

Conqueror 681

Chapter 681: "Master!"

Afraid that Huang Xiaolong's group didn't understand the gravity of the situation, Jia Liang emphasized the Chief Alchemist Grandmaster Association's strength, urging anxiously, "In the past, there was a super family's Grand Elder that caused some trouble at our headquarters. He merely injured an ordinary Alchemist, but our Chief and several Elders executed him on the spot!"

"Moreover, that Grand Elder was killed right in front of that super family's Patriarch, despite the Patriarch's request for mercy!" Jia Liang added at the end.

Detecting Jia Liang's worried expression, Huang Xiaolong couldn't resist smiling, "Don't worry, nothing will happen. Who knows, maybe when your Chief arrives, he won't make things difficult for us after seeing how handsome my Master is."

Shi Xiaofei couldn't help laughing hearing this, her face bloomed like a flower.

The Ascending Moon Old Man gave Huang Xiaolong a stern look, saying, "You little brat can stop the flattery, this old man already knows he's born good-looking, do I need you to advertise this?"

Shi Xiaofei's lovely sound laughter sounded again.

Jia Liang was dumbfounded watching the exchange between Huang Xiaolong and the Ascending Moon Old Man, feeling an impulse to vomit blood. Where exactly did this pair of master-disciple jump out from? In this situation, they were still in the mood to joke around!

The surrounding disciples also felt their face muscles twitch watching the two of them.

At this time, inside a mansion not far away from the Alchemist Grandmaster Association, Lin Pinghai was guiding two disciples in their alchemy practice. Lin Pinghai's hands danced in the air like butterflies as a long line of elixirs flew up from the table, falling into the large black furnace placed at the center of the yard.

This was a high grade refining technique named Fluttering Butterfly Hands.

Lin Pinghai said to his two disciples, "Watch carefully, try to comprehend the crucial points of this Fluttering Butterfly Hand, gentle and ever changing!"

As his hands continued to move, the airflow in their surroundings became noticeably slower and gentle. Following Lin Pinghai's hand movements, the elixirs in the air swirled in an unpredictable rhythm, up and down, forward and backward.

When all the elixirs were inside the furnace, Lin Pinghai suddenly made a big motion of stretching his arms out as if his hands were two giant wings, like he was about to take off.

Powerful spheres of fire flew out from Lin Pinghai's body.

"This is the Great Roc Rising Waves!" Lin Pinghai added, "It is a good pairing for the Fluttering Butterfly Hand, one soft, one hard. The Fluttering Butterfly Hand's essence is soft and ever-changing, while this Great Roc Rising Wave focuses on strength and speed!"

At this point, Lin Pinghai's hands movement gradually became faster, leaving a film of afterimages. From afar, he resembled a great roc flapping its great wings again and again.

Waves of fire rushed forward, faster and faster, into the furnace.

As an Elder of the Alchemist Grandmaster Association, one had to admit that Lin Pinghai indeed possessed high-level alchemy refining skills. Whether it was his control of fire or his comprehension of refining techniques.

A short while later, Lin Pinghai stopped.

The furnace cover spun to the air as a resplendent light burst out from the furnace, while round medicinal pellets floated up.

"I say, Master's alchemy refining skills are much higher than our Chief." One of the disciples stepped forward, respectfully flattering Lin Pinghai.

"I agree, if Master says he's second, no one would dare to claim they are number one." The other disciple quickly caught up in a few steps, flattering with a charming smile on his face.

Lin Pinghai waved his hand saying, "Senior brother Association Chief's level is still a little bit higher than mine." Despite the humble words, the prideful expression on Lin Pinghai's face showed that he too inwardly thought that his alchemy refining skills had surpassed the Chief, the number one person in the association.

Just as Lin Pinghai was still feeling complacent, a guard ran in with a flustered face, "Elder, Young Master was hit at the Alchemist Grandmaster Association headquarters!"

"What did you say? Hit at the Alchemist Grandmaster Association headquarters?!" Lin Pinghai wondered if he had heard correctly: "Are you certain?"

"Certain! Elder, this small one had just received the message, it really happened at the Alchemist Grandmaster Association headquarters!" The guard answered.

One of the disciples beside Lin Pinghai coldly snorted, "Actually dared to cause a ruckus at the Alchemist Grandmaster Association headquarters! They even dared to injure Junior brother Lin Yanhan! These people are really tired of living!"

"Master, I will lead a group of experts over to capture them!" The other disciple was quick to volunteer.

Lin Pinghai's coldly stated, "No need, I shall go over myself. I'd like to see what blind fool dare to injure my son in at the headquarters!" He strode out in large strides, commanding: "All of you come with me!"

"Yes, Master!"

Lin Pinghai stormed out of his mansion together with his two disciples, heading to the Alchemist Grandmaster Association headquarters.

When Lin Pinghai received the message, as one of the association's Elders, Chen Ye also got the news almost at the same time. Similar to Lin Pinghai, Chen Ye was also angered by the incident.

Lin Yanhan could be considered his martial-nephew. The other party dared to hit Lin Yanhan at their headquarters, wasn't that the same as slapping his face in the public eye?

Clouded by anger, Chen Ye gave an order; all Alchemist Grandmaster Association's Elders were to assemble at the headquarters.

While all these took place, Lin Pinghai was the first to arrive at the Alchemist Grandmaster Association.

At the headquarters' entrance, a violent killing intent burst out from Lin Pinghai's body when he saw his son, Lin Yanhan, buried under a pile of rubble on the opposite side of the street.

He rushed inside the headquarters building, roaring, "Who?! Who was it that dared to injure my son? Roll out here to die!" His voice echoed in the hall, the entire building quivered.

Fear took over Jia Liang's face when he saw Lin Pinghai furiously rushing in. To a low-level Alchemist like Jia Liang, association Elders like Lin Pinghai were akin to a great mountain.

Those disciples that stayed behind, waiting to watch a good show, all turned pale from Lin Pinghai's momentum.

Apart from being an Alchemist Grandmaster Association Elder, Lin Pinghai's cultivation was at the perfect stage of peak late-Tenth Order God Realm!

An invincible existence below Highgod Realm!

After releasing his roar of fury, Lin Pinghai's eyes swept around the hall. His gaze fell on Huang Xiaolong, Shi Xiaofei, and the Ascending Moon Old Man. Standing at the center of the hall, the three of them were the most conspicuous.

But when Lin Pinghai saw the Ascending Moon Old Man's back, he blanked for a moment. 'This figure, could he be...?' Thinking of the possibility, he quivered from head to toe as if he was trying to shake off a thick layer of dust.

Jia Liang and everyone that was pale from fear became dumbstruck noticing the ecstatic expression on Lin Pinghai's face, their gazes turned to where Lin Pinghai was looking at—the old man.

At this time, the Ascending Moon Old Man turned around to face Lin Pinghai, a cold gaze in his eyes.

A cold shiver ran down Lin Pinghai's body from that gaze, but he hastily approached the Ascending Moon Old Man, misty-eyed. Before the shocked faces of Jia Liang and the others, Lin Pinghai suddenly knelt down before the Ascending Moon Old Man, kowtowing respectfully: "Master!"

Chapter 682: Senior Brother Huang

Master?!

This word sounded like thunder in Jia Liang and the surrounding disciples' ears, watching in disbelief as the Lin Pinghai knelt in front of the Ascending Moon Old Man.

