

Carefree 951

Chapter 951: Mission

East Dragon University, teachers housing.

There were rows of villas in various styles such as Western castles and Eastern courtyard houses, looking quite distinct from each other.

Sun Mengmeng led Fang Yuan while walking carefully on the road. "Every teacher has their own villa. Without permission, don't barge in as you please! Not only do the villas possess the school's seals, but each teacher has their own way of dealing with trespassers. The unreasonable ones could even beat you half dead without anyone batting an eye!"

"I know, they're like the cave abodes of cultivators. Of course, I won't just barge in!"

Fang Yuan nodded and followed Sun Mengmeng toward the periphery. They arrived at an ancient rural courtyard that had red bricks, green roof tiles, and stepped gables.

Sun Mengmeng went to the main entrance and knocked.

"I am Sun Mengmeng. I would like to see Teacher Lü Songyang! I brought a student who has just broken through!"

There was no response from within even after waiting a while.

Sun Mengmeng was slightly puzzled. "That's strange. Shouldn't the teachers be around at this time?"

Bang!

Out of the blue, there was a violent vibration. The door opened immediately, and a disgruntled-looking Lü Songyang appeared.

Fang Yuan noticed that his clothes were in a mess, and there were some charred spots. It was possible that there was a lab accident, resulting in an explosion.

"What?"

Under his gaze, Sun Mengmeng trembled. "A-according to the school rules, once a first-year has become a cultivator, the first time they visit a teacher, the teacher needs to meet them."

"You mean him?" Lü Songyang opened the screen and fished out some information. "Lin Meng, a mere 35% brain development? Breaking through immediately after entering school. Yet another who seeks quick success. I won't accept him! No way!"

"What? Only 35%?"

Sun Mengmeng's eyes were wide with surprise.

Of course, she did not have detailed information on Fang Yuan. All along, she had thought that he was a nurtured genius from a renowned family with at least a 50% brain development, which would explain why he broke through immediately upon entering university. Her expression froze.

“Your fundamentals are too weak. Even if you had purchased drugs on loan, coupled with meditation techniques, the most you would have been able to raise it to was 40%. You are among the worst in East Dragon University!” Lü Songyang was full of disdain.

“You must have heard in my public class? Despite that, you forcibly broke through. You seek quick successes, which is a character flaw. Your future achievements will be limited!”

“Junior, what other specialties do you have? Hurry up and show them!”

Sun Mengmeng was flustered and kept gesturing with her eyes.

“None!”

Fang Yuan shook his head. His heart settled. So it’s true. After forming spiritual roots and becoming a cultivator, the Mystic’s brain development is hidden. The only way to check would be to open the sea of consciousness. This is absolutely taboo to any cultivator!

After knowing this, he would no longer need to worry about others discovering that his brain development was at 100%.

“Hmph, don’t bring these kinds of students here in the future!” Lü Songyang stared angrily at Sun Mengmeng and shut the door. “I don’t accept any kind of trash!”

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Inside the dormitory.

Fang Yuan sat crossed-legged and absorbed all the surrounding energy particles in an instant. Resignedly, he opened his eyes and waited for the energy particles to recover.

After being rejected this afternoon, he and Sun Mengmeng went their separate ways on an unhappy note.

It was obvious that Sun Mengmeng felt that Fang Yuan’s potential was limited and not worth her further investment.

However, Fang Yuan was unbothered.

He had more or less known what would happen. The only reason why he had followed Sun Mengmeng to choose a mentor was simply to test his hypothesis.

“Still, I can’t stay in this dormitory any longer. It’ll severely hamper my progress!” Fang Yuan’s face was full of dissatisfaction. “I have to raise my cultivation level and accept missions. Then I will move to the higher-level districts. Oh yeah... I still need to prepare credits to exchange for a spiritual technique that lets me hide my cultivation!”

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Although he absorbed all the surrounding energy particles, including those in the nearby rooms every time he cultivated, those around him were all ordinary first-year who had yet to break through. He did not have to worry about being discovered for the time being.

Morning the next day.

After suppressing his urges for an entire night, Fang Yuan cultivated again once the concentration of energy particles had recovered.

Crack!

A crack sounded from his body. He knew then that he had broken through to level two Mystic.

"In fact, this is normal. Wu Wudi used twenty-seven days to finish Qi Refinement. But compared to me, he's trash. If there were ample energy particles around, I could reach level five in a mere three days!"

Fang Yuan sighed regretfully. He opened his screen and selected the spiritual techniques category. After browsing through each technique at an incredible pace, he soon found what he was looking for.

"Breath Holding Technique (Spiritual Technique): Able to hide the aura of low-level Mystics. Able to deceive cultivators at the same level! Price: 50 credits!"

"Exchange!"

Fang Yuan immediately deducted fifty credits from his account and got his hands on the Breath Holding Technique.

"One's aura in this world is energy radiation. Using spiritual roots to affect the operation of a few spiritual power structures, one can affect the body's external radiation, thereby deceiving..."

This technique used a modern train of thought to explain the ancient breath-holding techniques in an easy to understand manner.

"Arcane Smart-Brain!"

Fang Yuan used the Arcane Smart-Brain to crystallize his psyche and form the model for the Breath Holding Technique, imprinting it into the smart-brain.

"This Breath Holding Technique is about the level of a first-class arcane spell. It's just right!"

With the assistance of the smart-brain, as well as being a Demon God, it was a piece of cake for him to learn spiritual techniques.

Fang Yuan rubbed his forehead, and the aura bursting out from his body immediately weakened. It was now at the strength of someone who had just begun cultivating.

"However, this Breath Holding Technique is only a spiritual technique. The most it can do is deceive those at or below level five Mystic. If the teachers observe closely, they can see through this technique unless I cultivate the Breath Holding Dao Art!" Fang Yuan groaned. "Unless... I modify this Breath Holding Technique!"

Although he had just begun cultivation, his experience was nothing to be scoffed at. Coupled with the calculation of the Arcane Smart-Brain, it would be quite easy for him to improve a spiritual technique.

Soon, a brand new model formed.

“Breath Holding Technique (Modified): Able to hide one’s cultivation level. One can choose to increase the depletion rate and activate the strengthened form to escape detection from those under level ten Mystic. Duration five minutes!”

“Photon computers are seriously amazing!”

After the modification, Fang Yuan sighed. He was shocked.

Even the simplest Breath Holding Technique had reached a perfectly balanced state after the photon computer’s optimization.

Even he found it hard to surpass, and he could only sacrifice parts of the technique to bolster other parts of its ability.

“However, there should still be people willing to purchase it if I put it on the school website. Unfortunately... unless I want to be seen as a monster, I couldn’t have finished the modification immediately after purchasing it. Hehe...”

Fang Yuan shook his head and began browsing missions.

He did not have any mentors that would impart knowledge on spiritual techniques directly to him. Even if he wanted to attend classes by himself, he needed to pay with credits.

Surprisingly, East Dragon University’s credit expenditure was terrifying!

The hundred credit reward for advancing to Mystic was instantly cut in half after purchasing a spiritual technique. Soon, he would have nothing left.

Looking at the Eastern Dragon Leaderboard now, Fang Yuan felt extremely envious. He almost wanted to rob them.

“According to Sun Mengmeng, the missions with the most credits are published by the school. Missions published by the teachers may reward spiritual techniques or other items. As for missions published by students, the rewards may be great, but they may also be scams. Of course, the latter is more common...”

Fang Yuan considered methods to obtain credits carefully.

“Honestly, first-years should study hard and obtain their first credits through cultivation breakthroughs and passing courses. But for me, that just gives way too little!”

Even if Fang Yuan wanted to be a straight-A student, he was limited by the number of classes he could take on as a first-year.

Although it might be a significant number to ordinary first-years, it was really too little to him.

“At least, if I want to change dormitories, I need to spend a lot of credits. But I don’t want things to become troublesome, so I should settle everything at once... and go straight to district five!”

Fang Yuan frowned. He truly had had enough of the safe zone’s environment.

To his cultivation, it was as though a person dying of thirst was only given a drop of water. It was downright cruel!

“I still need to cultivate for those classes. With the efficiency of the Arcane Smart-Brain, I should pass them with full marks after a few days...”

He started looking for missions that were suitable for him. It would be best if the mission allowed him to come in touch with rare materials and curious objects, allowing him to confirm the material required to advance the Heaven Devouring Mystic Technique.

“School mission—Hunt star beasts! Long-term mission. Mystics can accept. The credits are rewarded according to the star beast materials submitted!”

Fang Yuan found a mission, and his eyes lit up. “This isn’t bad... Aside from credits, the star beast materials can sell for a good price... After I reach level five, I’ll give it a try!”

Planet East Dragon was unfit for human survival.

Instead, certain plants and star beasts were thriving on the planet.

In addition, due to the harsh environment, they had evolved special abilities and were not much weaker than cultivators.

Even now, humans only occupied less than half of Planet East Dragon. There were still many places that were heavens for star beasts.

According to certain legends, star beast races could give birth to kings. They were beings capable of fighting with high-level Mystics.

As such, the school made hunting star beasts a long-term mission. Perhaps there was the intention of letting the students experience the world as well.

“With this weak body... if I don’t use my Demon God power, I’d be able to deal with a single star beast at best. And I’d die if I were surrounded... I should forget it!”

Although this mission had good rewards, it had always been the monopoly of the seniors. Fang Yuan guessed that it was difficult for even Sun Mengmeng.

Furthermore, it really was very dangerous.

Otherwise, why would she rather settle various administrative missions than hunt and break through?

“I’ll exclude it for now. Let’s keep looking!” Fang Yuan continued scrolling down. Suddenly, his gaze shifted. “Research assistant mission?”

Chapter 952: Pharmacist

“Research assistant mission, published by Mentor Han Yunfeng. Long-term recruiting low-level Mystic assistants. Requirements: read ‘Mineral and Plants Glossary, Edition 20077’, proficient with Flame Control Technique! Those willing can come for an interview. The reward will be discussed in person!”

‘Mineral and Plants Glossary’? Fang Yuan searched and found that it was an introductory book. Furthermore, there were thousands of them!

As the galaxy was vast and boundless, new species were being discovered all the time.

Unfortunately... there are only pictorial descriptions. Without seeing it in person, there’s no way to trigger resonance and determine the needs of the Heaven Devouring Mystic Technique, Fang Yuan thought regretfully. He then checked out the comments below the mission.

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“Scam! The most that we learn now is the flora and fauna edition for Planet East Dragon. Who would try to remember those of the entire galaxy? Even seniors must find it impossible, right? There are no credits either!”

“Although the Flame Control Technique isn’t expensive, it’s standalone. There are no continuations. Who would waste their energy on learning that?”

“The poster above me is a fool! The Flame Control Technique was a must for low-level ancient alchemists. I am from the pharmacy department and have trained in the technique. I remembered the glossary and went for the interview with Mentor Han Yunfeng, but his requirements for the Flame Control Technique are too high. The mentor only accepts masters of the technique... I didn’t make the cut.”

“What a big revelation!”

“Mysterious senior passing by, just smiling...”

“That Mentor Han Yunfeng is known to be stingy. The credits awarded are extremely few. He didn’t impart any dao arts or spiritual techniques either.”

“Wow! The poster above me is really brave. You’re not afraid of a teacher giving you trouble!”

“It’s all right. I’m anonymous...”

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“It looks like the requirements are high, but the rewards aren’t much. He’s received a lot of negative feedback.”

Fang Yuan browsed again and found that the price of the Flame Control Technique was at a low thirty credits. As for the ‘Mineral and Plants Glossary, Edition 20077’, it was a public resource that he could read without paying. He made his decision immediately.

“Almost all the other missions have a cultivation level requirement, and there aren’t many that are suitable for beginners. This one didn’t mention a specific cultivation level requirement, so let’s give it a try!”

He searched and found out that although the Flame Control Technique was a standalone technique incapable of further progression, its reviews among the low-level pharmacy students were very solid. He nodded and made the exchange.

“So pharmacy is the ancient alchemy equivalent? I’ve seen some drugs and tools on sale on the school website... If I learn this, I could make some money...”

Fang Yuan received the information, and the Arcane Smart-Brain immediately formed the psyche model, mastering the spiritual technique.

