smile as he patted Xiao Li's shoulders. Immediately, he turned around and walked into a quiet room to begin refining medicinal pills.

In order to give Xiao Li the best protection, Xiao Yan naturally needed to prepare the 'Dragon Strength Pill' that could greatly raise one's physical strength within a short period of time. Although the medicinal ingredients needed for this 'Dragon Strength Pill' were complicated, Xiao Yan was coincidentally in possession of three sets of medicinal pills that Elder Liu had sent him. As Xiao Yan's chances of success in refining a 'Dragon Strength Pill' were not considered very high, he invited Yao Lao to do the refinement this time around.

With Yao Lao, an alchemist grandmaster, helping out, Xiao Yan naturally had a bountiful gain. The three sets of medicinal ingredients had all successfully agglomerated into pill shapes and eventually turned into pills without exception under the dancing thick white flame.

Yao Lao did not immediately stop after helping Xiao Yan refine the 'Dragon Strength Pill'. He clearly knew how much Xiao Yan valued Xiao Li. If anything were to happen to Xiao Li in the 'Black-Corner Region', this fellow might become totally crazy at that time.

Hence, Yao Lao did not rest as he activated his flame after putting away the 'Dragon Strength Pill' into a jade bottle. He spent quite a bit of time to refine a batch of varying medicinal pills belonging to quite a high tier. These medicinal pills had various unique medicinal effects. Although they were not ordinary medicinal pills, they were able to obtain an unexpected effect during certain times.

Xiao Yan's heart was also filled with gratitude toward Yao Lao who had spent great thought and effort in his refinement. He could only quietly swear in his heart that he would cobble together the 'Heavenly Flames' as soon as possible and help refine a body that could accommodate Teacher's spirit.

On the second day, Xiao Yan gave all the medicinal pills that had been refined to Xiao Li with the exception of a 'Dragon Strength Pill' that Elder Liu needed. Moreover, he

also gave Xiao Li a dark-black storage ring on top of the medicinal pills. This storage ring had a cluster of 'Bone Chilling Flame' that Yao Lao had wrapped with his Spiritual Strength. If one was able to unleash it at a critical juncture, it would achieve the effect of hurting the enemy. However, this kind of storage method could merely be used once. Moreover, it would cause quite a bit of damage to one's own Spiritual Strength. Hence, this could be considered a final trump card that preserved Xiao Li's life other than the 'Lightning Bat Sky Wings'.

Xiao Li eyed Xiao Yan's worried expression as he received all the things from the latter. A warm feeling surfaced in his eyes, which were usually filled with a dark sternness. He patted Xiao Yan's back heavily and smiled as he said, "Xiao-Yan-zi, you can relax, your second brother will not lose to any one of those bastards in the 'Black-Corner Region' when it comes to being vicious. Among us three brothers, we cannot simply just rely on you for everything right?"

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he softly spoke, "Second brother, take care. You can just come and find me in the Jia Nan Academy if you have any problem. Additionally, if you meet the Law Enforcement Unit of the Jia Nan Academy, you can tell them Wu Hao's name."

"Rest assured. I will occasionally send someone to give you a letter and allow you to know my whereabouts."

Xiao Li nodded his head. His body stood straight for a moment as he faced and waved at Xiao Yan as well as Xun Er, Xiao Yu, and the others behind. After which, he suddenly turned around without feeling unwilling to be apart as he strode out the gate of the academy, heading toward the distant area that was filled with chaos.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, you need not be too worried. With older cousin Xiao Li's character, he will definitely get along very well within that 'Black-Corner Region'. By the next time you see him, the faction that he established might well have far exceeded your 'Pan's Gate'." Xun Er gently spoke with a smile as she looked Xiao Yan's eyes who was watching Xiao Li leave.

"Ke ke, Xun Er, thank you very much." Xiao Yan stood at the entrance to the academy and eyed Xiao Li's back that had gradually become blurred. A long time later, he let out a long breath and smiled to Xun Er. This thanks was naturally to thank her for the help that she had given Xiao Li.

"Does Xiao Yan ge-ge need to be so courteous to Xun Er? You will ultimately not accept the things that I give you. Therefore, I can only give them to older cousin Xiao Li instead." Xun Er said with a saucy smile.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded quietly. He turned around and walked back into the academy while speaking in a faint voice, "Let's go. It is time for us to return. The 'Strong

Ranking' Grand Competition is about to arrive. This time around, I must enter the top ten!"

"I must!"