Their brains went blank, not one of them could believe that this beggar old man, skinny but thick-faced, who most of them believed was a little not right in the head, turned out to be Lin Pinghai's Master!

Who was Lin Pinghai?

Lin Pinghai was an Elder of the Alchemist Grandmaster Association ah!

Not to mention those present in the hall, even both of Lin Pinghai's personal disciples were dumbstruck. They had never heard their Master mention anything about his own Master!

In truth, it wasn't because Lin Pinghai did not wish to tell them, it's just that the Ascending Moon Old Man had strictly forbidden Lin Pinghai from talking about him in front of others. Furthermore, the Ascending Moon Old Man has never admitted that Lin Pinghai was his student!

Even though the Ascending Moon Old Man did not recognize Lin Pinghai as his disciple, in Lin Pinghai's heart, the Ascending Moon Old Man was his Master. Without the Ascending Moon Old Man's guidance, he would never have achieved the level of alchemy skills he had today, and definitely would not be an Elder of the Alchemist Grandmaster Association.

While everyone was still in shock and disbelief, another large group of people rushed into the hall.

The loud noise attracted Jia Liang and everyone's attention. Turning their heads to look made their pale faces turn even paler.

The new arrivals were none other than the Alchemist Grandmaster Association Chief, Chen Ye, with his Elders in tow.

Chen Ye and a group of Elders behind him rushed into the hall with fierce angry faces, but when they rushed into the hall and saw Lin Pinghai kneeling on the floor, all of them were stunned. When they finally saw the Ascending Moon Old Man's face, each of them was trembling with excitement.

Just like Lin Pinghai previously, Chen Ye hastened to kneel in front of the Ascending Moon Old Man, kowtowed and saluted: "Master!"

Master!!!

Everyone in the hall felt like a thunderbolt struck right above their heads, especially Jia Liang.

By this time, the remaining Alchemist Grandmaster Association Elders also hurried before the Ascending Moon Old Man, saluting respectfully on their knees, "Greeting, Grand Elder the Ascending Moon!"

Grand Elder!

This old man was actually one of the three legendary Grand Elders of the Alchemist Grandmaster Association?! Moreover, he was the head of three Grand Elders, Grand Elder Ascending Moon.

Another great wave of shock crashed against Jia Liang's heart and those present.

Outside on the street, Lin Yanhan finally regained conscious, struggling out from the rubbles above him to his feet. He let out an animal like roar: "Old man, I want you dead, DEAD—!"

Lin Yanhan had just climbed out from the rubble, his mind was still a little confused, thus neglecting the scene taking place inside the hall. Only after he hollered did Lin Yanhan look into the hall.

When Lin Yanhan saw the sea of Alchemist Grandmaster Association Elders kneeling toward the Ascending Moon Old Man, he was stupefied. Yet, to this point, he still failed to realize what the scene in front of him meant.

The Ascending Moon Old Man's cold gaze fell on Lin Pinghai, who was kneeling in front of him, "This is the good son you've brought up?"

Lin Pinghai felt a chill run down his back, he became panicked out of fear, "Master, Han'er doesn't know your identity, please spare his life." He repeatedly kowtowed, pleading for his son's life.

Neither Chen Ye nor any of the Elders dared to utter a sound.

Master?! Lin Yanhan stared dumbly at his father banging his head to the floor, calling that beggar old man Master... He was jolted to his senses and fear crept into his eyes, his face becoming pale.

The Ascending Moon Old Man coldly said to Lin Pinghai, "If you weren't considered as my half student, do you think he would still be alive until now? He can escape the death penalty, but not punishment. You know what to do."

Lin Pinghai continued to kowtow, saying that he knows what to do, thanking the Ascending Moon Old Man for mercy. Then, he issued the order personally, to have Lin Yanhan arrested and locked up inside

the Alchemist Grandmaster Association's prison. Later, Lin Yanhan would be punished according to the crime of opposing his superiors.

Only then did the Ascending Moon Old Man's grim face relax, nodding at Lin Pinghai and Chen Ye, "Stand up, all of you." Although he was still angry inside, Li Pinghai and Chen Ye's status was no longer the same as before. Having them kneel for a long time in the Alchemist Grandmaster Association hall was not proper.

Lin Pinghai, Chen Ye, and the Elders acknowledged respectfully before rising to their feet.

The Ascending Moon Old Man pointed at Huang Xiaolong, saying matter-of-factly, "He's Huang Xiaolong, my personal disciple. All of you come and greet him as your Senior Brother Huang."

Personal disciple!

Shock could be seen on all the Alchemist Grandmaster Association higher echelon's faces. Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and all the Elders knew how strict the Ascending Moon Old Man's requirement in accepting a personal disciple were, which was why, based on their talents, they could be considered as half students to the Ascending Moon Old Man.

Yet, this young man in front of them actually...!

Despite feeling extreme shock, none of them dared to take the Ascending Moon Old Man's words as passing breeze, quickly greeting Huang Xiaolong as 'Senior Brother Huang'!

Each of them was sincere, devoid of any pretentious attitude.

Elders that were not the Ascending Moon Old Man's students also hurried to greet Huang Xiaolong, wearing amiable smiles on their faces, revealing a hint of respect.

That year, when the Ascending Moon Old Man received Huang Xiaolong as a personal disciple, the ceremony was conducted on the Golden Dragon Peak with only the Black Warrior Institute Grand Elders as witnesses, and thus the matter did not spread out. Whereas Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and most of the

Alchemist Grandmaster Association Elders rarely ventured out, spending most of their days refining pills. Thus, none of these people knew that the Ascending Moon Old Man had taken in a personal disciple.

Naturally, neither did they know Huang Xiaolong's other identity, the Black Warrior Institute Principal's personal disciple.

However, hearing even the Alchemist Grandmaster Association Chief calling him Senior Brother Huang, at this moment, Huang Xiaolong was at a loss as to how to behave.

Watching Huang Xiaolong not knowing what to do from the side, the Ascending Moon Old Man felt a sense of accomplishment, relishing in the moment.

In the end, Huang Xiaolong passed his Alchemist assessment. However, when Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and the other Elders found out from Jia Liang that Huang Xiaolong refined without using a furnace, and moreover, used common ingredients to produce saint grade Amorphous Star Pellets, they were astounded. After discussing the matter, they agreed to give Huang Xiaolong an Elder status.

In fact, once someone reached the level of a high-level Alchemist Grandmaster and passed the assessment, they would be promoted to Elders. With the Ascending Moon Old Man being one of the reasons, Huang Xiaolong was promoted with exemption from further assessments. Toward this decision, the Ascending Moon Old Man did not say anything. After all, Huang Xiaolong's alchemy refining skills were more than qualified to become an Elder.

No doubt, Huang Xiaolong was the first person to jump directly from an Alchemist to an Elder.

When all was done, Chen Ye respectfully invited the Ascending Moon Old Man, Huang Xiaolong, and Shi Xiaofei to rest in his residence. Hearing the Ascending Moon Old Man agree, this Alchemist Grandmaster Association Chief was on cloud nine, it clearly showed in his speech and demeanor.

As Huang Xiaolong and the others headed to Chen Ye's residence, news about Huang Xiaolong's Alchemist assessment also spread out.

Chapter 683: Ancestor Mountangoat

Inside a manor on the north corner of Royal Pill City, Xiang Mingzhi was looking morose. The news about Huang Xiaolong taking the Alchemist assessment had spread, therefore it wasn't strange that Xiang Mingzhi also heard about it.