The interaction between his smart-brain and his True Spirit produced a fundamental change, the fusion of terrifying calculative power and supreme intellect. He absorbed the information in the Mineral and Plant Glossary at an incredible pace while walking along the road.

By the time he arrived at Han Yunfeng’s door in the teachers’ housing area, he had memorized thousands of books.

This mentor stayed near the core of the zone, and it was visibly different from Lü Songyang’s corner house near the periphery. It was a three-story courtyard house with a garden.

Fang Yuan walked up to a lion carving on the main door and talked into it, “Teacher Han Yunfeng? I am Student Lin Meng, here for the research assistant mission!”

The lion’s eyes flashed red. Fang Yuan was prepared and immediately strengthened his Breath Holding Technique. A man’s gentle voice emerged, and the main door opened.

“Come in yourself. I’m in the living room!”

Fang Yuan entered with large strides. Walking through the pebble walkway in the colorful garden, he arrived in the living room.

“Please take a seat!”

The traditionally decorated living room was full of dark wood furniture that gave off a thick and extremely refreshing herbal scent.

A young man wearing traditional clothes with hair reaching his waist was sitting cross-legged on an almond-yellow cattail hassock in the center of the living room and looking at a pill furnace in front of him.

It was a real pill furnace! It was bronze with three legs and two handles. Patterns of ancient beasts covered its surface, and flames were burning underneath.

Fang Yuan found it hard to take his eyes off of it. This kind of pill furnace must be an antique? It should really be given to a cultivation museum. The pharmacy students now synthesize all their drugs in the lab directly. With a smart-brain monitoring, they can calibrate proportions with extreme precision!

“Your name is Lin Meng? And you’re a first-year?”

Han Yunfeng used his spiritual will to look up Lin Meng’s information and frowned.

Of course, he did not see through Fang Yuan’s disguise.

In fact, Fang Yuan’s Breath Holding Technique (Modified) was only capable of dealing with this kind of initial inspection.

After all, the teachers did not have mental disorders. Scanning someone with their spiritual will on the first meaning was the norm, but constantly monitoring someone with it would be psychotic.

As long as he made it through the initial inspection, he could use the normal Breath Holding Technique in the future without any problem.

I’m also lucky... This Han Yunfeng seems to be at a similar cultivation level as Lü Songyang, both below ten!

Level ten was equivalent to ancient cultivation’s Golden Core stage. By then, the Breath Holding Technique’s grade would be too low, and it would be easy to spot something amiss.

Fang Yuan soon labeled Han Yunfeng. A researcher ill-versed in external affairs, but his status is higher than Lü Songyang...

“Although I’m a first-year, you didn’t specify any cultivation level requirements on your mission. It appears that this mission doesn’t put too much emphasis on cultivation level either. I’ve also memorized the Mineral and Plant Glossary, and I have some experience with the Flame Control Technique.”

“Oh? Is that so.”

Han Yunfeng was a bit skeptical. He hit the pill furnace with a Dharmic formulation.

Rumble!

The pill furnace rumbled, and an opening appeared. Vapor that looked like rosy clouds rose from the opening, carrying a strong medicinal scent.

Three different colored pills flew out and landed in his hands. “Then tell me... what were the ingredients used in these pills?”

His expression showed that he was waiting for Fang Yuan to make a fool of himself.

Fang Yuan’s eyes flashed, and he answered straightforwardly, “The pills’ vapor looks like clouds. This is formed after Fire Cloud Sand has risen, so Fire Cloud Sand is one of the ingredients. The medicinal scent has the smell of roses mixed with musk. This is caused by the Whirling Flower Powder... I don’t know about the other materials!”

He had intentionally not revealed everything.

“Good! Very good!” Han Yunfeng was slightly excited. “To think that you know even these kinds of transformations in nature. It looks like you weren’t boasting about memorizing the glossary. To be able

to determine two ingredients, you have very solid fundamentals. The remaining ingredients are Golden Bodhi, Yellow Cloud Beast's blood, and Black Water Mystic Crystal!"

"Understood, Teacher!"

"You have no problems with recognizing materials, so let's check your practical skills now..."

Han Yunfeng stood up from his cattail hassock. "Come and try this bronze cauldron. I've spent a great deal to make this cauldron according to ancient methods!"

"Okay!" Fang Yuan sat down on the cattail hassock cross-legged and skillfully activated a technique.

"Flame Control Technique? Your execution is extremely smooth. Good! Very good!" Han Yunfeng's eyes glowed upon seeing just that.

As expected, the ancient cultivation cauldron is too rigid. Controlling it is ten times harder than executing the technique alone!

Fang Yuan silently made a move, and his hand seals moved at lightning speed. "Rise!"

Whoosh!

The flame that was about to die out suddenly grew tall, as though it had devoured some sort of fuel.

Strands of smoke licked the bottom of the cauldron before dividing and dancing around the cauldron like little flame snakes.

Suddenly, all the flame snakes amalgamated into a single body and turned green. The flame that was originally red suddenly turned green.

"Pure green cauldron fire? Good! Great!"

Han Yunfeng stopped Fang Yuan. "To be able to control the Flame Control Technique to the extent of producing pure green flames, not even many third-year and fourth-year pharmacy students could accomplish that. Hard work won't get you there, but talent will! Have you self-studied this information? How about choosing the pharmacy department?"

"Teacher!" Fang Yuan rolled his eyes in his mind. "Can we discuss the reward for this mission?"

"Oh! Right, right..." Han Yunfeng patted his forehead. "As you can see, I am researching the ancient ways of alchemy. I hope to compare it with the modern methods of making drugs and write a paper... As such, I need an assistant to watch over the cauldron fire!"

"I see!"

Fang Yuan nodded. He understood that the other party required someone to play the role of an ancient alchemy boy.

Of course, he would need to know how to deal with small accidents by himself.

"However, hasn't ancient alchemy died out already?" Fang Yuan voiced his thoughts.

“Yes, many ancient cultivation techniques have been proven to have low efficiency. A long time has passed... Modern pharmacy leaves the handling of the cauldron entirely to the smart-brain, and it can determine the exact effects. The success rate of making pills is at ninety percent. All we have to do is to infuse spiritual power and use spiritual will to harmonize the drug according to the smart-brain.”

The Scientific Cultivation Method had proved that a cultivator’s spiritual power and spiritual will were the catalysts necessary to synthesize pills. They were irreplaceable and indispensable.

Without this step, the smart-brain would have long industrialized making drugs and pills.

As such, for pharmacy students, the most amount of practice went into controlling their spiritual power and spiritual will, and cooperating with the smart-brain to produce high-quality pills.

“The pharmaceutical industry is far beyond being comparable to the ancient ways. As long as there is enough spiritual energy and spiritual will, cultivators in the Qi Refinement stage can produce Foundation Building and Nascent Soul level pills. People can even jointly concoct pills. In theory, with smart-brain’s assistance, as long as there are enough low-level cultivators, they could achieve Essence Soul or even Soul Transformation level alchemy techniques... Of course, this hasn’t been realized!”

Han Yunfeng said frankly, “But the way I see it, there must be some merits to the ancient alchemy methods. For example, some top-tier drugs can only be produced by high-level pharmacist cultivators because they must be infused with Aural Dao! To put it another way, natural methods... are like... high-tier brain development drugs!”

“I see!”

Fang Yuan nodded. It appears that top-tier drugs are precious not only because of the ingredients, but also the difficulty in making them. Even the smart-brain can’t do it. Only top-grade pharmacists can, but with a low success rate.

Chapter 953: Cultivation

Aural Dao? That’s a great way to describe it. With the Alliance’s current technology, it seems like they’ve yet to discover the power of Great Daos...

Fang Yuan nodded. When they do, this world will turn into a terrifying place that is comparable to the Mental Demon Realm!

Evidently, refining certain top-notch pills required an alchemist’s natural methods. Integrating with heaven and earth, they had to extract active Aural Dao and infuse it into the pill. This was something smart-brain could not replicate.

This was also the constant research of modern pharmacy masters, and Han Yunfeng’s interests lay here.

“What about the reward?” Fang Yuan asked calmly.

These high-end research fields, and ancient and modern disputes, were not very attractive to ordinary students because their only concern was their credits.

"I can offer you fifty credits a day! On top of that, I won't stop you from watching when I'm concocting pills, but I won't explain the process either. You'll have to depend on yourself to learn what you can!"

Han Yunfeng played with the ends of his hair. "What do you think?"

"Deal. Let's sign the contract now and verify it on the school website!"

Fang Yuan was delighted with this reward. He asked curiously, "Why do other students give you such a low rating?"

"They... I wasn't satisfied with the previous students I had, but I couldn't find anyone better. I could only take them in and give them a few credits a day..."

Han Yunfeng added, "Even so, they were a bunch of idiots. Not only could they not learn my alchemy, but they also destroyed a lot of this old man's resources. I didn't even request an ounce of compensation from them."

"Old man?"

Fang Yuan was speechless while looking at Han Yunfeng, who only looked a few years older.

"Haha... In the past, cultivators lived until two hundred. Today, their lifespan is even longer. This old man is already over seventy. When I was young, I consumed a Youthful Pill, which is why I don't look old," Han Yunfeng explained briefly.

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Seven days later.

In the basement of the courtyard house.

Fang Yuan pressed both hands into the metal palm prints while looking at the reactor furnace in front of him.

"Now beginning refinement of the Qi Enhancement Pill. We need: 3.5 grams of Heaven Reaching Herb, 10 grams of purple mulberry, 100 grams of pure water..." a robotic voice recited.

Through the glass, different materials were burning and fusing into one in the enclosed environment.

"Pharmacist, please input spiritual power. Counting down: 3, 2, 1!" sounded the smart-brain's voice.

Without hesitation, Fang Yuan injected his spiritual energy.

Suddenly, as though he had added a catalyst, the various liquids within the furnace immediately contracted and became semi-solid.

"Pharmacist, please input your spiritual will and integrate it with the spiritual power to shape the pill!" the smart-brain recited the next step.

Fang Yuan injected a trace of his spiritual will into the furnace together with his spiritual power, experiencing the process of making pills. "Yeah... even though cultivators can make pills with less effort now, it still requires technical skills! Of course, this isn't hard for me at all!"

Splash!

After three minutes, dozens of luminescent pills rolled out from the machine, filling up an entire bottle.

“As expected, Lin Meng. You’re a medicinal genius! When you become a big figure, be sure to return the favor!”

Han Yunfeng picked up a Qi Enhancement Pill with two fingers. He was delighted with the quality. “The quality of the pill is perfect. The completion rate is very high too. How does it feel to use modern cultivation methods to concoct pills?”

“It does seem much more convenient. But there’s still a problem with time lag when inputting spiritual will and spiritual energy. This is a physical limitation, which is a problem that even the best cultivators can’t resolve!”

Fang Yuan frowned. “If the day comes when a technology that can supply spiritual will and spiritual energy can combine with a smart-brain controlled furnace, we can probably mass-produce low-tier pills. Many pharmacists would lose their jobs then...”

“Lin Meng, you’re truly a visionary. I can tell you this. In the Western institutes, there’s a school of thought called Spiritual Research. They’re about to complete a breakthrough in this field. Once they have a conclusive result, they’ll break into the pharmaceutical market, and our Eastern pharmacists and related companies will suffer...”

Han Yunfeng sighed.

Of course, I know that you’re worried about this. You might even hold some shares in those pharmaceutical companies!

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes.

Han Yunfeng continued, “For the problem you mentioned, that’s something we can’t help. By the time our sea of consciousness receives the data, it takes time for our body to react. That’s a delay we can’t help. We can only reduce this time lag. Oh, there’s a ‘Hundred Spiritual Will Control’ spiritual technique within the school’s spiritual technique exchange. You can get it to practice!”

“Hundred Spiritual Will Control?”

Fang Yuan looked it up and realized that it was an explanation of how to cultivate and control one’s spiritual will.

“Only pharmacists who enjoy ancient alchemy or those without a fusion reactor furnace would choose to learn the Flame Control Technique. The pills produced are of very low value as well. To compare with the pills made from the fusion reactor furnace, pharmacists have to strengthen their spiritual will!