Chapter 548: Put up a Stage and Receive Challengers

After completely settling Xiao Li's matter, Xiao Yan was finally able to return to the Inner Academy with his heart at ease and prepare for the 'Strong Ranking Grand Competition' that was about to arrive in the Inner Academy. However, he also met with Xiao Yu, Xiao Mei, and Xiao Ning before he left. Now that the Xiao clan had suffered extremely great losses with an unknown number of clan members having died in the hands of the Misty Cloud Sect and the 'Hall of Souls'. Xiao Yan was much gentler when compared to before when faced with these three relatives who had a blood relationship with him. Given his character, he would naturally not care about some of the grudges from when they were young. No matter how one put it, they belonged to one clan. Moreover, it was undoubtedly easier to give trust to relatives with a blood relationship compared to outsiders.

The Inner Academy Qualifying Competition this year would once again begin after another half a year. This time around, it was not difficult for Xiao Yu to enter given her strength. It was a little more risky for Xiao Mei and Xiao Ning. However, this kind of risk was naturally not much of a trouble in front of Xiao Yan who was a tier five alchemist. During the time that Yao Lao had refined some medicinal pills with mysterious and unique effects, Xiao Yan had also obtained quite a number of medicinal formulas. These medicinal pills may not be able to let Xiao Ning or Xiao Mei take the champion spot in one go, but it should not be too difficult for them to enter the top fifty as long as their luck was not too terrible.

Xiao Yan also became completely at ease after arranging all these troublesome matters. He bid the three of them goodbye before once again riding a Griffin with Xun Er and the rest to hurry back to the Inner Academy.

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By the time that Xiao Yan and the rest had hurried back to the Inner Academy, there was less than twenty-five days until the Inner Academy's 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. As the grand competition was approaching, the conversation topic of the entire Inner Academy had basically turned toward this competition that was called the most intense and energy-filled competition and was solely for the experts on the 'Strong Ranking'.

The people who were able to enter into the top fifty of the 'Strong Ranking' were all basically the top people within the Inner Academy. A fight between them naturally possessed a great attraction to many people's eyes. Thus, although only the students with names on the 'Strong Ranking' were qualified to be competitors of this kind of

grand competition, this did not hinder the focus and anticipation the students of the Inner Academy had for it.

As everyone began to spread the news to each other in this nearly crazy manner, the atmosphere of the entire inner academy ascended into a high greater than the last couple of years. After all, as long as one successfully entered the top ten, one would be able to successfully become a potential Elder candidate of the Inner Academy. This kind of special status would basically allow one to walk unhindered without fear among the students of this Inner Academy. The Elders and the students were two totally different identities. Countless numbers of people had fought until their heads were broken while desiring to take that step. However, that harsh criteria caused most people to quietly withdraw.

Of course, the reason for the position of an Inner Academy Elder being so greatly coveted was naturally not because one would be able to act triumphantly among the students. The most important reason was that only an Elder had the qualification to enter the lowest levels of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

The benefit of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower', being able to raise one's training speed, was something that the people in the Inner Academy had already experienced. Therefore, many people naturally coveted the qualification to enter the last few levels of the tower that the students were not allowed to enter. It was likely that one could save the time one took to enter the Dou Huang class if one trained there. Of course, this was if one also possessed such a talent... after all, attempting to advance to the Dou Huang class was definitely not an easy matter even if one had the help of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'.

Hence, as long as it was someone who had some ability, he or she would have a fiery hot desire for the top ten ranking of the 'Strong Ranking'. That position and the special treatment was sufficient to allow one to completely become a strong person!

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Additionally, due to the issue of the qualification to participate in the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition, the Inner Academy had currently descended into a wild wave of challenging one another. The strong people who had usually buried their heads and trained bitterly had erupted and turned into an overnight success at this moment. In a short while, the Inner Academy became turbulent. The fiery hot atmosphere had reached an unprecedented high. During this nearly wild challenging tide, batches after batches of dark horses, that shocked people, surged out in an unceasing manner.

The surging appearance of these dark horses naturally and inevitably caused an extremely intense competition for a name on the 'Strong Ranking'. During these short few days, with the exception of the top twenty on the 'Strong Ranking' which did not have much movement, there were people among the last thirty positions who were

forcefully pulled down by people who usually kept a low profile everyday, attracting countless number of exclamations.