Beside Xiang Mingzhi was a middle-aged man in a light purple brocade robe. His hands were naturally placed behind his back, yet a majestic aura could be felt from him. Even the guards subconsciously held their breaths in the presence of this middle-aged man.

This middle-aged man was none other than the Azure Dragon Institute Principal, Qin Yi.

Qin Yi said, "I really didn't expect that Huang Xiaolong's alchemy talent to be just as dazzling. Without a furnace, and using the common ingredients prepared by the Alchemist Grandmaster Association, he was able to refine saint grade Amorphous Star Pellets. This wouldn't have been possible if his skills didn't reach the level of a high-level Alchemist Grandmaster."

"Most likely the Alchemist Grandmaster Association purposely exaggerated the incident because he is the Ascending Moon Old Man's personal disciple, putting Huang Xiaolong on a pedestal!" Xiang Mingzhi's sullen mood was obvious from his tone. "I don't believe that with less than thirty years of practice he could reach the high-level Alchemist Grandmaster!"

Indeed, it was undoubtedly hard for anyone to believe unless they witnessed it with their own eyes; someone that learned alchemy for barely thirty years achieving the rank of a high-level Alchemist Grandmaster!

This was akin to someone who cultivated for less than two hundred years breaking into the Highgod Realm. No one would believe it.

A light flickered in Qin Yi's eyes as he listened, "Both Chen Ye and Lin Pinghai, as well as the other Elders of the Alchemist Grandmaster Association took the unanimous decision to give Huang Xiaolong an Elder position in the association. If Huang Xiaolong did not have the necessary skills, the Alchemist Grandmaster Association would not go this far."

A tall stalwart man beside Qin Yi interjected, "Even if that Huang Xiaolong really has skills comparable to a high-level Alchemist Grandmaster, it doesn't mean he'd be able to win over Junior Brother in the

Alchemist Grandmaster Competition. Junior Brother has completely merged with the Azure Dragon Divine Fire, defeating Huang Xiaolong will be an easy matter.”

This stalwart man was Qin Yi’s eldest disciple, Ceng Chu.

Qin Yi nodded, he agreed with his eldest disciple.

The four divine flames of the primeval time were the most powerful flames in the four galaxies, and the Azure Dragon Divine Fire was the herald of the four divine fires, possessing incredible power.

Xiang Mingzhi said, “It’s fine this way. Now that Huang Xiaolong holds the status of an Elder of the Alchemist Grandmaster Association, squashing him in the competition would give me greater satisfaction, raising my prestige!”

Similar to Xiang Mingzhi’s reaction, when participants from all four galaxies heard that Huang Xiaolong had skills comparable to a high-level Alchemist Grandmaster despite having practiced alchemy for less than thirty years, a majority of them incessantly shook their heads in disbelief. Some even sneered with disdain.

Huang Xiaolong was oblivious to the discussions happening outside.

After arriving in Chen Ye’s residence with the Ascending Moon Old Man and Shi Xiaofei, the three of them did not step out since then. Staying there, Huang Xiaolong and Chen Ye would ‘learn’ from each other, comparing their alchemy refining techniques.

Naturally, as the times they compared grew more numerous, so did Chen Ye’s shock.

Although Chen Ye was the Alchemist Grandmaster Association’s Chief, when compared to the Ascending Moon Old Man, his alchemy skills were still lacking. But, not only were Huang Xiaolong’s skills almost comparable to the Ascending Moon Old Man, in certain aspects, Huang Xiaolong was slightly better than his Master. Chen Ye feeling astonished was understandable.

Initially, Chen Ye still had doubts towards Jia Liang's description of Huang Xiaolong refining saint grade Amorphous Star Pellets without a furnace. After all, he did not personally witness it.

However, after seeing Huang Xiaolong in action, Chen Ye finally realized that Huang Xiaolong's alchemy skills exceeded his assumptions.

While these two men were exchanging pointers, Shi Xiaofei had been watching and listening, reaping a great harvest.

As for the Ascending Moon Old Man, no one knew where he ran to every day.

Very quickly, three days passed.

Deep into the night.

Huang Xiaolong stared at the night sky, standing in the yard.

Shi Xiaofei entered, approaching Huang Xiaolong's side and asking softly, "Tomorrow's the competition, are you still thinking about the Azure Dragon Divine Fire that Xiang Mingzhi obtained?"

Huang Xiaolong shook his head, "No."

Though Xiang Mingzhi obtaining the Azure Dragon Divine Fire posed a certain risk to Huang Xiaolong, he wasn't perturbed.

What he was thinking of was, in fact, his parents in his previous life on Earth.

Close to seventy years had passed since he was reborn into this world, he wondered how his previous parents were. If the time flow here was the same to Earth, then his past life parents had most likely passed away.

For a moment, sadness filled Huang Xiaolong's heart.

Sensing Huang Xiaolong's sadness, Shi Xiaofei reached out to hold his hands, tenderness in her eyes looking at him, "Regardless how the future may be, I will always be by your side."

His wrist turned, grasping Shi Xiaofei's small hands in his, saying affectionately, "After I win the first place in the Highgod Advancement Tournament, let's get married."

Shi Xiaofei trembled, her eyes red-rimmed and misty.

Under the moonlight, two figures embraced each other.

The night's dark curtain quietly gave way as the brilliant sunlight shone from the east.

Coming out from his yard, Huang Xiaolong headed to the front hall. Chen Ye, the Ascending Moon Old Man, and Shi Xiaofei were already sitting in the hall.

When Huang Xiaolong saw the old man that had disappeared for the last several days, he couldn't resist taking a stab at him, "Have you been fermenting in the Royal Pill House for the last couple of days?"

The Ascending Moon Old Man grinned sheepishly, "How did you know?"

Huang Xiaolong was speechless. It seems like this old man had really been sleeping at the Royal Pill House for the last few days. Then again, speaking of Royal Pill House, his thoughts strayed toward the Royal Pill Wine. Saliva pooled in his mouth at the thought of the wine. He decided on the spot to stay in Royal Pill City a little longer just for the Royal Pill Wine.

Despite the Royal Pill House's rule that restricted each person to one jug of Royal Pill Wine, as long as one had money, they could go there every day.

At this time, Chen Ye respectfully asked the Ascending Moon Old Man, "Master, the Alchemist Grandmaster Competition will start in an hour, shall we...?"

The Ascending Moon Old Man nodded, "En, let's depart now!" With that said, the four of them left the mansion, walking toward the Alchemist Grandmaster Association headquarters. The Alchemist Grandmaster Competition would be held at the square in front of the headquarters building.

By the time Huang Xiaolong's group of four arrived, the square was already packed with people.

Lin Pinghai and the other Elders who had arrived early hurried forward when they saw Chen Ye and the Ascending Moon Old Man, saluting with the utmost respect. The noisy square quieted down significantly when they arrived.

Nearly everyone turned their heads to look.

There were a lot of people, but Huang Xiaolong still spotted Xiang Mingzhi amongst them. In that instant, their eyes met. In Xiang Mingzhi's eyes, Huang Xiaolong saw great hatred, killing intent, and even disdain.

"I didn't expect that old monster to also be here," the Ascending Moon Old Man muttered under his breath.

Huang Xiaolong heard the Ascending Moon Old Man's muttering under his breath and his eyes followed in the direction of the Ascending Moon Old Man's gaze, leading to a small statured old man with a goatee—a bizarre skinny old man.

"That's Ancestor Mountangoat?!" Chen Ye was surprised when he saw the bizarre old man.