“The Hundred Spiritual Will Control is only the start. After that, there’s the dao art ‘Thousand Spiritual Will Control’ and the magical power ‘Absolute Spiritual Will Control’! These are necessary for a pharmacist’s cultivation!”

The benefit of having a teacher was that you could obtain all sorts of useful information. According to your situation, the teacher could provide suggestions for your cultivation.

"I understand!"

On the surface, Fang Yuan pretended to accept, but he treated those words like air.

It was said that at high realms of the Hundred Spiritual Will Control, one could perform ten, a hundred different tasks at once. Unfortunately, compared to a Demon God's True Spirit, even the Absolute Spiritual Will Control was mere child's play.

"I'll remember the fusion reactor furnace!"

Fang Yuan took a deep look at the silver furnace in front of him that was brimming with various scents.

At his spiritual will level, the only thing he lacked was his cultivation. Otherwise, he could refine higher-tier pills.

As he thought about this, he glanced at his stats window:

"Name: Fang Yuan (Lin Meng)

Profession: Student

Cultivation: Mystic (Level 3), Arcanist (Level 1)

Brain Development: 200%

World Seal Breaking: 77.28%"

"I've only increased my level by one over the past few days. Even though it's because I've been indulging in refining pills, the main reason is the cultivation environment here..."

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They went up the stairs and stood before the bronze furnace again.

"After comparing the old and new concoction methods, what do you think of the new one?" Han Yunfeng asked.

"Of course, the new one is superior. In terms of low to mid-tier refining, the ancient cultivation method suffers a complete loss. Even refining high-tier pills and drugs using the new method is much better. In terms of the handling of the materials, the new method is already at a whole other level. It greatly increases the success rate!" Fang Yuan answered without even thinking.

The material cost required for high-tier drugs was astonishing. Increasing the success rate by even 1% was impressive.

Moreover, technology was steadily improving. Of course, Fang Yuan was supportive of this. "Although many high-tier pills and drugs need to follow the ancient process, a number of methods used today are essential in the process! In this day and age, it's not impossible to see greater improvements!"

"That's right!" Han Yunfeng sat cross-legged before the furnace. "The focus of my experiment is to integrate the old and new methods perfectly! Now that you're familiar with the composition of the furnace, why don't you help me refine a drug!"

“All right!” Fang Yuan agreed readily.

Speaking of which, even though Han Yunfeng had rewarded him with credits, he focused on refining low to medium tier pills, which was not challenging at all.

However, he sensed that something was different this time.

“Heaven Crystal Powder!”

“Fallen Mist Liquid!”

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“And the most valuable, the Zerg King brain nucleus!”

Fang Yuan stared at the dozens of materials that Han Yunfeng pulled out. He could not help asking, “Teacher, are you going to refine a mid-tier brain development drug?”

There were only three types of brain development drugs. Fang Yuan had used the low-tier one, but the school network did not provide the mid-tier one.

Of course, it was possible that Fang Yuan did not have sufficient jurisdiction to obtain access to that information. He estimated that if he put up an astronomical amount of credits on the school network, he would obtain as much access as he liked.

The highest level, the high-tier brain development drug, could make up for a cultivator’s shortcomings in their spiritual roots. This was a highly valuable drug that one might not even see in their lifetime.

“That’s right, the mid-tier brain development drug!” Han Yunfeng nodded. “According to ancient standards, this drug is at the pinnacle of mid-tier pills. It’s almost at the level of high-tier pills. Even for me, it’s not easy!”

Han Yunfeng was a pharmacist whose cultivation was not impressive, equivalent to the Foundation Establishment stage. He was not even at level ten Mystic yet.

Refining a high-tier drug was a little forceful for him, but he could refine mid-tier drugs easily. At this level of alchemy, one could easily call him a master.

“I’m prepared to use ancient refining techniques to make a mid-tier brain development drug... Actually, my ultimate goal is a high-tier one!!!”

Han Yunfeng’s eyes seemed a little bloodshot.

“The brain development drug was created by modern cultivators. In ancient times, a drug that could benefit spiritual roots was extremely rare...”

Fang Yuan recalled the information he had read. “If you can use ancient refinement methods to make a mid-tier brain development drug, it’s equally possible to make a high-tier one as well.”

The difficulty of high-tier pills laid in the necessity to infuse Aural Dao during the refinement process.

In this regard, the natural methods of ancient cultivators were very advantageous.

What Han Yunfeng wanted to do was perform multiple experiments to test the use of ancient refinement methods. He intended to break through the barrier of creating certain high-tier pills.

For instance, modern pharmacists used high-tech reactor furnaces to refine brain development drugs.

Han Yunfeng wanted to experiment with ancient refinement methods. He had already succeeded several times in refining low-tier brain development drugs.

Now, he was going to try mid-tier ones.

"I'll do my best to help!"

Fang Yuan sat at the side and widened his eyes. He was ecstatic, as he was going to have the chance to steal some refining techniques. He thought of an excellent way to strike it rich.

Chapter 954: Breaking The Seal

"Help me control the flame!"

Inside the courtyard house, Han Yunfeng was sitting cross-legged, performing the hand signs to execute a Dharmic formulation while streaks of the lively flame licked the pill furnace.

"Flame Control Technique!"

Fang Yuan assisted him perfectly while absorbing Han Yunfeng's alchemy techniques at the same time.

"The mid-tier brain development drug is almost at the difficulty of high-tier pills. On top of that, it uses costly ingredients! A Zerg King is a Zerg Empress's general, a leader of the Zerg army. Its brain nucleus is naturally very valuable!"

The Zerg was one of the largest powers within the Cosmic Lifeform Alliance. They were also humanity's greatest enemy.

Their organizational structure was compact. The Zerg Empress sat at the top of the hierarchy, and it could use mind control to manipulate all of its subordinates. It also gave birth to an entire Zerg tribe. The mother nest even had the ability of interstellar travel.

Whenever they reached a planet with abundant resources, they would light the flames of war, consume everything like locusts, and then continue to wander the universe.

The most terrifying thing was the Zerg's reproductive ability. Furthermore, the Zerg Empress could strengthen and modify a Zerg's skills in accordance to the situation. It was said that the Zerg Empress's intelligence was not inferior to an Arcanist!

"The brain development drug was inspired by research into the Zerg's brainwave. The low-tier brain development drug only requires an elite Zerg brain nucleus. Meanwhile, the mid-tier brain development drug requires the use of a Zerg King brain nucleus. Finally, the legendary high-tier brain development drug requires a Zerg Empress brain nucleus!"

An Empress was a Zerg tribe's leader. You could only obtain its brain nucleus by eliminating an entire Zerg tribe. Even the Human Alliance found this difficult to accomplish.

"Even though a Zerg Empress brain nucleus can be split into many parts to be used as materials, if the refinement fails, the cost you'd pay would be worth dying for..."

Combined with the knowledge that he had learned recently, Fang Yuan finally understood why refining the high-tier brain development drug was so suffocating.

"And, compared to this, there are even rarer materials required for supplementing a cultivator's spiritual roots. Most of these are highly sought-after and difficult to get your hands on..."

Fang Yuan's Demon God True Spirit meant he was overqualified for this.

While helping Han Yunfeng with concocting the pill, he continued to absorb his techniques. Finally, he even had the extra attention to surf the web and search for more information to enrich his knowledge.

"A low-tier brain development drug is probably worth a hundred credits! And each low-tier brain development drug costs about fifty credits to make. This is still profitable!"

Fang Yuan thought about the high-tech fusion reactor furnace in the basement.

The level of his spiritual will was at a completely different level compared to other pharmacy university students.

Most of these students' spiritual will was not sufficient to meet the criteria for refining the low-tier brain development drug. It was also challenging for them to coordinate with a smart-brain. However, this task was as simple as sipping water to Fang Yuan.

"If I think about it this way, there's definitely a market if I sell these pills at a lower price!"

Even though the students admitted to East Dragon University might not care about the low-tier brain development drug, Fang Yuan thought about the students on Planet Blue Ray. Even the students in Flying Rainbow High's key classes might not have consumed it before.

It was not that they did not have the money, but that the students had no access.

For this type of drug, the supply did not meet the demand.

"I'm sure all these students have siblings and family that need this too... Furthermore, it's not very hard to obtain the materials to make the low-tier drug. If all else fails, I can use my credits to purchase them..."

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, Fang Yuan sensed something amiss with Han Yunfeng's current state.

The entire pill furnace vibrated violently, and the flame suddenly flickered. Something happened while the drugs were fusing.

"Ah! Flame Regulation Technique!"

With his technique, the flame turned green and stabilized once again. "Teacher, focus on your drug fusion. Leave the flame to me!"

"All right!" Han Yunfeng grit his teeth. "Thousand Spiritual Will Control!"

His spiritual will spiraled and seeped into the pill furnace.

Rumble!

The pill furnace vibrated violently. Soon, a ball of yellow liquid surrounded by wisps of spiritual will floated out of the furnace.

"Haha, the mid-tier brain development drug is complete!"

Han Yunfeng filled a test tube with the liquid. He turned to Fang Yuan. "My dear student, Lin Meng, you have amazing flame control... As your reward, I'll give you an additional hundred credits!"

"Thank you, Teacher!" Fang Yuan replied calmly. "After studying under you, I've become much more interested in concocting pills. If it's possible, I would like to use the fusion reactor furnace in the basement too. Of course, I'll use it when Teacher isn't using it."

"Sure... Even though the school has reactor furnaces for rent, it costs a lot of credits..." Han Yunfeng did not seem too surprised. "You want to refine some low-tier drugs to put up for credits, right? As a new student, you're probably in need of credits!"

"However, I have to warn you. Even for low-tier drugs, an apprentice like you has a high chance of failing. When the time comes, you might not see many returns!"

"I understand..." Fang Yuan displayed a humble attitude.

On the other hand, Han Yunfeng's eyes sparkled. "I'm planning to write a paper on ancient alchemy techniques. Go ahead and practice what you need to. Also, if you can maintain this progress until your second year, I might take you in as my student!"

As an alchemy master, countless students wanted to be his student. However, Han Yunfeng had high expectations, so he rarely accepted any.

The reason he decided to do so was purely because of Fang Yuan's talent in this area.

"Thank you, Teacher!"

Fang Yuan bowed before leaving the courtyard house.

...

Night.

Within his dorm, Fang Yuan sat cross-legged and controlled the cultivation progress within his entire body using the smart-brain. Channeling the spiritual energy, he made more progress.

He was like a black hole, greedily devouring the energy particles around him.

Crack!

Soon after, a loud sound resounded within his body.

“Have I reached level four Mystic?”

After getting to the next level, Fang Yuan muttered to himself. At the same time, he sensed a mysterious change within him.

It was a feeling akin to breaking through a membrane, feeling as though Fang Yuan fit in with this world entirely. Wisps of warm energy began circulating within this body.

“The stats window has unlocked!” Fang Yuan had a revelation. “Within this world, I can fully utilize ninety percent of my main body’s power! Even though I’m just a normal cultivator now, I can recover my power to that extent with time!”

As usual, the East Dragon University’s night was peaceful. Not a single teacher or student knew that a terrifying existence had completely arrived in this world!

“Name: Fang Yuan (Lin Meng)

Profession: Dream Master, East Dragon University Student

Cultivation: Mystic (Level 4), Arcanist (Level 1)

Techniques: Flame Control Technique, Breath Holding Technique (Modified)

Skills: Alchemy (Elementary)

Power Recovered: 0.01%!”

...

“Once I recover to my main body’s power, will the stats window show a mix of the two bodies’ abilities?”

Fang Yuan analyzed the stats window carefully. When he saw that Alchemy had become one of his skills, he was a little surprised. “With this, I can use proficiency to improve Alchemy quickly.

“Furthermore, I need to start my search for the material that the Heaven Devouring Mystic Technique needs soon.”

If he was just a little Mystic before, the current Fang Yuan now held terrifying combat power as a recovering Demon God!

With every moment, his strength continued to grow until the limit of ninety percent. Once he recovered his combat power, even though he had not seen the top combat power of this world— the Undead Immortals and Grand Arcanists—and had some reservations, there were absolutely no restrictions in other aspects.