In this kind of wild wave, Xiao Yan, who was the 34th rank on the 'Strong Ranking' was clearly unable to stay out of it. Moreover, perhaps it was because he had consumed a medicinal pill during his victory against Bai Cheng, but the challenge letters that he received were basically a couple of times more than any other experts on the 'Strong Ranking'. Clearly, these people were all thinking of stepping on Xiao Yan's head and snatch away his qualification to participate in the competition.

Faced with these flocks of unceasing challenges, Xiao Yan would definitely find an excuse to hide given his somewhat lazy character in the past. This time around, however, perhaps it was due to the change that had occurred to his clan but Xiao Yan, who had become a little colder, had unexpectedly not rejected any challenge. Instead, he had stunned everyone by building his own fighting stage at the entrance of 'Pan's Gate'. Everyday, he would choose five people from those challenge letters and face each one of them head on in a fight.

These actions of Xiao Yan at such a crucial juncture naturally stimulated an uproar within the entire Inner Academy. In an instant, the entrance to 'Pan's Gate' was basically blocked until nothing could pass through. This was the first time that Xiao Yan had openly accepted challenges after defeating Bai Cheng and obtaining the 34th rank on the 'Strong Ranking'. Naturally, there were a countless number of people who swarmed over to see whether he could maintain a strength that was similar to the last time.

Of course, there were naturally some people with ill intent who hoped and cursed that Xiao Yan would be utterly defeated in front of a countless number of people on the fighting stage.

Unfortunately, those that carried a certain anticipation that this dark horse Xiao Yan would be defeated in this way would not realize their dream. The final battle result shocked the surrounding audience until they were completely silent.

The fighting stage was conducted for a total of three days.

There were five challengers on the first day. Four of them were two star Dou Lings and one three star Dou Ling. All five of them were defeated.

There were five challengers on the second day. Three of them were three star Dou Lings and two were four star Dou Lings. All five of them were defeated.

There were five challengers on the third day. One of them was a four star Dou Ling, three of them were five star Dou Lings and one was a six star Dou Ling. The fight continued from morning until night. All five were... defeated! Moreover, the strongest final six star Dou Ling ended up with serious injuries!

Xiao Yan did not lose even one of the fights in the fifteen matches during the three days. He sat tight on this 34th rank on the 'Strong Ranking' in front of everyone. His ranking even rose a little. This was because the last six star Dou Ling was ranked 31st.

A fighting result with complete victory shocked the surrounding curious audience until they did not dare to emit the slightest unusual sound. The moment when the body of the six star Dou Ling smashed on the ground outside of the arena, only the thunder-like wild cheers of the members of the 'Pan's Gate' lingered for a long time in the night sky...

As they watched the black-robed young man whose clothes appeared messy and tattered after fighting for an entire day, some of the people who had originally issued a challenge letter began to shift their eyes away somewhat guiltily under the gaze of those dark-black pupils that were as cold as the night. For some unknown reason, the fighting style of Xiao Yan when he fought with others during these three days was undoubtedly much more vicious compared to when he fought with Bai Cheng back then. Moreover, due to the five high intensity battles each day, not only did Xiao Yan's attacking style swiftly become skilled and sharp under everyone's eyes, but his aura had also become increasingly more powerful...

Only at this moment did some of those with sharper minds come to a sudden understanding. These actions of Xiao Yan were not just because he wanted to put an end to the unceasing number of challenges. A greater part of it was perhaps the intention to borrow the strength of others to hone himself! From the current situation, it appeared that these actions of his had obtained a great success. Under this ferocious result of winning all fifteen matches, not only was there no longer anyone who issued challenges to him, thinking that Xiao Yan was a softie among the last thirty of the 'Strong Ranking', but Xiao Yan's strength had also advanced quite a lot. Some of the sharp-eyed people even suspected that Xiao Yan's strength had appeared to have gradually entered into the level of a two star Dou Ling. Although his true fighting strength... had long since far exceeded this level.

The top thirty experts of the 'Strong Ranking' may have heard a little about Xiao Yan's act of building a fighting stage and accepting challenges but as the grand competition drew near, these people, who were in a rush for time, were basically undergoing tough training all the time. Hence, other than that six star Dou Ling, there were no other opponents who were difficult to deal with coming to tear at Xiao Yan's stage.

Hence, following the end of the fifteenth battle, Xiao Yan, who had obtained fifteen consecutive victories, did not stay on the fighting stage any longer. His cold gaze swept all around him. No one dared to receive his gaze wherever it passed. Immediately, Xiao Yan turned around and left.