Ancestor Mountangoat? Huang Xiaolong was baffled. This Ancestor Mountangoat was able to make the Ascending Moon Old Man and Chen Ye pay such attention.

Chen Ye explained to Huang Xiaolong, "This Ancestor Mountangoat is one of the strongest Beast Kings of the demonic beast clan. He is a master on the God Ranking List. I didn't expect him to also participate in the competition!"

Chapter 684: Begin The Refinement

The demonic beast clan's strongest Beast King!

A master on the God Ranking List!

Huang Xiaolong was astonished.

For someone to be called 'old monster' by the Ascending Moon Old Man, it was obvious that this Ancestor Mountangoat's age was on the higher end, no worse than Ancestors of super forces. This Ancestor Mountangoat probably held a higher seniority over those Ancestor level characters, for they were just like the current Alchemist Grandmaster Association Chief, Chen Ye. In front of the Ascending Moon Old Man, those people were merely juniors, far from worthy of being called 'old monster'.

Huang Xiaolong's expression grew somber.

This time's Alchemist Grandmaster Competition actually lured out an old monster of this level. However, recalling that one of the rewards for the first place winner was a rank six godhead, it made sense.

A rank six godhead!

Even to the Ascending Moon Old Man, it was extremely tempting.

At this point, Ancestor Mountangoat turned to look at Huang Xiaolong, a flame flickering in the depth of his eyes. Huang Xiaolong's soul suddenly quivered, making him dizzy.

The Ascending Moon Old Man coldly harrumphed, instantly clearing Huang Xiaolong's head. Cold sweat trickled down Huang Xiaolong's back after realizing what happened.

"This Ancestor Mountangoat cultivates a technique called Grand Soul Engulfment Purgatory Technique," the Ascending Moon Old Man said. His gaze was like piercing daggers glaring at Ancestor Mountangoat.

Ancestor Mountangoat smiled sweetly instead, asking, "Ascending Moon, looks like your injuries have healed."

The Ascending Moon Old Man sneered, "Enough to kill you." A few months ago, in the scuffle for the Buddha śarīra, Ancestor Mountangoat was one of the five people who attacked him. Other than Ancestor Mountangoat, the other four people were also old monsters whose names were on the God Ranking List.

Ancestor Mountangoat turned his attention on Huang Xiaolong instead, "Little boy, it seems like that Buddha śarīra was refined by you."

Huang Xiaolong was aloof and silent, not giving an answer.

The Ascending Moon Old Man no longer bothered with the other party. Leading Huang Xiaolong and Chen Ye, he walked towards the front of the square.

Ancestor Mountangoat's gaze fell on Huang Xiaolong's back, a cold sinister light glimmering in his eyes, only he himself knew what he was thinking. That Buddha śarīra was an item that he strongly desired for a long time, yet it was actually refined by a trifling kid, how could he be willing? In fact, the reason why he decided to participate in this alchemy competition was not purely for that rank six godhead.

Upon reaching the front of the square, the Ascending Moon Old Man went up to the host stage together with Chen Ye and Lin Pinghai. Whereas Huang Xiaolong, as one of the participants, remained standing below the stage.

The square was large enough to accommodate more than ten thousand people.

However, despite the lucrative prizes offered by the Alchemist Grandmaster Association this time, not many people registered for the competition. In past competitions, only about five to six thousand people actually took part.

After all, as tempting as the prizes were, winning depended on one's capabilities. In general, those who registered for the competition had the skills of a high level Alchemist Grandmaster. Only a handful of people on the level of an Alchemist Master would participate.

This time around, the number of participants had actually doubled to twelve thousand. Even with twelve thousand people in the square, it still didn't feel crowded. In addition to that, the square perimeter was packed with various family disciples and masters waiting to watch the competition.

The square was a babel of noises, every corner had groups of people discussing who would be the final winner of this term's Alchemist Grandmaster Competition and receive the title of Pill King.

"Friends participating in the competition, please stand according to the number allocated to you!" On the host stage, Lin Pinghai stepped forward, instructing in a sonorous voice. This term's Alchemist Grandmaster Competition was supervised by Lin Pinghai.

When Huang Xiaolong and the other participants registered for the competition, the Alchemist Grandmaster Association issued a number plate for each of them, thus at Lin Pinghai's instructions, all participants moved to their own places on the square.

After a brief shuffling around, the square once again quieted down.

Seeing that all the participants had found their places, Lin Pinghai spoke, "I'll first talk about the rules. Just like in the past, the competition is divided into two stages, the preliminary and final round." Lin Pinghai then proceeded to explain the rules of both the preliminary and final round of the competition.

In the preliminary round, the Alchemist Grandmaster Association would provide all participants with a standard furnace and the participants were required to refine a high rank divine grade spirit pellet, the Potent Physic Pill. Other than the standard furnace, the Alchemist Grandmaster Association also prepared similar quality of herb ingredients needed by each participant. To pass the preliminary stage, they were required to refine the Potent Physique Pill within three hours.

When the participants heard the preliminary stage rules, many of them paled.

Refining this high rank divine pellet called Potent Physique Pill was not difficult, however, with the time limit placed at three hours, the chances of success were greatly reduced!

Moreover, all participants noticed that the furnaces provided by the Alchemist Grandmaster Association were the lowest grade, sold by peddlers on streets. Not only that, the ingredients provided were just as... ordinary.

Using ordinary furnace and herb ingredients to refine a high rank divine grade Potent Physique Pill in three hours!

Not even a high level Alchemist Grandmaster dared to guarantee their success!

After Lin Pinghai finished announcing the rules of the competition's preliminary and final rounds, the furnace and ingredients had already been placed in front of all the participants.

"Begin!" Lin Pinghai shouted.

The instant Lin Pinghai's voice fell, on the square below, flames danced as the participants each made their move.

Three hours! Time was of the essence. For a majority of the participants every second was crucial.

On the host stage, the Ascending Moon Old Man's eyebrow rose watching Ancestor Mountangoat and several other participants. This time, other than Ancestor Mountangoat, there were quite a few old monsters coming out of seclusion.

If these old monsters suddenly threw a tantrum, it would really be troublesome.

Most of the super forces' Ancestors didn't and wouldn't dare to start a ruckus in the Royal Pill City, but these old monsters were a different matter. Every single one of these old monsters was haughty and ruthless. Little more than ten or twenty thousand years ago, the mere mention of their names would make anyone go pale, they were existences synonymous to archfiends.

However, the Ascending Moon Old Man couldn't prohibit them from participating in the competition.

On the square below, Huang Xiaolong remained standing, adjusting his breathing and calming himself.

In a sense, alchemy was similar to cultivation, a calm state of mind was extremely crucial.

“That’s... the Sequent Starburst Technique?!”

All of a sudden, loud noises resounded from the square perimeter. Huang Xiaolong turned to look and saw that numerous balls of light resembling stars were floating around Xiang Mingzhi’s body. In between his hand movements, these star-like spheres of light exploded in the air one after another, causing light particles to flow around him, forming a ring that sucked all the herbs into the center.

The Sequent Starburst Technique was a high grade alchemy refining technique originating from an ancient alchemy sect, not weaker than Huang Xiaolong’s Transfiguring Hand of the Dragon. In fact, the Sequent Starburst Technique was ranked slightly higher, thus it wasn’t strange for the crowd to show such a big reaction.