“However, since I’ve broken the seal, that Abominable Lord should be almost there too...”

No matter how confident he was with his stats window, Fang Yuan would never look down on a Netherheaven Demon God.

His Dao path was complete, which was enough for him to recover his combat power quickly in this world.

His Dao path itself might be enough to face a high-level world's Heavenly Dao!

"I wonder if I can destroy East Dragon University on my own once I've recovered my full power..."

Looking at the outside restrictions, Fang Yuan suddenly had an idea and smiled shortly after.

...

Even though the stats window had broken the seal, power had to be earned.

Fang Yuan still needed some time before he could recover to ninety percent of his main body's power.

Other than that, there was a huge benefit. Fang Yuan could use proficiency to raise the level of Alchemy.

Even if this world's alchemy was guided by science and fused with the merits of ancient cultivation, he felt that it was not a big deal.

He could refine some drugs at will and improve it with proficiency.

...

Courtyard house, basement.

"Ding! Task set: Refine low-tier brain development drug. The main ingredient is an elite Zerg brain nucleus. The other ingredients are 3-in-1 Flowing Water, Sky Green Twigs, Bodhi Beads..."

As the robotic voice listed the ingredients, Fang Yuan used the materials he had exchanged for using his credits and inserted them into the reactor furnace. "Since its a modern drug, it'll probably be much more successful using a modern reactor furnace..."

Han Yunfeng wanted to use the bronze cauldron to refine the mid-tier brain development drug. This was not because he was going crazy. Instead, he wanted a taste of what it was like to use ancient methods in their shoes. He wanted to increase his chances of success at refining the high-tier brain development drug.

But to Fang Yuan, his credits were far more critical.

"Commence fusion reaction!"

The smart-brain's response came. Within the reactor furnace, a flame started to form.

"This refinement has thirty-three points that require the input of spiritual power and seventeen points that require the spiritual will's coordination. There can not be more than a 0.5-second delay!"

The difference in difficulty between the low-tier brain development drug and the Qi Enhancement Pill was quite significant. If Fang Yuan had not reached level four Mystic, the requirements for spiritual power would not have been easy to fulfill.

As for the spiritual will control, it was a piece of cake for him.

"Let's begin!"

Fang Yuan extended both hands and pressed them into the metal palm prints. He channeled his spiritual power gently while his eyes remained glued on the reactor furnace.

Chapter 955: For Sale

Within the reactor furnace, numerous materials were purifying and fusing at high temperatures.

“Hundred Spiritual Will Control! Go!”

Fang Yuan’s hundred spiritual will fluttered out, drifting into the reactor furnace. It accurately grasped the nature of the drug and inputted spiritual power precisely. Not a single bit was out of place.

If Han Yunfeng could see this unfold, his eyes would have fallen out.

Unfortunately, he was feeling inspired after refining the mid-tier brain development drug using ancient techniques, so he had shut himself in to write his paper.

Fang Yuan speculated that Han Yunfeng wanted to obtain fame. When that time came, he would propose a plan to East Dragon University to use ancient refining techniques for the high-tier brain development drug!

With a few words, he would start by setting the goal high. Then, in the name of science, he would obtain the funds from East Dragon University before deciding his next move.

With a grand plan like that, Han Yunfeng did not have the time to monitor Fang Yuan at all. Naturally, Fang Yuan would make good use of his resources.

“It’s done!”

At the mouth of the furnace, a ball of red liquid flew out. Fang Yuan caught it with a test tube he had prepared beforehand. Everything flowed smoothly, familiar and natural.

Fang Yuan was expressionless as he picked up the test tube carefully and stored it inside his backpack.

Within his bag, a flash of red sparkled. There were more than ten low-tier brain development drugs and a bunch of other drugs.

“I exchanged all those credits into these, but the low-tier brain development drug has an untapped market, so it shouldn’t be an issue to sell them!”

He looked at the stats window. The original Alchemy (Elementary) had turned into Alchemy (Intermediate)!

“This type of low-level skill is great. Once I use proficiency, I can increase the skill level. On the other hand, higher-level skills have bottlenecks that leave the progress at 99.9%...”

Fang Yuan returned to his dorm. He put up a post on the goods exchange market. “I have some low-tier brain development drugs for sale at a bargain. I’ll sell them at 90 credits each. First come, first serve!”

Numerous replies immediately appeared.

“God! You’re taking over the board!”

“Damn! The guy above me is dumb! OP, do you really have the goods?”

“Name a location. I’ll take them all!”

...

Replies flooded the post.

Seeing this, Fang Yuan was a little shocked. Soon after, he facepalmed. “That’s right! Even though each set of materials costs fifty credits, other pharmacists aren’t like me. The success rate of the scientific alchemy method is very high, but the low-tier brain development drug is almost at the difficulty of making ancient mid-tier pills. Originally, I thought that they failed once every five tries. However, it seems like they fail once every two to three tries. This is why East Dragon University’s low-tier brain development drug is charged at cost price!”

On the other hand, his drugs had a near one hundred percent success rate. The cost of creating one was fifty credits. Even if he sold it at ninety credits, he would still make a good profit.

“Science and technology are top in productivity... Of course, in my case, my Demon God True Spirit tops my productivity!”

With this understanding, Fang Yuan continued to fish for more customers. Soon after, he spotted a reply. “I’m in urgent need of the drugs. If you’re interested, please contact Beatrice at this number!”

“Beatrice, huh? Interesting!”

Fang Yuan laughed. He put up an anonymous post, but this Beatrice had exposed her personal information. It seemed like she was very sincere.

As he thought about this, he used his wristband to send a message. “Hello!”

“Are you the seller? I really need the low-tier brain development drugs! How many do you have?”

A soft, sweet voice arrived at his ears. It carried a hint of desperation.

“I have ten. If you want them, we can make the trade in the safe zone’s Southern Garden!” Fang Yuan replied.

“That’s wonderful. Hold on. I’ll be there immediately!” the female voice replied emotionally.

“Perfect. I can clear my stock at once!”

Fang Yuan picked up his bag and went to the safe zone’s garden.

The safe zone was swarming with new students from East Dragon University. However, they were all busy.

Other than attending class, they had to think of all sorts of methods to increase their brain development so that they could create a better foundation for their future.

For people like Fang Yuan who had already broken through, they were even busier.

They had to run errands for their credits all day. There were barely any lovebirds that had the time to flirt and date.

A voice from the wristband appeared. "Hi, fellow student! I've arrived at the gate!"

Fang Yuan looked in that direction and spotted two girls standing there. One of them had curly green hair and was looking around frantically. The girl by her side looked a little familiar.

"Why is she here?"

Fang Yuan frowned and walked forward. He looked at the curly green-haired woman. "Are you Beatrice? I'm the seller. Also, hello, Senior Sun Mengmeng!"

Sun Mengmeng was surfing the web leisurely. Hearing his greeting, she looked up. Her eyes immediately widened. "It's you! Junior Lin Meng! Are you the seller? How is this possible?"

Her impression of this junior remained on that day when Lü Songyang called him trash.

However, she did not expect this ordinary junior of hers to be able to produce ten valuable low-tier brain development drugs at such a low price.

"Haha, maybe it's because I'm talented at pharmacy!" Fang Yuan said lightly.

Now that Fang Yuan's stats window was unlocked, his abilities were increasing every day. He was no longer concerned about minor problems.

"Beatrice, right? Take a look!"

He tossed a parcel over casually, as if it were nothing more than a bag of trash.

Beatrice grabbed on to Sun Mengmeng's arm. "Mengmeng, help me verify it! You're a top student in the pharmacy department. You can tell if it's inferior or low quality!"

So, Sun Mengmeng is from the pharmacy department. No wonder she brought her here! Fang Yuan rolled his eyes quietly. He began to doubt his luck. Is my Demon God aura leaking? Has the world decided to target me now?

"Let me see..."

Sun Mengmeng picked up a deep red test tube and began to examine it.

She scrutinized them without letting a single test tube go. After using various equipment, her expression looked perplexed after finally completing her examination.

"How is it? What do you think?" Beatrice asked anxiously.

"There's no problem. The drugs are of top quality. On top of that, they've just been refined..." Sun Mengmeng stared at Fang Yuan wide-eyed. "You made these?"

"Sorry, commercial secret!" Fang Yuan smiled. "However, I'm now helping Teacher Han Yunfeng with his experiments! He has plans to take me as his student!"

“Mentor Han Yunfeng?!” Sun Mengmeng sighed, and her expression changed to one of understanding. “No wonder...”

A first-year that made low-tier brain development drugs would be shocking. However, if it came from Han Yunfeng, that alchemy master, it would not be surprising at all.

“Mentor Han Yunfeng has been a hot figure in our school lately. I heard that he’s overcome the bottleneck of ancient alchemy and managed to refine mid-tier brain development drugs using ancient techniques. The pharmaceutical companies that he’s a shareholder of are seeing their stock prices rising because of this. However, this is all just the tip of the iceberg. I heard that he’s been moving around lately, hoping that the school will support his experiment to make high-tier brain development drugs. Once he succeeds, it’ll be real chaos!”

Beatrice transferred nine hundred credits to Fang Yuan readily. At the same time, she said suggestively, “Junior, I still need more low-tier brain development drugs. I’ll take as many as you have. I can even pay more for them. Of course, if you can get me mid-tier brain development drugs, that’ll be even better!”

“There’s no problem with low-tier ones. As for mid-tier ones, I’ll give it a try! Keep in touch!”

Fang Yuan did not give a definite answer. With that, he turned and left.

“Mengmeng, do you know him?”

Beatrice looked at the parcel in her hands, her expression looking a little curious.

“Yeah. Remember that guy with a brain development of 35% but wanted to advance quickly? He ended up being rejected by Teacher Lü Songyang back then. That’s him!”

Sun Mengmeng laughed bitterly. “But I can’t believe he managed to produce so many drugs like this.”

“This isn’t a big deal... Han Yunfeng is an alchemy master. Low-tier brain development drugs are a piece of cake for him. However, this Lin Meng managed to obtain Han Yunfeng’s approval. I wonder what kind of experiment he completed with him to receive so many rewards...”

As for the possibility that Lin Meng had stolen these, Sun Mengmeng and Beatrice did not think in that direction at all.

Would a novice Mystic be able to steal something from a mentor’s lab? Unless East Dragon University’s security had turned to rubbish, there was no way! On top of that, Lin Meng was not dumb either.

“I should try to stay on close terms with this boy!” Beatrice began to calculate. “If I sell this drug to the outside after obtaining it at the cost of ninety credits, I’ll be a huge profit! The most important thing is that I can even get close to Han Yunfeng through this student!”

“Hm? Senior, is there something you know?”

Sun Mengmeng blinked innocently. She knew that her senior looked easygoing and straightforward, but she always seemed to have some kind of strong, hidden connections behind her.

“That’s right. According to my sources, the school’s higher-ups have already approved of Han Yunfeng’s preliminary proposal. They intend to purchase a bulk amount of precious materials, including a Zerg

Empress brain! This means that his experiment has not had a major breakthrough, but that it's very likely to succeed!"

"The high-tier brain development drug, huh..." Sun Mengmeng sighed. "However, this isn't related to us!"

"No! You don't get it!" Beatrice's eyes shone brightly. "If Han Yunfeng's experiment is successful, the cost of producing high-tier pills will fall exponentially... The impact of this will spread from high-level cultivators to all Mystics! It'll affect all of society! Of course, it'll take time. Furthermore, he's only researching the brain development drug! However, once it succeeds, it means that his theory works!"

...

"So it's like that!"

The two girls continued discussing quietly, not noticing that their words had also traveled to Fang Yuan's ears.

Even though he had only recovered a small portion of his Demon God abilities, his hearing and vision were the most fundamental things he had recovered. As long as he perked his ears after walking a little distance away, he could overhear lots of valuable information.

"They think that my drugs came from Han Yunfeng? Great, that's what I want them to think!"

Raising Han Yunfeng's flag would reduce a lot of trouble. Fang Yuan was certainly glad to see that happen.

Chapter 956: Invitation

East Dragon University, district five, dormitories.