The sky had just become bright on the morning of the fourth day when the ferocious battle results of Xiao Yan's fifteen consecutive victories were being carried by various different rumors. They spread throughout the entire Inner Academy like the wind. In an instant, the name of Xiao Yan had once again become the focus of attention of the

entire academy. 'Pan's Gate' was just like a boat rising with the rising tide of Xiao Yan. The reputation of this faction had already begun to show signs of faintly catching up with the top factions that had been established by Lin Xiuya and the other experts at the top of the 'Strong Ranking'.

However, just as Xiao Yan had once again become the focus of attention of the entire Inner Academy, he, as the main character, once again strangely disappeared. This caused those who wanted to pay tribute to this top alchemist of the Inner Academy and the person occupying the 31st rank on the 'Strong Ranking' to return with disappointment.

Of course, it was difficult to keep any movement a complete secret. This was especially so in the Inner Academy which was filled with numerous kinds of people. Hence, not long after some people were uncertain about where Xiao Yan had gone to, news suddenly began to spread around.

"I heard that Xiao Yan appears to have gone to the sixth level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' to undertake a retreat and train..."

Chapter 549: Yao Sheng

Xiao Yan walked to the sixth level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower.' He eyed the space in the tower that was more open when compared to the previous few levels. He could not help but quietly sigh in his heart, "With this kind of environment and treatment, it is indeed worthy of being a place that only the top experts from the Inner Academy have the qualifications to enter."

The space of the sixth level was quite large. The rock walls in the tower were dark-pink in color. Threads of strange heat were seeping out from within, causing one's entire body to feel a relaxed warm feeling. This place may be spacious, but there were so few people that it was pathetic. Xiao Yan glanced over it. This large place merely had a few countable human figures standing within it. Compared to the situation above where there was a sea of people, there was undoubtedly a difference that was as vast as that of the Heavens and the Earth.

The conditions to enter the sixth level were extremely harsh. Even some of the experts on the 'Strong Ranking' did not possess that kind of qualification. Therefore, it was within reason that there were very few people present.

Xiao Yan's gaze merely gave this place a rough glance before he ceased hesitating and walked to the deep region of the sixth level.

Xiao Yan naturally adopted a plan to undertake a retreat by coming to the sixth level of the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower' at this moment. The approaching 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition had also caused him to feel a little anxious. It might have been because of the pain and fury caused by the change in the condition of his clan that

allowed his aura to reach the peak of a one star Dou Ling. In addition, he was lucky to break through to a two star Dou Ling in the three days of closely packed intense fights, he still felt a quite a great pressure to enter the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' grand competition within this strength. After all, the current top ten of the 'Strong Ranking' were all at the peak of the Dou Ling class. Lin Xiuya, Yan Hao, Liu Qing, and the others had even managed to touch a little of the barrier to the Dou Wang class. Such strength was sufficient to contend with the leaders of some factions within the 'Black-Corner Region'. How could an ordinary 'Strong Ranking' expert pose even the slightest threat to them?

There was nearly twenty more days until the beginning of the 'Strong Ranking' Grand Competition. Xiao Yan's plan was to try to raise his strength as much as possible during these twenty days, increasing his chances of entering the top ten by a little.

The place within the Inner Academy that could enable one to increase one's strength was naturally the 'Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower'. Adding this to the extra qualification that Xiao Yan currently had, this sixth level was naturally the best choice!

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Xiao Yan walked slowly into the deeper regions. Along the way, Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised to find that the training rooms on this sixth level were much more exquisite than those of the fifth level while the number of rooms was actually reduced by over half. Xiao Yan mused a little with regards to this only to come to a sudden understanding. There were not many students in each batch who had the qualifications to enter this place to train. Hence, there was no need for many training rooms.

Xiao Yan gradually entered the area of the sixth level. This place was quite a large resting ground. There were around a couple dozen human figures there. All of these people had extraordinary auras. Powerful breaths spread out from their bodies and surrounded this resting place. Clearly, the strength of these people could at the very least be ranked within the top thirty of the 'Strong Ranking'.

Some private conversations suddenly sounded quietly the moment that Xiao Yan stepped into the resting area. Numerous gazes that appeared calm, but contained sharp glints shot out. Finally, they stopped on Xiao Yan who had just entered the place. They were immediately startled as soft uncertain voices sounded.

"Two star Dou Ling? Since when can someone with this kind of strength enter the sixth level? Has the Inner Academy lowered the criteria?"