“Thousand Army Hand?!” Another loud exclamation rang out. As the Vermillion Bird Institute Principal’s personal disciple He Feifan’s hands moved, the airflow around him howled, as if there was an army of a million soldiers on horses rushing forward in attack.

The Thousand Army Hand was another profound technique.

Ancestor Mountangoat’s technique was slightly odd, using only one hand. The fingers on his right hand fluttered in the air, as if he was playing the zither. With every pluck of his fingers, herbs continuously flew up.

Huang Xiaolong’s eyes gleamed as he took note of everything happening on the square. Then, his hands moved as he began the refinement!

Chapter 685: And If You Lose?

Not wanting to attract attention, Huang Xiaolong chose to use the Transfiguring Hand of the Dragon because amongst the many alchemy refining techniques he was versed in, the Transfiguring Hand of the Dragon was the most ‘ordinary.’

When Huang Xiaolong's hands began moving, employing the Transfiguring Hand of the Dragon, it still drew the crowd's attention, causing sounds of exclamation to be heard. From the beginning, Huang Xiaolong was a point of focus for many due to his identity, so even if he wanted to keep a low-profile, it was not meant to be. Moreover, although the Transfiguring Hand of the Dragon technique was only ordinary in Huang Xiaolong's eyes, to everyone else present it was a long-lost high level alchemy technique belonging to the ancient Dragon Clan.

Hearing the crowd's loud exclamations, Xiang Mingzhi couldn't resist turning to look in Huang Xiaolong's direction. Watching the herb ingredients in front of Huang Xiaolong flying into the air and arranging themselves into the shape of a dragon, Xiang Mingzhi issued an audible cold harrumphed.

The Vermillion Bird Institute's He Feifan, the White Tiger Institute's Wan Zhenxing, Ancestor Mountangoat, and the several other old monsters each revealed various expression watching Huang Xiaolong's Transfiguring Hand of the Dragon.

Ancestor Mountangoat looked like he was smiling whilst not, appearing quite sinister.

Huang Xiaolong ignored the reactions around him, focusing on the herbs in front of him. Both of his hands continued moving. The herb dragon weaved in the air, emitting a mixture of the herbs' fragrance as he refined the impurities contained within the herbs.

A short while later, the herb ingredients flew into the furnace and Huang Xiaolong summoned the Asura Fire from his body, but the crowd was stupefied in the next second watching Huang Xiaolong slamming his fist onto the furnace!

This action shocked and baffled those watching, none of them could guess what Huang Xiaolong was planning to do.

Struck by the force of this punch, all the herbs inside the furnace probably exploded into dust! What was he going to refine then? They had never heard of anyone refining pills using this method!

Even Elders of the Alchemist Grandmaster Association such as Lin Pinghai were startled. Only the Ascending Moon Old Man and their Chief Chen Ye showed a calm expression.

After the first punch, Huang Xiaolong landed a second strike on the furnace.

Before everyone's agape faces, Huang Xiaolong made thirty-six consecutive strikes at the furnace, dull 'dang' sounds echoing in the square. Although the noises weren't loud, all the other participants looked in Huang Xiaolong's direction.

Some of them even snickered audibly in contempt.

What was this? To them, Huang Xiaolong looked like more he was forging the furnace than refining divine spirit pills.

"That kid, is he thinking of reforging the furnace because its grade is too low? To increase the furnace's quality a little?" Standing behind Qin Yi, the Azure Dragon Institute Principal's eldest disciple, Ceng Chu mocked.

But the Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi did not respond, his eyes gleamed as he continued to watch. Although he had no idea what Huang Xiaolong's purpose was, he could tell that each of Huang Xiaolong's punches contained depth and profoundness. Moreover, every strike was made with the exact same force!

Thirty-six punches, neither harder nor weaker, all landed accurately without the slightest deviation!

Clearly, Huang Xiaolong was not playing around.

A rank six godhead was one of the rewards for this term's first place winner, no one would take this competition lightly.

Just as the Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi suspected, Huang Xiaolong was not playing around. His thirty-six punches were used to shake up the herbs' properties inside the furnace until they were well integrated. After Huang Xiaolong's thirty-six punches, the herbs inside the furnace were equally divided into thirty-six portions.

This was a technique that Huang Xiaolong had derived from his own comprehension. A self-created alchemy refining technique.

Time gradually passed, and very soon half an hour was gone.

All of a sudden, the sound of an exploding furnace rang in the square, originating from the front of the square. A participant's furnace exploded in the midst of refining, black smoke was curling out from the furnace's mouth.

Failure!

Moments later, another similar noise rippled in the air.

As time continued to flow, the noise of exploding furnaces sounded like morning tide waves, one after another.

By the one hour mark, more than ten thousand participants had been disqualified. More than half failed!

However, according to the competition rules, participants that failed within the stipulated three hours time were not allowed to leave the square. They must wait until three hours ended, therefore these participants could only remain on the square and watch the other participants continuing forward.

Another half an hour passed.

On the quiet square, a silvery cry resounded, followed by a brilliant light shooting up to the sky.

Turning toward the source, Xiang Mingzhi's furnace was seen floating high in the air as round pellets resembling luminous jade beads flew out from the furnace. Immediately, the scent of medicinal pills permeated the square, intoxicating many masters all around.

In a few seconds, all the spirit pellets that Xiang Mingzhi refined had flown out—a total of twenty-two pellets!

Moreover, each pellet emitted a luster. Just from that, no one doubted that these pellets were of the highest quality and grade.

An Alchemist Grandmaster Association disciple hurried to collect those twenty-two pellets from Xiang Mingzhi, bringing them to the host stage.

After verifying them, Lin Pinghai announced, “Twenty-two Potent Spirit Pills, all top grade, time: one and a half hours!”

The crowd was in an uproar.

He actually successfully refined twenty-two Potent Spirit Pills, and each pellet was top grade!

Hearing the gasps and exclamations, a trace of complacency showed on Xiang Mingzhi’s face. He did not use the Azure Dragon Divine Fire just now, merely a fire transformed from his god battle qi. Integrating with the Azure Dragon Divine Fire triggered a transformation in his god battle qi, becoming stronger many times over compared to before.

Xiang Mingzhi cast a taunting glance at Huang Xiaolong, who was still refining.

A short while later, another dazzling light burst into the sky.

The second person who succeeded the task was Ancestor Mountangoat. Ancestor Mountangoat also managed to produce top grade Potent Spirit Pills, but only twenty-one pellets.

Two hours passed, and the number of successful participants increased, but then again, even more people failed.

At two and a half hours mark, Huang Xiaolong finally succeeded in refining his Potent Spirit Pills. To Huang Xiaolong, two and a half hours was just right, neither too fast, drawing too much attention, nor too slow that he was the last person.

Seeing that Huang Xiaolong only managed to finish refining his batch of Potent Spirit Pills after two and a half hours, the satirical smile on Xiang Mingzhi's face deepened.

Soon, the three-hour time limit reached the end.

At the final count, no more than one hundred and forty participants passed the preliminary stage.

Around twelve thousand people participated in the competition, but no more than a hundred and forty people made it through. This ratio was horrifying.

However, the Alchemist Grandmaster Association seemingly expected this result, hence the furnace and ingredients prepared for the final stage did not exceed two hundred sets.

With the failures of the preliminary stage leaving, the square was even more empty.

The final stage of the competition did not begin immediately. Instead, it was scheduled half an hour after the preliminary stage ended. The half an hour was a break for the participants who succeeded to readjust their conditions.