Fang Yuan sat cross-legged. Circulating his cultivation technique, he swallowed the dense energy particles and moved them quickly throughout his body. Soon, he broke through to another level.

"I'm finally at level five Mystic..." He sighed.

Since he had divided his attention and the environment was unfavorable, he had spent twenty days to reach ancient cultivation's Qi Refinement perfection. He almost lost to Wu Wudi. He would have turned into a laughing stock among Demon Gods.

"But I'm merely a cheater. Wu Wudi is a true cultivation genius. He only spent twenty-seven days to advance to level five. Within the span of a few years, he made it to level fourteen. He's almost at the point where he can form his Nascent Soul. The modern era is truly the golden age of cultivation. If it weren't for the war with the Cosmic Lifeform Alliance, the Human Alliance would have soared even further!

"After level five Mystic, I'll prepare to break through to level six immediately. That's ancient cultivation's Foundation Establishment stage, which is imperative... Also, once I reach this step, I'll have to choose different high-level cultivation techniques according to my future direction!"

Fang Yuan's current foundational cultivation technique was used by all cultivation universities. It was all-inclusive, highly versatile, and extremely compatible. It could be developed in any way.

After reaching higher levels, he could start cultivating advanced techniques from this foundation.

For instance, in pharmacy, one could cultivate the Infinite Spring Technique or Thousand Light Separation. Those who wished to focus on battle could cultivate the Thousand Blade Technique or Absolute Domination Technique.

"The Foundation Establishment stage was a huge barrier in ancient cultivation. But with the help of the Foundation Pill, it was a lot easier. However, since there were a limited number of pills, people often had to participate in deadly trials. In fact, this was internal friction, which has been criticized by modern cultivators."

Fang Yuan looked it up. If university students today wanted to break through to level six, it was rather simple. They could even break through on their own using their current cultivation technique.

Of course, the school still recommended that students choose their department and change their cultivation techniques accordingly before advancing.

"The key is... my cultivation can't be shown to others. Fame means trouble!"

In reality, Fang Yuan was not too concerned with reputation because he was recovering his Demon God abilities. Instead, he was worried about becoming overly famous. This would draw attention to him, leading to the Abominable Lord appearing. This would be the worst scenario.

"For advanced cultivation techniques, the mentors from each department can help with that. Even though Han Yunfeng has the intention of accepting me as his student, it doesn't mean that I want that..."

"There's only one thing I can do—exchange it directly with a large amount of credits. But even though I've been doing business with Beatrice recently, I'm still strapped for cash!"

...

Fang Yuan thought carefully and summoned something from his dantian.

It was a silvery evolving metal, the seed of his magical weapon.

Typically, schools issued this to allow students to nourish it in their dantian. After reaching level six, they could summon it as a magic artifact. When used with a Golden Core, it would turn into a magical weapon.

However, Fang Yuan was different from normal people, so he had been refining it long ago. After summoning it, the size of his magical weapon seed changed once more. Now, it was no larger than a grain of rice.

"No matter how good the metal is, it only represents future potential. It's still just a small seed. If I want to use it in the future, I'll have to feed it some high-quality minerals and precious materials..."

Fang Yuan opened some information that he had spent ten credits on.

“When feeding it at the start, it’s best to use the Tyra Mineral. Later on, you can change to some alloys too. If you develop it this way, its durability and sturdiness will be better. Of course, the way the magical weapon materializes later on depends entirely on the owner. It requires a different ‘recipe’ for each path...”

In the video, a mentor explained the features of magical weapon seeds in detail. He explained how to maintain the temperature and even recommended several future advancements. Finally, he concluded, “All students, please proceed with caution. Since a magical weapon seed’s potential is unlimited, if you want to develop it by investing lots of resources, it’ll consume as much as you can feed it!”

His voice carried a hint of pain. He had probably paid a considerable price for his mistakes in cultivating the seed in the past.

Regarding this consumption, Fang Yuan already had a sense of it.

“Apart from the move, you are the main investment for all my credits...”

Even though he grumbled, he still pulled out several minerals. He watched as the tiny memory metal turned into a thin membrane, envelope the minerals, and slowly digest them.

After a moment, the metal expanded a little. Fang Yuan then used his will to shape it into a needle.

“For a magical artifact to travel through the air, it requires the cultivator’s spiritual will and spiritual power as the driving force. Ancient cultivation’s flying sword isn’t suitable for this. Rather, a flying needle is the most appropriate! This is the best option for beginners!”

Of course, this world still had sword cultivators.

Even though air resistance affected flying swords, you could use micro-engraving technology to inscribe some arrays onto it.

However, for Mystics below level six, a flying needle was a good and cheap choice.

After estimating the composition of the smallest flying sword, Fang Yuan knew that he would not be able to create one even if he fed it with all of his resources.

“Its current state is enough to count as a magical artifact!”

Fang Yuan manipulated the flying needle to fly about the room. It did not reflect any light at all, making it a great hidden weapon.

Smack!

He pointed his finger casually, and the needle suddenly shot out. It made a small hole in a vase, pierced through it, and exited from the other side. However, the vase did not even move an inch. Even if someone scrutinized it, it would be challenging to find the two tiny holes.

“Its control and power aren’t bad. Even if star beasts surround and attack me, I’ll have a way to deal with them!”

Fang Yuan nodded in satisfaction.

Over this period, he was planning to go out and hunt a star beast. Most importantly, he wanted to explore the primitive areas of Planet East Dragon. Through his Demon God techniques, he wanted to investigate some precious resources and promote his cultivation.

During the course of refining pills and developing his magical weapon seed, he had obtained some opportunities to come into contact with some materials. Unfortunately, he still had not found what he needed.

Therefore, he wanted to take the initiative and improve his strength on the way.

“If I use my Demon God power, I’m sure I can increase my level by one every day. As for my cultivation technique, if I can’t make it work, I won’t change it.”

This world’s fundamental cultivation technique could be used to cultivate to higher realms.

However, regarding modern cultivators, comprehensive meant mediocrity. This was why they taught first-years a little bit of every type of cultivation. Once students found a direction they excelled in, they would start to specialize in it in their second year.

But Fang Yuan did not think much of those specializations.

You should not bite off more than you could chew. This saying applied to regular people, but this was not the case for Fang Yuan.

With a Demon God’s solid foundations, it would be a massive joke if Fang Yuan could not become a master of all trades.

Those ancient itinerant cultivators cultivated a bit of everything. Unfortunately, it was difficult to survive and hard to produce talents.

However, it was different for Fang Yuan.

Since he was planning to explore the outside, he had to take care of some matters first.

As far as the school was concerned, as long as he took on assignments, he was free to enter and exit as he pleased.

As for Han Yunfeng, he had obtained a large number of materials recently. He was devoting himself to research, so he did not have time to be concerned with Fang Yuan.

After all, it was the high-tier brain development drug, and the Zerg Empress brain was a scarce material. Even Han Yunfeng did not dare to use it carelessly. He spent all his time researching materials and did not need an alchemy boy to watch his cauldron fire.

On the other hand, once Beatrice heard that Fang Yuan was going to stop selling his goods to hunt star beasts, she sent him a message immediately.

“Hi, Lin Meng!”

This time, Beatrice started the holographic projection mode, and her realistic figure appeared before Fang Yuan. She walked around his room curiously, then sat on his bed, and crossed her snow-white legs. Her black lace stockings looked especially seductive.

“What’s up?” Fang Yuan raised an eyebrow.

“Hunting star beasts is dangerous. Furthermore, you’re a level two Mystic Level, aren’t you?”

He had obtained lots of credits by trading and had moved into district five. This was why Fang Yuan had adjusted his Breath Holding Technique, making it seem like he was at level two Mystic.

Beatrice looked up at Fang Yuan with her large eyes. “Lin Meng, I’m really worried about you! If you’re having any difficulties, you can talk to me about them!”

“It’s nothing. It’s just that I’ve been making good progress on my cultivation, so I wanted to have some actual combat to test my limits...”

Fang Yuan was suspicious of Beatrice’s intentions.

This woman had to have strong backing. Over the past few days, she had bought more than fifty low-tier brain development drugs from him. However, she continued to buy them nonchalantly, insisting that she needed them desperately. She gave Fang Yuan the impression that a specific power was training an army of the younger generation.

“Actual combat?” Beatrice bit her bright red lip. “Since that’s what you want, are you interested in joining our squad? We’re planning to head out to the Wasteland!”

The Wasteland was the area on Planet East Dragon outside of human activity.

Star beasts were not the only existences there. There were many hidden dangers as well.

“I’m in the ‘Green Leaf’ Squad. Two of our members were listed on the East Dragon Leaderboard, even though they were removed soon after...” Beatrice blinked. “However, we’ve invited someone to help us out, so it’s a lot safer!”

“Someone? Is it a senior?”

“Have you heard of Wu Wudi?”

“What? Did you guys find him? That’s impossible!” Fang Yuan shook his head.

“Of course, it’s not him. His cultivation has surpassed many mentors!” Beatrice shook her head. “It’s Wu Wudi’s cousin, Wu Sanhuai. He’s a cultivation genius as well. He’s ranked on the East Dragon Leaderboard!”

Fang Yuan looked it up and realized that Wu Wudi was not only a cultivation genius, but he was highly intelligent too. He had created a ‘Wu Family Group’ in East Dragon University. The Wu family was also full of geniuses. He had seven or eight family members who had entered East Dragon University. Of which, Wu Sanhuai was one of them.

“Amazing. I can’t believe you’re acquainted with someone like Wu Sanhuai...”

Fang Yuan sensed Beatrice’s intentions. However, he flashed a bright smile. “In that case, I won’t hesitate.”

Chapter 957: Green Leaf

Fang Yuan's original plan was to enter the Wasteland on his own to level up.

However, since Beatrice made the offer with hidden intentions, Fang Yuan did not mind playing along.

They thought that once they brought him to a place without civilization, he would be nothing more than a harmless chicken. However, they did not know that it was the other way around. At school, Fang Yuan was constantly holding back and could not use his full power!

"That's great!" Beatrice exclaimed happily. Then she laughed bitterly. "Wu Sanhuai has some matters that he wants to handle, so he decided to join our Green Leaf Squad. It's beneficial to both parties.

"We've already agreed to assemble at the school's main gate at 6 am tomorrow!"

"No problem!"

...

After setting the time and date, Beatrice turned off her communication device. After a moment, she pulled out an encrypted communication device. "Commander!"

"Beatrice, you've performed well over the past few days. The low-tier brain development drugs you've delivered have been very beneficial for developing our organization!"

The commander was a man dressed in black robes. The darkness hid his face, and only his sharp, eagle-like eyes glowed brightly.

"Everything is for the organization!" Beatrice bowed politely. "And... didn't you order me to recruit Lin Meng? I've created an opportunity now. He wants to go out and obtain some actual combat experience, so I got him to go with the Green Leaf Squad."

"Wonderful. Proceed with your plan!"

The commander nodded slowly. "Even though our main objective is Wu Sanhuai, or rather the Wu Wudi behind him, taking care of a first-year isn't a big deal. I've arrived on Planet East Dragon. When the time comes, let's meet in the Wasteland!"

From his perspective, gathering his resources to deal with Wu Wudi was his top priority.

As for Lin Meng? He was nothing more than a rabbit in the bushes. There was no need to be wary of him.

"Commander, what is it this time? Why are we mobilizing the entire top brass?" Beatrice asked worriedly. "Your subordinate wishes to understand the plan to coordinate better!"

"Since you're heading out tomorrow, it's probably time to tell you!" The black-robed man paused. "Wu Sanhuai was dispatched this time under Wu Wudi's orders. In fact, our sources have reported that most of the Wu family has been deployed to the Wasteland. They're searching for a star beast king!"

“Star beast king?!” Beatrice took a deep breath. “This is a star beast that’s as powerful as a high-level cultivator! And it has intelligence equal to us! Is Wu Wudi searching for it to find some secret that will allow him to break through his bottleneck?”

The current level fourteen to fifteen was equivalent to cracking the core to achieve the Nascent Soul in ancient cultivation. It was of extreme importance.

After he broke through to the Nascent Soul stage, that would place him at the top of the cultivator pyramid.