Some people as expected began to ask such questions. Although Xiao Yan had quite a great reputation within the Inner Academy, every single person who could stand here had a prominent reputation within the Inner Academy. Perhaps they had heard of the name Xiao Yan, but there were very few of them who had seen him. After all, with their character of being crazy over training, they would seldom go and pay attention to

matters that were not very related to them. Hence, they felt a little uncertain and surprise when they saw that Xiao Yan could actually enter the sixth level with the strength of a two star Dou Ling.

“Xiao Yan?” Of course, it was not as though everyone did not recognize Xiao Yan. Not long after Xiao Yan appeared, a surprising but familiar voice sounded. Lin Yan’s figure immediately appeared in Xiao Yan’s sight.

Xiao Yan smiled when faced with Lin Yan. He gave a careless greeting, “It is really unexpected that you are also here.”

“Looks like you really have quite a great amount of special privilege in this Inner Academy. You are actually able to step into the sixth level with just the strength of a two star Dou Ling. I wonder how many would be envious.” Lin Yan smiled as he spoke.

Xiao Yan smiled, but did not express any remarks because of this.

“Little fellow, I heard that you actually took on fifteen challengers and did not even lose to one of them? What a lucky fellow. You should pray and give thanks that those truly strong fellows are all training bitterly during this period of time. Otherwise, from the grand manner in which you built your fighting stage, you would definitely have had some fellows that are difficult to deal with go to tear down your stage.” Lin Yan was unconcerned about Xiao Yan’s silence as he patted the latter’s back and spoke. Although Lin Yan had been training within the ‘Blazing Sky Qi Refining Tower’ during this period of time, he still heard some rumors about what happened.

“Ai, I’m indeed a little lucky. However, I was only thinking of putting an end to the unceasing number of challengers. After all, I also need to train, right?” Xiao Yan laughed softly.

“Your position is indeed quite troublesome. I have stayed in this position for a year, but have not even received a single challenge.” Lin Yan smiled and spoke in a somewhat gloating manner.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He raised it and swept his gaze once across the resting area. Perhaps it was because Lin Yan had shouted at him earlier but there were quite a number of gazes that were looking at him with a little less surprise. It appeared that they may not be very familiar with Xiao Yan’s appearance, but they were unfamiliar with this name.

Although there was a little surprise, Xiao Yan ended up feeling that there seemed to be quite a number of people who seemed interested in his appearance.

“The people here are all those people difficult to deal with that I have told you about. You should quietly be a little more careful. You can call me if there is anyone who comes and finds trouble with you. I have also been training here during this period of

time and have not fought with anyone for a long time. My bones are itching every day. It would not be bad if I am able to warm up just before the 'Grand Competition'." Lin Yan's gaze looked all around him. He quietly increased his volume and basically allowed everyone present to hear his words.

The lips of some people twitched slightly at Lin Yan's words. However, the little interest that had appeared in their eyes for Xiao Yan withdrew a little. No matter how one put it, Lin Yan was a top expert ranked in the top ten of the 'Strong Ranking'. There were hardly any people who dared to offend him even in this sixth level.

"Thank you very much." Xiao Yan patted Lin Xiao's back gently. He appeared to have understood the latter's actions very clearly and immediately let out a soft smile of gratitude as he spoke.

"Hee hee, if your bones are itchy, you can go and find big brother Liu Qing to play. He is also coincidentally training here." Lin Yan carelessly waved his hands and was about to speak when a somewhat dark and gentle male's voice suddenly sounded in the area. Lin Yan's face sunk a little as he turned his head and threw his eyes toward a certain spot of the resting area. He said with a cold smile, "I wondered who it was. It is actually 'Beauty' Yao. Don't keep using Liu Qing to talk about things everyday. If I were to meet him in the Grand Competition, I, Lin Yan, will just strike without caring. If you have the guts, you can come and play by yourself. I will accompany you anytime."

Xiao Yan's gaze followed Lin Yan's sight and looked over, only to see three human figures slowly appearing. The first was a man with pale-red robes who had a somewhat female-like face. His brows carried a few hints of femininity. Moreover, the faces of these people had become much darker and solemn at this moment due to Lin Yan's words.