When the time came, Lin Pinghai once again spoke from the host stage, "I explained the final round's rules earlier, and I believe everyone is clear. If there are no questions, then the competition shall begin!"

"Wait!" Just as Lin Pinghai finished his sentence, someone shouted. Turning toward the origin of the voice, the person who shouted was none other than Xiang Mingzhi.

Lin Pinghai's eyebrows rose to his forehead.

Xiang Mingzhi looked at Huang Xiaolong, coldly saying, "Huang Xiaolong, competing this way is not interesting. How about the two of us make a bet? If you lose, then you must give me the Five-colored Divine Banner, the Innumerable Fortune Kasaya, and the rest of twenty-five ancient treasures as well as the Hailstone Treasure vault! Other than that, kneel before me, kowtow one thousand times as repentance for your sins! When you see me in the future, you're to respectfully call me Ancestor!" Though his voice wasn't loud, all the people present heard every word loud and clear.

A cold light flickered in Huang Xiaolong's eyes, his gaze fixed on the other party, a cold expression on his face, "And if you lose?"

Xiang Mingzhi blanked for a second hearing this, then burst into laughter, "Huang Xiaolong, you think you can win over me? Looks like you don't understand what the Azure Dragon Divine Fire represents. Didn't your Master Ascending Moon tell you?" Xiang Mingzhi's laughter was arrogant to the extreme.

Chapter 686: Xuanji Treasure

Huang Xiaolong sneered at Xiang Mingzhi's arrogant laughter, "Are you planning to gamble like last time, baiting a white wolf with an empty hand? If I lose, I have to give you the Five-colored Divine Banner, Innumerable Fortune Kasaya, and the rest of the treasures as well as the Hailstone Treasure, moreover, I have to kneel and kowtow a thousand times to you and call you Ancestor? It's fine if you're an idiot, but please don't think that everyone in the world is an idiot like you!"

The many experts present in the square did not hide their snickers as they watched.

Xiang Mingzhi's face reddened, glaring furiously at Huang Xiaolong, "Fine! If I lose, this Xuanji Treasure, including ten thousand Xuanji Divine Pellets, belongs to you!" Xiang Mingzhi waved both his hands and a huge golden cube appeared high in the air. When the restrictions around the golden cube were opened, spirit stones piled mountain high, Qinglong coins, herb elixirs, and divine grade pellets could be seen inside.

"The Xuanji Treasure!"

Astounded voices reverberated above the square, eyes burning with greed stared fixedly at the golden cube.

Even old monsters like Ancestor Mountangoat couldn't control their greed from showing for a second.

The Xuanji Treasure was a supreme treasure left behind by the ancient Xuanji Divinity Faith of the Azure Dragon Galaxy. The degree of its preciousness and value rivaled Huang Xiaolong's Hailstone Treasure. In truth, the Xuanji Treasure probably slightly surpassed the Hailstone Treasure because the Xuanji Divine Pellets were one of the top ten Great Divine Pills, ranked at number six!

Every divine grade pellet among the Great Divine Pills was rare and invaluable. They were priceless and high in demand, but extremely short in supply. Thus, they could hardly be bought even with money.

Huang Xiaolong's eyes narrowed. This Xiang Mingzhi's luck was unexpectedly good, not only did he obtain the Azure Dragon Divine Fire, even the Xuanji Treasure fell into his hands!

Huang Xiaolong was quick to converge the look in his eyes, asking indifferently, "What else?"

Xiang Mingzhi was dazed momentarily, then he sneered, "At that time, I'll give you a thousand kowtows in apology, and when I run into you in the future, I'll call you Ancestor!"

Huang Xiaolong nodded with a deadpan face, then he took out the Hailstone Treasure, Innumerable Fortune Kasaya, and the remaining treasures.

Although Xiang Mingzhi noticed that the Five-colored Divine Banner was missing from the lot, he didn't mind it. His main purpose was the Hailstone Treasure. What he wanted the most were the one thousand kowtows from Huang Xiaolong, and Huang Xiaolong calling him Ancestor from now on!

Thinking of this, strong hatred glinted in Xiang Mingzhi's eyes. He was going to pay back the humiliation Huang Xiaolong gave him that year many times over today!

"However, three hours is too long, our bet will be decided in one hour's time. The person who can refine the Exalted Divinity Pellets in one hour, and of the highest grade, will be the winner!" Huang Xiaolong added: "And no furnace is allowed!"

Like in the preliminary stage, the latter part was also set at three hours. The rules were to use the herbs prepared by the Alchemist Grandmaster Association to refine the Exalted Divinity Pellets. Participant rankings would be determined according to pill quality and the time they took.

Hearing Huang Xiaolong's additional conditions, surprised gasps could be heard from the crowd.

Refining the Exalted Divinity Pellets in three hours was borderline impossible, so much that even a high level Alchemist Grandmaster dared not guarantee they could succeed. At most, only a one-tenth chance of success existed.

Yet, Huang Xiaolong actually limited the time to one hour!

One hour!!

This was absolutely impossible!

No one had ever heard of anyone capable of refining the Exalted Divinity Pellet in one hour.

Xiang Mingzhi's expression darkened. Within three hours' time, he had full confidence of success, but it was a different matter if the time limit was set at one hour. This had nothing to do with the Azure Dragon Divine Fire. It was a fact that one hour was too short!

Only an Alchemist that had reached a certain level of skill would be able to do so.

"How about it, you don't dare?" Huang Xiaolong snickered.

"Agreed!" Xiang Mingzhi's gaze grew chilling cold: "One hour it is!"

Xiang Mingzhi naturally knew Huang Xiaolong's purpose in reducing the refining time to one hour and not allowing the use of a furnace. However, he refused to believe that Huang Xiaolong's alchemy skills were better than his!

He possessed the Azure Dragon Divine Fire! Unless Huang Xiaolong's alchemy skills exceeded his by more than one rank, Huang Xiaolong would never beat him!

Listening to Huang Xiaolong and Xiang Mingzhi's personal side bet, Lin Pinghai turned to look at the Ascending Moon Old Man, indirectly passing the final decision to him.

The Ascending Moon Old Man nodded, giving his permission toward Xiang Mingzhi and Huang Xiaolong's bet, adding coldly, "Activate the Royal Pill City's Ancient God Slaughtering Buddha Grand Killing Formation. When the result is determined, whoever dares to interfere with the result, no matter who it is, kill them without mercy!"

Ancient God Slaughtering Buddha Grand Killing Formation!

The surrounding masters' expressions tightened hearing the Ascending Moon Old Man's order.

This Ancient God Slaughtering Buddha Grand Killing Formation was famed as an inexorable killing formation. According to rumors, once activated, even Highgod Realm masters would be helpless when trapped inside. It was also said to be capable of killing early level Highgod Realm masters!

The Azure Dragon Institute Principal, Qin Yi, looked grim. Although the Ascending Moon Old Man did not give any names, it was a direct warning to him. When the result of Huang Xiaolong and Xiang Mingzhi's bet came out, if he, Qin Yi, dared to interfere when Xiang Mingzhi happened to lose, then he shouldn't blame the Alchemist Grandmaster Association for being ruthless!

It was also a warning to other present masters.

Cold lights flickered in Ancestor Mountangoat's eyes as intense energy roiled internally. Despite that, he managed to suppress it.

Lin Pinghai immediately understood his meaning. Receiving the Ascending Moon Old Man's permission, he faced the rest of the participants on the square, "Does anyone have any objections? If not, shall we begin?"