Of course, it was not easy either. This was what held Wu Wudi back for nearly an entire year.

“But given Wu Wudi’s current level, he’ll be struggling against the star beast king, right?” Beatrice asked uncertainty.

“That man is a true genius. We can’t use regular logic to define him!” The black-robed commander’s voice carried a distinct hint of fear. “Furthermore, the star beast king has a secret that attracted Wu Wudi to go after it, so we have to verify it with Wu Sanhuai! This is the main reason we have to capture him.”

“Understood!”

Beatrice bowed as she turned off the communicator. Her bright face revealed a smirk. “These old foxes must have figured something out. Otherwise, why would they show themselves now?!”

Her organization had always been growing steadily in the dark. If the members became exposed, it would immediately take measures to isolate and destroy them.

However, the top brass was making their appearance this time. She could guess the importance of this mission!

“The mission this time will be perilous!”

Even if Beatrice knew something was happening in the organization, she did not have the power to change anything. She could only sigh deeply.

...

“Name: Fang Yuan (Lin Meng)

Profession: Dream Master, East Dragon University Student

Cultivation: Mystic (Level 5), Arcanist (Level 1)

Techniques: Flame Control Technique, Breath Holding Technique (Modified)

Skills: Alchemy (Advanced)

Power Recovered: 10.73%!”

...

On another side, Fang Yuan stared at his stats window and sighed heavily.

"I still can't increase my Arcanist level. Since I'm studying at East Dragon University, how can it provide any research materials on the West's Arcane?"

"However, I'm heading to the Wasteland tomorrow, and I still have to prepare some measures for my cover. It's time to learn some spiritual techniques!"

Because he was embarrassingly short on money and focused on accumulating credits, he did not pay too much attention to cultivating his spiritual techniques.

However, since he decided to head out, he wanted to spend all his credits before leaving, intending to convert them into combat power.

"For spiritual techniques, it's best if they have an inheritance system that reaches all the way to the end. My magic artifact is a flying needle, so let's start with flying sword techniques!"

Fang Yuan browsed through the spiritual techniques exchange and selected an option without hesitation.

"Hundred Flying Swords Proficiency (Spiritual Technique)—Records many skills about ancient cultivation's flying swords and ways to manipulate sharp magical artifacts. Introduction to sword cultivation! Price: 50 Credits!"

"Hundred Flying Swords Proficiency Spiritual Technique, Golden Blade Technique, Featherweight Body Spell, and other various spiritual techniques combine into the Flying Sword Dao Art! The Flying Sword Dao Art combines with the Merging Sword Spell and the Wind Control Dao Art to become the Returning Thousand Swords Magical Power! The Returning Thousand Swords is the standard magical power for sword cultivation. If you combine it with several types of sword cultivation magical powers, you get the Immortal Sword Tactics! That is an immortal technique that can only be used after becoming an Undead Immortal!"

The modern cultivation system was clearly laid out. At a certain level, cultivators would learn specific spiritual techniques. As long as they had the potential, they could follow the prescribed order to cultivate up to the corresponding immortal techniques successfully!

"Other than Hundred Flying Swords Proficiency, I still need Featherweight Body Spell in case I have to flee... Finally, I need the Breath Holding Dao Art!"

The Breath Holding Dao Art was the upgraded version of the Breath Holding Technique. In reality, it was not suitable for low-level cultivators.

However, Fang Yuan was ready to break through once he went into the Wasteland. He sensed that he would meet many people and troubles along the way, so he naturally needed to prepare for emergencies.

As for cultivating spiritual techniques? For him, it was non-existent.

By directly crystallizing his psyche strength, he could create arcane spell models. With that, he could store it within his Arcane Smart-Brain. This was equivalent to hammering these techniques into his brain a thousand times.

...

The next day at 6 am.

Fang Yuan changed into his sportswear. Carrying a hiking backpack, he arrived at East Dragon University's main entrance.

"Hi, Lin Meng! Over here!" Beatrice greeted him loudly.

"Good morning, Senior!"

Fang Yuan glanced over the party. Other than Sun Mengmeng and her, there were two other people. One was taller, with yellow skin and a cold gaze. The other was a Westerner with a bright smile.

"This is Lin Meng. He'll be joining our squad!" Beatrice smiled beautifully like a blooming flower. "I'll introduce you. You already know Sun Mengmeng. These two are Lu Qiming and Paine. They're both third-years and level five Mystics!"

"Hello."

Seeing that they were not happy to see him, Fang Yuan was disinclined to talk to them further. After a bland greeting, he turned to Sun Mengmeng. "Senior, you..."

He recalled that this woman had always played it safe and only took on missions in school, not easily putting herself in danger without reason.

Even though it seemed to be a cowardly way of life, people like that lived longer.

"Even though the school missions are safer, they don't give enough credits..." Sun Mengmeng laughed bitterly. "As a student in pharmacy, I have to continuously learn to improve. This requires a lot of resources. I need way more!"

Fang Yuan nodded, understanding what she meant.

Unlike him, she could not coordinate with the fusion reactor furnace perfectly. On top of that, she could not refine drugs like the low-tier brain development drug. Naturally, it would be difficult for her to accumulate credits.

Unfortunately, pharmacists relied heavily on experience, needing to spend lots of time and resources to practice. As such, it created a vicious cycle.

...

"Wu Sanhuai is here!"

Suddenly, Beatrice looked at a figure, and her face lit up expectantly.

In the mist, a figure approached gradually.

Wu Sanhuai walked out of the mist slowly. With confident steps, his aura was overwhelming. He reminded Fang Yuan of Lü Songyang.

He was a level eight Mystic, ancient cultivation's Foundation Establishment stage.

"Sir!" Beatrice welcomed him warmly. Her eyes lit up as she greeted him sweetly.

On the other hand, Sun Mengmeng's expression looked bitter.

"Haha. Have you been waiting for a long time, Beatrice?"

Wu Sanhuai wrapped Beatrice into his arms without hesitation. His large hands began groping places they should not be, as if there were nobody around. Even Lu Qiming and Paine's expressions turned dark.

"No, we just got here. Anyway, isn't it expected for us to wait for you?"

Beatrice was indeed a social butterfly and highly adept. With a flash of movement, she gently untangled herself from his embrace.

"Haha. Mengmeng is here too! Great! Wonderful!" Wu Sanhuai laughed loudly. However, he gave the impression of a vicious snake. "Relax, I'll make sure that you'll gain a lot by following me!"

His cultivation was already equivalent to a regular teacher's. With him around, it was like having a teacher take them out on an expedition. The danger was low, while the benefits were immense. It was no wonder that the conservative Sun Mengmeng came.

"And this must be Lin Meng, the one you highly recommended, right?" Wu Sanhuai looked at Fang Yuan with a warm smile.

With his usual disposition of pride, this act of his was utterly shocking. Lu Qiming and Paine were wide-eyed.

"It's me!" Fang Yuan stepped forward and shook hands with Wu Sanhuai.

"I've heard that Han Yunfeng regards you very highly and has praised you as a pharmacy genius! I love geniuses!"

Wu Sanhuai's mood changed quickly, leaving others feeling unsettled. "This time, you want some actual combat experience! Leave it to me! Furthermore, if you become one of Han Yunfeng's students, I'll take you to meet my cousin Wudi! He can support all of your expenses!"

"That'd be wonderful! Thank you!" Fang Yuan replied with a smile. He knew that this person was not as simple as he looked. Even though he followed his desires, he understood the rules.

No one admitted to East Dragon University was trash.

Chapter 958: Construct

In East Dragon Planet's Wasteland, a steel tank sped forth.

This was a military tank designed by East Dragon University. It traveled across rocky roads as if it were smooth ground. This constituted the savings of Green Leaf Squad over the years.

Sun Mengmeng gazed at the dark-red land through the glass. There was vegetation that looked like ferocious and demonic arms. While starting to feel slightly uneasy, she recited the knowledge from class. "Other than the places where humans gather, Planet East Dragon is full of abandoned wastelands and territories. Star beasts are the most common threats!"

“Senior, this tank isn’t cheap, right?” Fang Yuan asked curiously while examining the interior of the vehicle.

“It’s not that expensive, just a few thousand credits. Everyone in the squad contributed a little, so we could buy it! But I have to say, its defense and speed are pretty good, perfect for an expedition. This investment is the reason why our Green Leaf Squad is able to explore deeper into the Wasteland, kill star beasts, explore many dangerous regions, and reap great rewards!”

Beatrice sighed. “Actually, I hoped to buy those battle constructs, but there are only a limited number of them sold to the public... Even so, it’s still possible to buy them using credits in university. Furthermore, the construct mentors will give us a discount!”

With Fang Yuan’s understanding, constructs referred to robots that could perform multiple functions.

On the school website, he had spotted the stats listed for a construct. It was equivalent to a level five Mystic. Obtaining it for exploration would be well worth the price.

In fact, construct engineering was a subject with many mentors, professors, and even Undead Immortals performing research on. However, the school could only provide this construct to students.

“Constructs... haha...” Wu Sanhuai propped his leg up and lifted a wine glass. “Even the best construct is only equivalent to a level nine Mystic. For higher levels, its smart-brain configurations are insufficient. There are many places in space where it can’t be controlled either. No matter how good it is, you’re better off saving up to buy a mecha. Even the lowest grade can contest a level ten Mystic! That’s what I’d call powerful!”

Level ten Mystic. This was equivalent to ancient cultivation’s Golden Core stage. No matter what, it would fall safely into the middle class of cultivators.

In ancient cultivation, Golden Core cultivators were strong enough to become the head of a sect, changing their status completely.

“Mecha...” Beatrice laughed bitterly. “Sir Sanhuai must be joking... even the lowest-grade ‘Gundam’ series costs tens of thousands of credits and only those with top-tier jurisdictions can get them!”

Even though East Dragon University had lots of useful resources on its intranet, there were limits.

Fang Yuan looked it up. However, he did not find any columns that allowed him to exchange credits for mechas.

“That depends on the person. When piloted by a cultivator, even the original Gundam series has the power of a level ten Mystic. Once your strength increases, you can take on more missions and expand your horizons. In return, you obtain greater rewards!”

“However... if we really did manage to get enough credits for a mecha, who’d pilot it?”

Perhaps Sun Mengmeng had lost her sense of logic after sleeping for too long because she had asked something pretty dumb.

“Of course, nobody can!” Lu Qiming scratched his head. “Theoretically, even though a level one Mystic can pilot a mecha, it is generally accepted that those with higher cultivations are better candidates. On

top of that, there's still a technical skill. In our university, there's a special 'Department of Mecha Piloting'. The students there become mecha pilots and are recruited directly by the military. They're the vanguards of the Human Alliance!"

"The Gundam series can allow a level one Mystic to match up against a level ten Mystic?"

Fang Yuan was interested and checked this information.

The universe was not very peaceful. The conflagration between the Human Alliance and the Cosmic Lifeform Alliance had never stopped for a moment.

In the Cosmic Lifeform Alliance, all kinds of special races had their own characteristics. For instance, the Zerg had terrifying reproductive and evolution speeds.

Even if humanity began to mass-produce cultivators and Arcanists, in front of cosmic lifeforms, they still had certain disadvantages.

Until Grand Arcanists joined hands with Undead Immortals, and they developed a special magical weapon! This was when constructs upgraded into mechas, and the situation began to change.

Regardless of whether it was cultivation or the Arcane, the majority were low-level Extraordinaries. Within the military, discipline was key. This caused a paradox regarding the freedom of high-level cultivators.

In fact, even if the Human Alliance increased its population, it was difficult to produce a lot of high-level cultivators. As such, the alliance was reluctant to send them to the battlefield.

The emergence of mechas resolved this problem quite well!

Even the most basic Gundam series only required a level one Mystic to pilot. With it, they could have destructive power equal to a level ten Mystic!

Training mecha pilots from low-level cultivators was much less costly than sending their Undead Immortals and Grand Arcanists to the battlefield.

Therefore, mecha technology was very popular, and there were constant innovations.

The Human Alliance's best science and technology resources were the Undead Immortals and Grand Arcanists. And the strongest military force in the alliance was its large interstellar warship fleet and the vanguard mechas!