"This fellow is called Yao Sheng. He is from Lin Qing's gang. He has some feelings for Liu Fei. Last time around, he had wanted to come and find trouble with you after hearing the conflict between you and Liu Fei. However, he was temporarily stopped by Liu Qing. Don't underestimate this fellow. Although he looks somewhat like a sissy, his strength is quite great, ranking seventeenth on the 'Strong Ranking'. His strength is even stronger than Bai Cheng. Now, I think that he should be around a seven star Dou Ling." Lin Yan tilted his head and spoke with a smile to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. By being able to be ranked seventeenth on the 'Strong Ranking', people had sufficient cause to not underestimate this man who spoke in a somewhat feminine manner. From the looks of his words earlier, it was clear that he could not be considered as friendly toward him. It was likely that most of his feelings were that of enmity. However, Xiao Yan was not too worried because of this. Although the other party was strong, he did not cause Xiao Yan to feel even a little afraid. If he really wanted to spar and fight, the former could just attack directly. A seven star Dou Ling was insufficient to cause Xiao Yan to be badly battered given the latter's current ability and triumph cards.

“You can be arrogant now. Big brother Liu Qing will get you to shut your noisy mouth in the Grand Competition.” Yao Sheng, who had the greatest hatred toward people who ridiculed him as a beauty, spoke in a dark voice while wearing a green face. His dark and cold gaze immediately turned to Xiao Yan beside Liu Qing as he coldly said, “Don’t think that it is sufficient for you to dominate the Inner Academy by defeating some unqualified chickens and dogs. If not for big brother Liu Qing asking us to not cause unnecessary trouble during this period of time, it is likely that you would lose all your face in front of all the students in the academy. How can you act in such a grand fashion?”

Xiao Yan spread his hands and smiled as he said, “If you think you have the ability, you can come and issue a challenge anytime. Being noisy now does not explain the gold content of this seventeenth rank on the ‘Strong Ranking’.”

“Ha ha, well said. Afraid my foot.” Lin Yan laughed out loud by the side.

Yao Sheng’s eyes gradually became darker and colder. His expression had also become uglier after being publicly provoked by a new student who had entered the ‘Strong Ranking’ for less than a couple of dozen days. His gaze was like a poisonous snake as it stared intently at Xiao Yan. He immediately took a slow step forward. A powerful aura abruptly surged out explosively and instantly swept the entire area.

“It’s just as well. I already promised Fei-er to properly teach you bastard a lesson a long time ago. Consider yourself unlucky that I have met you today.” Yao Sheng’s dark voice reverberated within the sixth level. The threads of killing intent that were contained within caused the surrounding fiery hot atmosphere to be quietly reduced a little.

The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth was also lifted into a thick smile. He took a heavy step forward. Threads of tiny crack lines quietly spread out on the tough rock.

“I will accompany you!”

Chapter 550: Initial Exchange

The spacious resting area had become a little quieter due to the ferocious aura that had suddenly erupted from the two people. Immediately, over ten human figures around them took a couple of steps back while wearing faces that showed that they were going to enjoy the show. Although one could raise one’s training speed by cultivating in the tower, it was also extremely dull and boring. They were naturally extremely happy to watch such amusing activity now that someone had started a fight.

Lin Yan was also startled when he saw Xiao Yan who had directly received Yao Sheng’s challenge. He was just about to stop the fight when he mused a moment. However, he did not speak. Although Xiao Yan’s strength was only that of a two star Dou Ling on the surface, he clearly knew that this fellow’s true fighting ability far

exceeded this level. Hence, it was not an easy matter for Yao Sheng to defeat Xiao Yan even with the former's strength.

"It is also good for him to sense a little of the fighting strength of the top twenty in the 'Strong Ranking'." Lin Yan thought in his heart as he took a step back. He smiled as he spoke to Xiao Yan, "Send this sissy rolling and see if he still dares to make noise toward you."

Xiao Yan smiled and once again stepped forward. His hands shook and a large Heavy Xuan Ruler carried a sharp sound from the tearing of air as it appeared in his hands from out of nowhere.

Xiao Yan waved the heavy ruler and pointed it at Yao Cheng from a distance. The fighting intent in Xiao Yan's body surged without resting in this kind of situation, causing his Qi to rise repeatedly.

Under Xiao Yan's increasingly stronger aura, the faces of some of the people around revealed a faint shock as they quietly spoke in their hearts, "This fellow is indeed similar to what is said in the rumors. He has a powerful fighting strength that totally does not match the strength on the surface."

Yao Cheng eyed Xiao Yan's repeatedly climbing aura in a dense and cold manner. His hands rotated and an extremely rich dark-blue Dou Qi seeped out. Following the appearance of this dark-blue Dou Qi, threads of mist agglomerated around him. In merely a moment, a cluster of water barriers that carried threads of dark-black color appeared. They wrapped Yao Cheng within from top to bottom. Ripples repeatedly circulated on the surface of the water barrier, much like a moving body that was rotating unceasingly.