The Vermillion Bird Institute He Feifan and the rest naturally had no objections. Huang Xiaolong and Xiang Mingzhi's side bet was actually advantageous to them. Initially, He Feifan was worried that Huang

Xiaolong and Xiang Mingzhi might be a threat to him, but now, he breathed in relief seeing that these two were going against each other.

He strongly doubted that either Huang Xiaolong or Xiang Mingzhi would be able to successfully refine the Exalted Divinity Pellet in a mere hour's time.

“Good, the competition starts now!” Seeing that no one voiced any objections, Lin Pinghai declared loudly.

All of a sudden, various colors of flame erupted in the square.

“This is the Extreme Yin Radiant Fire?!”

“Primary Yang Saint Fire!”

Loud exclamations resounded in the square.

As Ancestor Mountangoat waved his hands, black flames that emitted a metallic sheen streamed out, it was one of the stronger flames between heaven and earth—Extreme Yin Radiant Fire!

Whereas the flame produced by the Vermillion Bird Institute's He Feifan was a burning red to the point of appearing demonic. It was a kind of flame named Primary Yang Saint Fire and it was no weaker than the Extreme Yin Radiant Fire!

The White Tiger Institute's Wan Zhenxing and the other several old monsters all summoned rarely seen flames.

During the preliminary stage, everyone held back, but now, at the final stage, everyone was going all out.

While the crowd was making a ruckus, Xiang Mingzhi's hands begin to move; an azure flame flew out from his body in the shape of a dragon.

“Azure Dragon Divine Fire!”

Everyone’s gazes fell onto that legendary Azure Dragon Divine Fire. As if noticing the azure dragon, the famous flames of Ancestor Mountangoat, He Feifan, and the other participants were actually suppressed, their brilliance dimmed significantly.

Chapter 687: Xiang Mingzhi’s Successful Refinement!

Ancestor Mountangoat and He Feifan were alarmed. However, no matter how they tried, neither of them was able to restore the Extreme Yin Radiant Fire and Primary Yang Saint Fire’s initial brilliance.

Watching the effect of his Azure Dragon Divine Fire, Xiang Mingzhi revealed a complacent expression. His Azure Dragon Divine Fire was the monarch of flames, not to mention in this square, all fires and flames within ten thousand li radius would be suppressed by his Azure Dragon Divine Fire.

While they were being suppressed, these flames could, at most, exert seventy percent of their efficiency!

Xiang Mingzhi was in no hurry to begin refining after summoning his Azure Dragon Divine Fire, letting it fly around in the air as he shot a provoking look in Huang Xiaolong’s direction, “Huang Xiaolong, bring out that powerful fire of yours, let’s see if your nameless fire is stronger or my Azure Dragon Divine Fire is mightier.”

His words were thick with mockery and disdain.

It was as if Xiang Mingzhi could already see Huang Xiaolong’s fire ending up like Ancestor Mountangoat and the others’ flames upon appearing, suppressed by his Azure Dragon Divine Fire.

Huang Xiaolong’s expression grew colder watching Xiang Mingzhi’s mocking face. Circulating the true immortal essence inside his dantian, true immortal essence fire flew out as his hands moved.

For a second, everyone subconsciously closed their eyes as a piercing light flashed before their eyes.

The true immortal essence fire was fiery white-gold in color, taking the shape of a divine dragon high in the air, standing opposite from the Azure Dragon Divine Fire. To everyone's surprise, Huang Xiaolong's nameless fire was not affected in the slightest in front of the Azure Dragon Divine Fire!

"This is not possible!" Xiang Mingzhi's shrill denial rang in the square.

Standing on the square, Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi was just as astonished. Even the other three divine fires would be affected before the Azure Dragon Divine Fire, yet the fire from Huang Xiaolong's body was not?!

"What fire is that?!" Standing behind Qin Yi, his eldest disciple Ceng Chu exclaimed.

Qin Yi did not answer, and in truth, even with his knowledge, he failed to determine what kind of flame Huang Xiaolong possessed. If he couldn't recognize the kind of fire from Huang Xiaolong despite his knowledge, what did this mean? It meant that this fire did not exist in any of the four galaxies' records.

Huang Xiaolong ignored the surprise and shock around him. With a wave of his hands, the herbs on the ground flew up in a line, taking the shape of ancient divine beasts.

These ancient divine beasts had different forms and numbered exactly at one hundred.

Watching this, Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and the present association Elders revealed astonished expression.

"This is the Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram?!" Chen Ye's voice shook: "There's actually a person who succeeded in practicing this technique!"

Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram!

Some amongst the crowd with sharp ears heard Chen Ye's trembling voice, and those who had heard of the legendary Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram were all astounded.

Legend has it that when one's alchemy refining skills reached an acme, an inconceivable state, they would be able to manipulate the herbs to take the form of various divine beasts and assemble into a divine beast diagram that could aid in alchemy refining!

Still, the legend remained a legend, as there had never been anyone who succeeded! Including the Alchemist Grandmaster Association's grade ten Alchemist Grandmaster.

To be able to control various herbs and form one hundred different divine beasts showed that Huang Xiaolong's knowledge of herbs and elixirs had reached a horrifying degree.

Xiang Mingzhi was greatly surprised when he heard Chen Ye's words. Of course he had heard of the Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram. Never had he imagined that he would be seeing this legendary technique displayed by Huang Xiaolong!

Suddenly, a strong feeling of unease surfaced in the depth of his heart.

Huang Xiaolong's alchemy refining skills were actually this high!

At this time, the hundred herb divine beasts began to move in the air, gathering into a large diagram that shone brightly.

The crowd watched transfixed, holding in their breaths. Those who had been focusing on Xiang Mingzhi couldn't resist turning their eyes toward Huang Xiaolong instead. Even the Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi's attention involuntarily shifted onto Huang Xiaolong.

Each person present wanted to witness how phenomenal this legendary divine beasts diagram was.

Rolling out from his unease, Xiang Mingzhi came to his senses, but there was a menacing gleam in his eyes. He made an effort to focus, pushing away the ruckus around him and the thoughts of Huang Xiaolong. His hands moved, sending the herbs lying on the ground up into the air like a flock of birds taking off.

This was the Manifestation of Hundred Birds technique, one of the ten most renowned alchemy techniques!

Furthermore, looking at his fluid movements, it was clear he had completely mastered this Manifestation of Hundred Birds technique.

Ancestor Mountangoat, He Feifan, Wan Zhenxing, and the remaining participants did the same, removing their gazes away from Huang Xiaolong, and proceeded with their own refinement.

Seeing that his Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram succeeded, Huang Xiaolong steered his true immortal essence fire dragon, diving straight into the center of the diagram. In an instant, the true immortal essence fire dragon curled into a ring. From the center of the divine beasts diagram, the dragon ring spun following a rhythm, round and round.

With every turn of the true immortal essence fire dragon, the divine beasts in the diagram were lit up.

In the beginning, the true immortal essence fire dragon spun at a slow speed, gradually growing faster. After the tenth round, its speed doubled. By the time it reached the thirtieth round, one's sight could only catch a blurry afterimage.

“This is the Transfiguring Hand of the Dragon? Nine Dragons Rising to the Heavens? Or Promise Hand?” Standing among the crowd was a Grand Elder from the White Tiger Institute, trying to guess the technique that Huang Xiaolong was using.