After searching several times, Fang Yuan found some information on East Dragon University's intranet.

"At present, the military's standard equipment is the Gundam-K9999, known for its stable performance and strong compatibility with auxiliary weapons! Its general combat power is at level fourteen!"

"Special mechas have combat power at level fifteen and above. Recently, Professor Fu Hongxue of East Dragon University has announced the latest mecha model developed by him, the Blood Dragon. Its all-around performance has increased by 33.5%, and the military has plans to place an order. With this piece of good news, some military stocks have risen..."

...

“The K9999 has strength equivalent to Golden Core perfection. Furthermore, the mecha pilots are only level five Mystic. Truly terrifying...”

Thinking about the number of low-level cultivators, Fang Yuan was slightly shocked.

As for why the Gundam series was so prevalent, it was simply because it was cheap!

Equipment for the military could not be overly expensive. It could only prioritize a balance between performance and price. Without question, the K9999 was currently one of the best on the market at this.

Of course, within the cutting-edge mecha research labs, there were stronger mechas around, such as the Blood Dragon.

Even though there was no specific data on it, Fang Yuan estimated that it should have combat power comparable to or even exceeding Undead Immortals and Grand Arcanists.

“This isn’t the most terrifying! The most terrifying is that in a real crisis, those Grand Arcanists and Undead Immortals will be the ones to pilot the mechas on the battlefield. Their combined power will absolutely be more than enough to cause shocking changes!”

As he thought about many white-robed mentors performing research in their labs being suddenly deployed to pilot mechas on the battlefield, he did not know why, but Fang Yuan felt somewhat affected.

As expected, scientists who excelled in both research and battle were the most terrifying existences.

I wonder how this world’s peak individual combat strength compares to me, a Demon God?

Fang Yuan closed his eyes as a cold glint flashed by them.

...

The tank sped forth before finally stopping in front of a forest.

“All right. There aren’t many large tribes nearby. It’s just right for newcomers like you to practice!”

Beatrice and her squad wore their battle suits and stepped out. She smiled at Fang Yuan. “So? Nervous?”

Lu Qiming and Paine looked like they were prepared to watch a good show. Even Wu Sanhuai looked amused.

The gravity and cosmic radiation here were incomparable to the safe zone. They were currently watching Fang Yuan, hoping he’d make a fool of himself.

“It’s not bad!” Fang Yuan stretched a little and took a deep breath. “The environment’s not bad, perfect for cultivation!”

In East Dragon University, he still had to use credits to move to district five, but that could not compare to the outside. Moreover, he did not need to worry about others being attracted when he used his Demon God abilities to help consume the energy of the universe.

“Not bad. I didn’t expect you to be a cultivation genius! You’ve adjusted to the environment so quickly!”
Wu Sanhuai nodded.

On the other hand, Sun Mengmeng’s cheeks looked a little red. However, there was nothing to be done. With a cultivator’s physique, she would adjust quickly.

“Well, let’s look for a star beast for the juniors to have a shot!”

Paine looked like he was walking in the air while moving forward. “How is it? Can you keep up?”

“No problem!”

Fang Yuan used the Featherweight Body Spell. In an instant, he felt that his body was as light as a feather, as if gravity had disappeared. With a light tap, he immediately moved a huge distance.

“Good!”

Paine slapped the ground. A loud noise rumbled, and a dirt-colored armored beast suddenly emerged from the ground.

“Hundred Flying Swords Proficiency!”

Fang Yuan extended his fingers. Instead of summoning his magical artifact, he stabbed forward with two fingers.

Poof!

Sword Qi landed, and blood splattered everywhere.

The armored beast roared in pain. It became more aggressive and pounced at Fang Yuan.

“Triple Flower Sword Qi!”

With a leap, Fang Yuan moved back a huge distance and pierced several spots.

Chichi!

The Sword Qi split in a floral shape that soared straight into the armored beast’s unprotected stomach. It exploded to pieces.

Bang!

Its flesh splattered about. The armored beast writhed in pain, turned over, and exposed its snow-white flesh. There was a huge open wound with organs and fresh blood gushing out.

Smack!

Sun Mengmeng stepped forward and applauded vigorously. “Junior, you’re truly amazing. This beast is almost at level two Mystic!”

In terms of cultivation, any student from a cultivation university would not be afraid of a star beast.

However, when it came to killing, the killing intent would often terrify low-level Mystics, rendering them powerless.

The fact that Lin Meng could overcome this immediately meant that he was a battle genius!

“You’re flattering me!” Fang Yuan laughed dryly. “It’s just too weak. I wasn’t really satisfied with that. I have yet to taste the blood of battle...”

“Haha... you want a bloody fight? Well, as we head further in, there’s more prey ahead!” Wu Sanhuai laughed loudly.

“Sir Wu Sanhuai, why did you follow us here today?” Beatrice asked curiously.

“Actually, there’s nothing to hide from you guys. My cousin Wu Wudi has discovered the traces of a heavily injured star beast king. He wants me to track down its whereabouts...”

Wu Sanhuai gestured his hands casually.

Chapter 959: Beast Tide

“Star beast king? No way!” Paine exclaimed loudly. “Do you know that a star beast king is as powerful as a high-level cultivator? Even a heavily injured one can wipe us all out with a lift of its finger!”

“It is heavily injured... It’s nothing more than a sitting duck now!” Wu Sanhuai rubbed his brow.

“Anyway, we’re just investigating its whereabouts. Once we’ve confirmed it, we’ll contact Sir Wu Wudi immediately. With him around, nothing will go wrong!

“Anyway, I’m not afraid of telling you guys. This time, our Wu family has put everything into this operation to track the beast down. The region I’m in charge of is Moon Jaw Lake!”

“Moon Jaw Lake?” Lu Qiming frowned. “That’s really deep into the Wasteland, and we haven’t been there before!”

The deeper they went into the Wasteland, the more dangerous it was!

“With Green Leaf Squad’s abilities, reaching Moon Jaw Lake won’t be a problem. Moreover... I’m here with you.” Wu Sanhuai sounded quite proud.

Beatrice pretended to pause for a moment, but she agreed quickly. “No problem. Let’s head out immediately!”

“We’re heading to Moon Jaw Lake!”

However, Sun Mengmeng was very worried. After all, this was her first time in the Wasteland, and she was going to travel deep into it, leaving her terrified.

“Relax, I’m here!” Wu Sanhuai laughed heartily. “I’ll escort you, and you can kill some star beasts on the way to gain extra credits and experience!”

...

After they reached the forest region, they could not use the tank anymore and could only travel on foot.

“Junior, there’s something strange!”

Fang Yuan was using the Featherweight Body Spell and trailing behind the squad. Sun Mengmeng approached him and said quietly, "A star beast king is a terrifying monster that's equivalent to a level fifteen Mystic or above, and it has the intelligence of a human. Why is Wu Wudi obsessed with it?"

"There's only one possibility. This star beast king has something immensely beneficial to others!"

...

"Your analysis is very logical. But now that we're here, there's nothing we can do other than follow them," Fang Yuan replied somewhat nonchalantly, leaving Sun Mengmeng absolutely speechless.

Soon, it turned dark, and the entire party set up their military tents. After eating some canned food, they retired to rest.

Lu Qiming and Paine saw Wu Sanhuai enter Beatrice's tent and ground their teeth silently.

Fang Yuan could not be bothered with their relationships. When it was late at night, he used his Breath Holding Technique and left the campgrounds alone deeper into the forest.

"Sure enough, the freedom between the vast heaven and earth is the best!"

A jet-black, giant shadow appeared behind him. It opened both arms wide and grabbed at the sky.

Rumble!

A terrifying amount of energy particles accumulated, extending for over a hundred kilometers at once. It turned the surroundings into a vacuum as the spiritual energy turned into a long lake that flowed straight into the black shadow.

On the stats window, his power recovered began to accelerate rapidly.

"Absolutely... thrilling!"

In the school, even the smallest commotion would attract the Undead Immortals' attention, leaving Fang Yuan quite irritated.

Now that he could absorb as much as he liked, he felt liberated. He was not going to pass up this opportunity!

He channeled Scientific Cultivation's most basic technique at full power, greedily absorbing the universe's dense energy.

Crack!

Within his dantian, a crisp sound resounded. The concentration of energy particles increased rapidly, turning into mist and then condensing again before turning into flowing liquid.

Spiritual power liquefying! This was the trademark of ancient cultivation's Foundation Establishment stage!

With only one session, he used the most basic technique to break through the bottleneck of level five Mystic, entering level six!

Moreover, Fang Yuan did not stop using the technique at all, indulging in this feeling for a long time.

Soon, a light rumble resounded again, and his cultivation broke through to level seven Mystic!

In one night, he raised his level by two! Compared to Fang Yuan, Wu Wudi was nothing more than dirt in the mud.

“Breath Holding Dao Art!”

The energy particles within hundreds of kilometers were enough to form an energy tide and create a huge commotion. Without hesitation, Fang Yuan used his newly-obtained Breath Holding Dao Art, restored his state as a level two Mystic, and quickly returned to the campsite.

“What’s happening?”

The campsite was stirring.

Sun Mengmeng and the others ran out of their tents. Looking ruffled, they gazed at the sky.

“This is... an energy tide?” Wu Sanhuai stepped out of his tent and looked at the sky. “Did you realize that the spiritual energy around us has suddenly dipped? This means that either a special treasure or a great beast has emerged!”

“Treasure? Great beast?”

Beatrice’s eyes flashed with greed and fear.

“Cough cough...” Fang Yuan suddenly coughed as if it were not his fault. Instead, he reminded them.

“For a tide of this level, will it attract the star beasts in the forest?”

“Damn it! We have to go now!” Wu Sanhuai’s expression changed. “This level of change will attract the star beasts!”

Kaboom!

As if he had sounded the alarm, loud rumbling noises started echoing as though the sky were falling.

Dark shadows rustled in the distance like a mirage, seemingly charging straight toward them.

“That’s... the star beast, snow-shadow leopard. It’s equivalent to a level five Mystic, and there are actually five of them!”

“There’s also the raging bear. It has tough skin and thick flesh, giving it very high defense. I can’t believe there’s such a large group!”

...

As Lu Qiming and Paine identified the star beasts in the beast tide, they felt their scalp go numb.

“Dragon lizard?”

However, Wu Sanhuai stared at a huge, lizard-like figure in the center. Suddenly, he turned and began dashing away.

“Dragon lizard? A star beast at Foundation Establishment?”

Beatrice was not concerned with Sun Mengmeng and the others as she followed close behind.

“Run!”

Lu Qiming and Paine did not have the intention to save anyone. Instead, they used their techniques and quickly disappeared.

Thankfully, it was just a small star beast tide. As long as they ran in a different direction, it would not be a huge issue once the star beasts calmed down.

Sun Mengmeng ran hastily while asking breathlessly, “Why... aren’t you flying away?”

“If you fly, it’ll be easy for you to turn into the star beasts’ target. In any case, the sky in the Wasteland is much more dangerous than land!” Fang Yuan replied casually, looking unfazed.

Luckily, they escaped in time, leaving the beast tide without any problems.

After running a certain distance, Fang Yuan regrouped with Beatrice and the others. However, they suddenly heard a series of fighting noises and immediately exchanged worried looks.

“They’re probably university students who came to practice!” Beatrice affirmed.

Within Planet East Dragon’s Wasteland, if someone was not a Mystic, it would be impossible to survive.

“It seems like they’re in trouble. It sounds like they’re up against some star beasts.”

Sun Mengmeng looked around the surroundings.

“According to the rescue guidelines, we should take a look at the situation regardless...” Beatrice sighed.

This was expected of the human elites. If it were the ancient demon sects, they would encourage battle and killing one another.

Within the cultivation universities, there were compulsory ethics classes that explained various regulations. For instance, a cultivator could not interfere with ordinary people’s lives and have personal battles. When they met someone in danger in the wild, they had to do everything within their power to save the other...

“Hmm!”

Fang Yuan traveled through some cover and stood on a large tree. Glancing about, he spotted the situation.

There was indeed a small squad on the ground. They were fighting with two snow-shadow leopards.