"Be a little careful. This is this fellow's forte, 'Secluded Whale Water Wall'. It specializes in dealing with a physically strong opponent like you. This fellow appears to understand you very well. His first attack is a skill that restrains you." Lin Yan lifted his brows and spoke loudly when he saw the dark-black water barrier that Yao Cheng had agglomerated and formed.

Xiao Yan was surprised when he heard this. He immediately nodded. It appeared that this fellow did indeed have quite a strong ability in order to become the seventeenth rank on the 'Strong Ranking'. However... the other party was a water affinity expert. Xiao Yan had never had the slightest bit of fear when faced with an opponent of this affinity.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth lifted with a coldness. Threads of extremely faint-green fire seedlings wrapped around the heavy ruler while being enfolded by Dou Qi. With the support of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', an ordinary water affinity Dou Qi would merely be able to display seventy-percent to eighty-percent of its strength in front of him.

“What is the use even if you know about it?” Yao Sheng was not anxious despite having everything pointed out by Lin Yan. All the former did was speak with a dark, cold laugh.

“That may not be the case.” Xiao Yan smiled and corrected. His feet abruptly landed on the ground and a slight sound of rolling thunder reverberated. His body turned into a blurry, black shadow in front of the numerous stunned gazes around him as he shot explosively toward Yao Cheng while moving like a ghost.

The dark coldness in Yao Cheng’s eyes grew even denser as he narrowed them and watched the thunderbolt-like black line. Unceasing amounts of powerful Dou Qi swiftly flowed and moved within his body.

Two powerful auras grew increasingly strong within the arena. A ferocious collision instantly erupted within the area of this sixth level of the tower interior.

For Xiao Yan’s speed, the distance of a couple dozens of meters merely took up the time to blink an eye. However, the people present were not ordinary people. Therefore, their eyes were able to firmly follow him despite his extremely fast speed.

“Chi!”

Xiao Yan’s figure suddenly appeared in mid-air. He eyed Yao Cheng below and a ferociousness surfaced on his face. The strength of the heavy ruler in his hand soared explosively once again. In an instant, an ear-piercing sonic boom sharply sounded throughout the entire sixth level as the heavy ruler was swung down and took shape.

Sensing the strength of this hack by Xiao Yan, a seriousness also surfaced in the eyes of Yao Sheng, who had been feeling some disdain within his heart. Both of Yao Sheng’s hands danced and threads of blackish moist Dou Qi swiftly surged out. Finally, they swiftly agglomerated into a water net above his head fed by unending layers of Dou Qi.

“Bang!”

The heavy ruler carried a large strength as it landed on the layers of the dense Dou Qi water net. Immediately, force fluctuations visible to the naked eye came rippling out like a water wave from the point of contact.

Xiao Yan’s brows frowned slightly as the two collided. He could sense that the numerous threads of water forming a net that contained a strange adhesion force... Although its adhesion force was not weak, the strength of the heavy ruler had still destroyed nearly a hundred layers of the Dou Qi water net within a few minutes as though it was cutting through some weak and decayed things. However, the destruction rate may have been fast, but the rate at which Yao Sheng agglomerated the water net was not slow either. His hands danced rapidly even revealing numerous afterimages. The water net swiftly regained shape under the dancing of the afterimages.

As the two erupted, the adhesion force that was on the dense Dou Qi water net completely solidified the heavy ruler in mid-air when the heavy ruler was merely half a foot from Yao Sheng's head. Although the heavy ruler was firmly halted, the force that was contained on it still passed through the space as it shook Yao Cheng's neat hair until it was spread all over the place.

Yao Sheng's head was shaken by the wind until he was dizzy for an instant. His face instantly became ugly. It was really unexpected that he was in a disadvantage after having just made contact. Although he was not injured, his appearance had become extremely miserable looking. How could he, who valued reputation greatly, endure this?

A low angry roar was emitted from Yao Sheng's throat. His right hand abruptly curled into a claw shape as treads of black-colored Dou Qi swiftly covered it. Finally, it cemented into an extremely sharp black-colored claw. The claw moved and the sharp nails cut through the air, tearing toward Xiao Yan, who was floating in the air in front of him.

Xiao Yan's hands held the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly. The force in his body burst forth and he plucked it out from that sticky water net. His body rolled once in mid-air before his feet that were wrapped in green-colored Dou Qi viciously collided with Yao Sheng's claw hand.

"Bang!"