“Judging from their uniforms, they are a mixed university squad. There are people from Vajra Meditation and Fengwu Nine Heavens Academy!” Beatrice explained. “However, they look like newbies. There’s only a level five Mystic leading them. I can’t believe they dared to explore the Wasteland like this. Of course... they’re pretty unlucky to have met a beast tide!”

Hearing this, Fang Yuan could not help but rub his nose.

In reality, he was the culprit behind it.

In particular, he got people he knew caught up in it, making it a little awkward.

“Marianne, you go first! I’ll fight them!”

Huang Tianba’s upper body shone with a metallic glow, making him look like a copper statue. The snow-shadow leopard slashed at his body with its claws. However, only several streaks of blood appeared, while his vitals remained intact. He held a snow-shadow leopard down securely.

“Are you dumb? With my cultivation, running away and encountering any star beast is death!”

Marianne waved the green vine in her hands and quickly healed Huang Tianba’s wounds. “We’ll only survive if we work together!”

Poof! Poof!

Suddenly, a soft rustling noise came from the air.

A moment ago, it was still blustering. But the snow-shadow leopard suddenly fell to the ground, and a pool of blood gathered under its body.

“We’re saved!”

Seeing the human figures before them, Huang Tianba cheered. He stepped forward and saluted respectfully. “I am Huang Tianba. Many thanks for your help, benefactor...”

All of a sudden, he glowed with surprise, staring wide-eyed at Fang Yuan “Boss Lin Meng, you’re here too?”

“Yep!” Fang Yuan laughed. “Congratulations on becoming a Mystic. However, your levels are too low to be out here...”

“Er... since I needed credits, I had no choice but to come! Anyway, we only intended to hunt on the outskirts, and we brought a lot of people. Theoretically, nothing should have gone wrong, but we were unlucky enough to have met a beast tide...” Huang Tianba complained.

While he was complaining, on another battlefield...

Wu Sanhuai retracted his palm and looked at the mountain of corpses on the ground. He sneered. “At least I could let off some steam!”

“I am Li He. Thank you all for helping us. After we return, I will definitely report this matter to the school!” said the level five Mystic solemnly.

Lending a hand in the wilderness like this would yield great benefits. This was also a part of the regulations.

“It’s great as long as you guys are all right!”

At this time, Beatrice was sent out to socialize. With a smile, she charmed the little fatso, Huang Tianba.

Li He paused for a long time before asking abashedly, "However, we've lost one of our juniors from Fengwu Nine Heavens Academy, Ling Fei'er. I wonder if you could help us search for her."

Chapter 960: Commander

"That's right. We're all from Planet Blue Ray and should help each other out!" Huang Tianba looked straightforwardly at Fang Yuan.

Marianne and the others had the same expression, as if they had silently agreed with one another. He shook his head. He knew that they had never heard about the incident in Flying Rainbow High.

Obviously, Ling Fei'er would not share this story with them either.

"Junior?" Beatrice looked contemplatively at Fang Yuan.

"According to the rescue guidelines, we've already done everything we had to. Also, we have other matters to attend to!" Fang Yuan spread both hands. "I'm sorry, there's nothing I can help you with!"

"Ah... that's understandable. We've already lost two people even though we're all from Planet Blue Ray. Now, Ling Fei'er is gone too. We can only accept it..."

Li He's eyes seemed a little blood-shot.

He could tell that this group from East Dragon University squad was led by Wu Sanhuai and Beatrice. Lin Meng was nothing more than a first-year, so he did not have much say in this.

"That's right, Junior. Let's get going. We have to go to Moon Jaw Lake!" Wu Sanhuai laughed.

"Moon Jaw Lake?" Huang Tianba gasped. "Hold on... you're heading in deeper? But a star beast tide is running loose!"

Beatrice interrupted cheerfully, "I'm sorry, we have our own plans!"

Li He thought for a while before suggesting, "Sorry, but could we tag along?"

"Wha-?"

Before the fatso Huang Tianba could finish his words, Marianne muffled him with her hand. She said softly, "Are you dumb? The forest is so dangerous now. If we meet any star beasts, we'd be in deep trouble. Our only hope is to follow this high-level squad! Also, the star beast tide traveled from the inside to the outside. After the first wave, heading inside would be safer!"

"Haha, we don't take deadweight!" Wu Sanhuai smirked coldly and immediately turned to leave, moving like the wind.

Beatrice, Sun Mengmeng, and the others followed.

"Follow them!"

Li He seemed to understand the gravity of the matter. Even if it was shameless, it was better than dying, so he shamelessly followed them.

...

Moon Jaw Lake was a deep landmark within the Wasteland.

Using a satellite cloud map, he saw that it was a huge lake that extended for hundreds of kilometers. With several curves along the way, it looked like a crescent moon.

Once they reached it, they would be deep in the Wasteland, where it was much more dangerous than before.

However, there were fewer star beasts along the way after avoiding the first wave of star beasts.

Wu Sanhuai and Beatrice did not let Fang Yuan and the others kill the star beasts along the way either, in case they alerted other groups nearby.

“We’re here. Moon Jaw Lake is right ahead!” Wu Sanhuai was slightly emotional.

“We’re... finally here...” Beatrice’s voice made it sound like she was finally at ease, surprising Fang Yuan a little.

“Is this Moon Jaw Lake?” Huang Tianba widened his eyes, staring at the pristine surface of the lake. For a long time, he could not say anything. “If it weren’t for Sir Wu Sanhuai leading the way, there’s no way we could have made it here!”

“Set up the campsite. We’ll explore the area tomorrow!”

Wu Sanhuai pulled out a ball. It floated into the sky and exploded.

A layer of light spread out and covered the entire campsite. Looking in from the outside, all traces of human activity had disappeared without a trace.

“Mechanical talisman, Mirage Magical Power?”

Seeing this, Li He’s eyes widened. “I can’t believe you used such a precious talisman! Looks like your mission must be important. If there’s anything you need, go ahead and tell us!”

“A mechanical talisman... In the past, they used paper or jade to create talismans. However, modern cultivation methods use integrated electronic modules as the foundation. This allowed the mass production of talismans, surmounting ancient cultivation’s restraints. As long as low-level cultivators input sufficient spiritual power, they can complete the final step. It’s stronger than ancient cultivation’s talismans too. This magical power isn’t any weaker than a high-level cultivator at the Nascent Soul stage!”

Fang Yuan’s eyes lit up seeing this. He knew that Wu Sanhuai had an important mission. And now, he pulled out the good stuff.

“What kind of secrets is that star beast king hiding?”

When it was late at night, after they had their meal, he rejected Huang Tianba and Marianne’s invitation and returned to his tent.

However, he snuck out in the middle of the night.

“It seems like both Wu Sanhuai and Beatrice are hiding some secrets...”

Fang Yuan floated into the sky and went to Moon Jaw Lake. He glanced at his stats window.

"Name: Fang Yuan (Lin Meng)

Profession: Dream Master, East Dragon University Student

Cultivation: Mystic (Level 9), Arcanist (Level 1)

Techniques: Flame Control Technique, Breath Holding Dao Art, Featherweight Body Spell, Hundred Flying Swords Proficiency

Skills: Alchemy (Advanced)

Power Recovered: 49.33%!"

...

"Within this period of time, I haven't absorbed too much spiritual energy and avoided causing an energy tide, but my cultivation speed has still increased far beyond that of in school, gaining at least a level every day. Now that I'm close to spiritual power solidifying, I'm only one step away from forming my Golden Core!"

Fang Yuan let out a long sigh. "I've recovered nearly half of my Demon God strength. That's enough to do many things!

"Of course, before this..."

He breathed gently, and the surrounding energy particles poured into his body.

The magnetic field within a hundred kilometers began to fluctuate. However, after the first lesson, Fang Yuan had slowed down his absorption. After all, he did not want to trigger another energy tide, but the spiritual energy nearby still became a lot thinner.

Within his dantian, the half-solid spiritual power was turbulent. He compressed it continuously until it turned into a translucent Golden Core.

"Level six Mystic, spiritual power liquefying, is Foundation Establishment. Level ten Mystic, spiritual power solidifying, is condensing a Golden Core..."

At this moment, Fang Yuan walked out. He was undoubtedly a genuine Golden Core Mystic. In terms of ancient and current cultivation, he held a lofty status.

"Of course... I don't have a magical weapon nor dao arts to use with this level. My foundation is so weak that I have nearly nothing. This was almost entirely thanks to my Demon God power..."

After completing his cultivation, Fang Yuan used his spiritual will, extending it continuously.

Fifty kilometers, one hundred kilometers...

Finally, a few ripples caught his attention. "There are several high-level cultivators closing in rapidly. Their target is our campsite? Is it Wu Sanhuai's back-up? No... they're cultivators at level ten and above. Even if Wu Sanhuai could bring them here, there's no way they're under Wu Sanhuai's command. This means... it's the power behind Beatrice? Interesting!"

All of a sudden, in the middle of the sky, he sensed a stronger aura. "So strong! It's definitely at level fifteen and above. But it does seem a little weak, and it seems like a wild beast. It must be that star beast king... I can't believe it's really near Moon Jaw Lake. Wu Sanhuai has some good luck!"

Fang Yuan thought about it a little. Instead of alarming the star beast king, he traced the path to the lake and ascertained its hideout. With that, he leisurely returned to the campsite, pretending that nothing had happened.

After an hour, Beatrice snuck out from her tent, diving into the darkness.

She walked in the direction of Moon Jaw Lake and arrived at a glowing spot by the lake. "Commander! Sirs!"

"Beatrice, you've done well to lure Wu Sanhuai and the others here!"

The commander turned around. He had an overwhelming presence. He was an expert that was not any weaker than Wu Wudi, a level fourteen Mystic, and one step away from cracking the core to achieve the Nascent Soul!

"It is part of my duty, Sir!"

Other than the commander, the other two were also at the Golden Core stage. Beatrice did not even dare to breathe.

"How is it? Do you know Wu Wudi's objective?"

"No, he's tight-lipped, constantly on his guard. He only mentioned that he was going to find the whereabouts of the star beast king..." Beatrice replied hesitantly.

A Golden Core cultivator responded immediately. "Looks like we have to make our move. We'll take all of them to interrogate!"

"Okay. We'll execute this at once!"

The commander walked to the campsite and extended his right hand gently. His long sleeve flapped in the wind, enlarging to envelope everything in the area like a pocket.

Rumble!

The Mirage Magical Array broke instantly. Lu Qiming, Paine, Li He, Huang Tianba, and the others passed out even before they could escape their tents.

"How dare you!"

Only Wu Sanhuai emerged from his tent with a flash. He dashed out while dodging the area the large sleeve was covering. "Grand Sleeve Space-Void Magical Power? Impossible, you can't be a Nascent Soul cultivator! If you were, my cousin's talisman would be useless. With only cultivation at Golden Core perfection, you can use a magical power. You're obviously not someone unknown. Who are you?"

"I am Red Tarantula's great commander! You don't have to use Wu Wudi to threaten me! I've exchanged blows with him before. We're evenly matched!"

The great commander spoke easily unafraid of exposure. Evidently, he knew that everything was under control. "You can't escape. If you know what's good for you, tell me why Wu Wudi is after the star beast king! Maybe, I'll let you live then!"

"Dream on!" Wu Sanhuai gritted his teeth. He glared at Beatrice angrily before activating a talisman.

Whoosh!

A blaze emerged. It bound him and flew off to escape.

He was not stupid. As a level eight Mystic, he would not fight a level fourteen enemy.

"Stay!" The great commander closed his fists. "Capturing Qi Technique!"

Poof!

A translucent palm emerged, charged straight for flames, and destroyed every layer of Wu Sanhuai's restrictions before finally capturing him.

"Capturing Qi Technique? This is a dao art. After promotion, it becomes the Xiantian Capturing Qi Magical Power!"

Fang Yuan lay on the ground, pretending to be unconscious, and carefully observed the great commander. "Unexpectedly, this commander has a slight connection with me. His technique route should be from the Grand Sleeve Space-Void Magical Power. With Xiantian Capturing Qi Technique and the Five Elements Restriction Magical Power, it'll turn into the Xiantian Qi Five Elements Restriction Void Immortal Technique!