A low muffled sound appeared. The two swiftly pulled back under the repulsion of the force. A moment later, Yao Sheng violently stomped on the ground and stabilized his body just as Xiao Yan landed from the air. He glanced at Xiao Yan's feet in a dense cold manner and only let out a cold laugh when he saw the latter's shoe had been torn, forming a large hole.

The nearly instantaneous fight between the two was extremely dangerous. Their attacks were heavy and should any single party be the least bit careless, that party would end up with serious injuries. This kind of exciting fight caused the surrounding audience to involuntarily nod their heads quietly despite all of them being strong. This Xiao Yan did indeed live up to his reputation. He did not actually end up in much of a disadvantaged when facing the seventeenth ranked Yao Sheng in such a fierce fight.

"This fellow's water affinity Dou Qi actually possesses a tiny corrosive effect. It is really strange. If it were not for the 'Heavenly Flame' secretly resolving it, it is likely that I would have suffered quite a little disadvantage." Xiao Yan gently shook his leg as he spoke with surprise in his heart. The instant that they made contact, he had clearly sensed that the other party's Dou Qi possessed a kind of corrosive effect.

"Hei, Xiao Yan, not bad." Lin Yan raised his thumb toward Xiao Yan. Even he could not find much problem with the fight earlier. Lin Yan also felt a little surprise that Xiao Yan was actually able to not lose in this kind of exchange. Although Yao Sheng was merely

a seven star Dou Ling, an ordinary eight star Dou Ling would have difficulty defeating him due to his Dou Qi being a little strange. This performance of Xiao Yan had undoubtedly exceeded his expectations.

“This is only a warm up. What is there to be proud about?” Yao Sheng’s face darkened. His voice was as dark and cold as his Dou Qi, giving people a cold feeling.

Xiao Yan glanced indifferently at Yao Sheng. He did not say any nonsense. With a wave of his heavy ruler, his Dou Qi began to agglomerate once again.

“Humph! All of you STOP!”

However, just as Xiao Yan and Yao Sheng were about to begin fighting again, a cold snort suddenly sounded. Immediately, a human figure strangely appeared in the battleground. A sharp overbearing aura immediately surged out explosively in an overwhelming manner. Threads of crack lines swiftly spread out from under the feet of that figure, and they extended all the way until the edge of the resting area before gradually slowing down.

The familiar sharp overbearing aura caused everyone present to immediately become aware of just who had arrived. A respect and seriousness immediately appeared in most people’s eyes. Clearly, the person who had come did have sufficient weight even in the hearts of these people, who could be called the top experts of the Inner Academy.

Xiao Yan slowly withdrew the heavy ruler in his hand. His pupils narrowed as he eyed Liu Qing who had appeared in the battleground. His expression did not change even a little and he did not express any respectful or any other emotions.

“Big brother Liu Qing!” Yao Sheng immediately rejoiced when he saw Liu Qing appearing.

Liu Qing waved his hand and stopped Yao Sheng’s voice. He glanced at Xiao Yan and Lin Yan as he said in an indifferent voice, “I have already said that we should prioritize training now. Any grudges can be settled in the Grand Competition!” Liu Qing stared deeply at Xiao Yan when his words reached the end. Clearly, he had a deep memory for the latter.

Yao Sheng opened his mouth when he heard this. He could only nod his head. His gaze was dark and cold as he turned to Xiao Yan. He said in a dense manner, “Consider yourself lucky this time. Hopefully, we will not meet in the Grand Competition. Otherwise, you will likely not be as lucky as you were today.”

Xiao Yan rolled his eyes. He was too lazy to be bothered about such vicious words. All he did was merely throw his gaze toward Liu Qing. This fellow was his strongest opponent. Even with Xiao Yan’s current strength, he did not have absolute confidence...

“Xiao Yan, you have really caused me to feel a great interest in you. Although my opponent is Lin Xiu Ya, I also hope that you will have the ability to squeeze in at that time. However, you should remember that life and death lies with fate in the Grand Competition. Although the Inner Academy has a rule that restricts one from using a killing move, one’s fists and legs don’t have eyes.” Liu Qing said indifferently. His voice faintly carried a warning.

Xiao Yan frowned. He was naturally able to understand the meaning behind Liu Qing’s words. He was just about to speak when a tender voice suddenly sounded.

“Xiao Yan is someone I am protecting. Who dares to touch him?”

The tender voice was clear and moving. However, the moment the voice sounded, the expressions of everyone in the entire resting area, with the exception of Xiao Yan, drastically changed. They moved their gazes before eventually seeing a small human figure standing in the doorway of a training room.