In actual fact, Huang Xiaolong combined all the highest techniques he knew and created his own method, which was why the White Tiger Institute Grand Elder failed to determine the technique that Huang Xiaolong was using.

Time flew, the first half an hour quickly arrived.

Only half an hour remained from the one-hour time limit of Huang Xiaolong and Xiang Mingzhi's competition. As time continued to draw closer to the limit of one hour, everyone grew increasingly nervous.

Although Huang Xiaolong displayed the legendary Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram, most people highly doubted that Huang Xiaolong would be able to complete the refinement of the Exalted Divinity Pellets within one hour.

Twenty minutes passed, only ten minutes remained!

The airflow in the surrounding space seemingly slowed down.

All of a sudden, a resplendent light shot to the sky, and those who had been watching Huang Xiaolong were startled. Looking toward the source of the light, they saw that in the middle of Xiang Mingzhi's Azure Dragon Divine Fire, the liquid herb essences from the refined herbs began to combine. In fact, they started to condense into pills.

At the bottom of the resplendent light, pellets exuding a golden sheen rose from the center of the Azure Dragon Divine Fire.

The crowd was flabbergasted.

Xiang Mingzhi actually succeeded! He refined the Exalted Divinity Pellets within one hour!

No! It was even less than one hour, as there were five minutes left!

Shocked gasps sounded all around the square, filled with surprise and disbelief.

Xiang Mingzhi retrieved the Azure Dragon Divine Fire into his body, blowing out a breath of turbid qi as delight flickered across his eyes. During the refinement just now, he once again entered a state of enlightenment, allowing him to successfully refine the Exalted Divinity Pellet in less than an hour!

He turned hurriedly in Huang Xiaolong's direction and seeing that his hands were still moving, the corner of Xiang Mingzhi's mouth curved up in a mocking sneer. No longer holding back his disdain, Xiang Mingzhi spoke loudly, "Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram? Hehe, so what if you have the Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram? Huang Xiaolong, the winner and loser are obvious! I'll be waiting for your one thousand kowtows and you calling me Ancestor!" At the end, Xiang Mingzhi laughed without restraint.

Chapter 688: Pill Tribulation!

The viewers around also shook their heads, inwardly feeling pity for Huang Xiaolong.

In the beginning, they had thought that, with Huang Xiaolong's abilities, especially after he displayed the Pill Refining Hundred Divine Beast Diagram, his chances of winning the bet were slightly higher than Xiang Mingzhi's.

But now...!

Did Huang Xiaolong still have a chance to turn the tide and snatch a win?

As time drew closer to the one-hour time limit, with merely few minutes remaining, no one believed that Huang Xiaolong would be able to pull a miracle and win the bet. Even the Ascending Moon Old Man's brows were slightly creased as he watched from his seat on the host stage, faint disappointment could almost be detected in his eyes.

He had assumed based on his understanding of Huang Xiaolong that this little disciple of his definitely had full confidence in winning the bet. Only in those circumstances would Huang Xiaolong make such a bet, this was also the reason why the Ascending Moon Old Man permitted his bet with Xiang Mingzhi.

But now it seems like his disciple had miscalculated!

He had underestimated the Azure Dragon Divine Fire!

"Perhaps I should have told him clearly how powerful the Azure Dragon Divine Fire is!" A trace of regret reared its head in the Ascending Moon Old Man's heart for not telling Huang Xiaolong about the might of the Azure Dragon Divine Fire, he was afraid Huang Xiaolong would be overburdened by pressure.

It seems his decision was wrong...

At this time, a High Deacon of the Alchemist Grandmaster Association brought the Exalted Divinity Pellets that Xiang Mingzhi had refined up to the host stage for Lin Pinghai and the association Elders to verify.

A moment later, after the Elders had finished checking the pellets, their mood was heavier than before.

“Xiang Mingzhi, eight Exalted Divinity Pellets, top grade. The refining time is fifty minutes!” Lin Pinghai announced the result to the crowd.

The instant Lin Pinghai’s voice ended, the crowd was in an uproar.

Top grade!

There were four grades of medicinal pellets; low, mid, high, and top. Top quality Exalted Divinity Pellets could be considered the highest grade of sacred grade divine pellets in the galaxy!

Hundred of thousands of years passed, there was yet someone who could refine higher quality sacred grade divine pellet than top grade Exalted Divinity Pellet.

When the Azure Dragon Institute Principal heard Lin Pinghai announce the result, he finally relaxed and a radiant smile bloomed on his face.

“Master! Hahaha, it’s Junior Brother’s victory for sure! Junior Brother’s win! That Hailstone Treasure is ours!” Ceng Chu laughed obnoxiously, unbridled and everyone in the square heard what he said clearly.

Xiang Mingzhi turned to look at Huang Xiaolong, undisguised pride and complacency on his face, “Huang Xiaolong, you heard the verification result, right? Do you still want to continue refining?” His hand extended out across space, wanting to pull the Hailstone Treasure and Xuanji Treasure toward himself.

However, with a casual flick, the Ascending Moon Old Man cut off Xiang Mingzhi’s action.

At the receiving end of the Ascending Moon Old Man's force, Xiang Mingzhi's Qi Sea roiled violently from the backlash. He looked angrily at him, "Ascending Moon Old Man, the Alchemist Grandmaster Association has agreed to the bet conditions earlier. Now, in front of so many masters, are you trying to go back on your word?!"

All around, masters from different forces were frowning, their stares fixed on the Ascending Moon Old Man.

The old man issued a strange chuckle, "Boy, the competition has not ended."

Xiang Mingzhi sneered despite his black face, "Fine, I'll wait till the competition ends, let's see if you can still come up with more excuses." Finished saying that, Xiang Mingzhi threw a mocking gaze at Huang Xiaolong, who was still refining.

The crowd shook their heads. In their eyes, the Ascending Moon Old Man's action was superfluous where in fact the old man just wanted to save some face. After all, anyone could tell that Huang Xiaolong was bound to lose!

At this point, there were less than five minutes to the one-hour time limit.

Just as everyone was shaking their heads, all of a sudden, rumbling sounds came from the sky above. The originally bright clear sky abruptly darkened, as black clouds gathered above them. Silver lightning streaked endlessly among the growing black clouds.

The sudden change in weather stupefied the crowd.

"What's happening?!" Chen Ye stared dumbly at the dark sky above.

The black clouds gathered at an increasing speed, and very soon, they covered the entire square. The lightning swimming among the black clouds grew thicker and more condensed, transforming into lightning flood dragons.

Those lightning flood dragon assembled above Huang Xiaolong, exuding incredible pressure.

In the next second, before anyone could react, the lightning flood dragons rained down on Huang Xiaolong as if they found a point to vent their anger. More accurately, they bombarded the Exalted Divinity Pellets that Huang Xiaolong was refining.

Everyone was dumbstruck watching this. This scene was too inexplicable.

However, on the host stage, the Ascending Moon Old Man jumped to his feet in excitement, even his voice was shaking, "Could it be... the legendary pill tribulation!!"

Hearing the Ascending Moon Old Man's words, Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and all the association Elders looked blankly at Huang Xiaolong.

Pill tribulation?!

According to legend, only a heaven-defying pellet would trigger pill tribulation!

One could barely remember how many tens of thousands of years this legend had been passed down for until today, but no one had ever seen it with their own eyes, raising doubts if it really existed. Even the Ascending Moon Old Man had only read old records about it from the Thousand Worlds Sect's collection.

The present masters, old monsters, and Ancestors were trembling. They too knew some information related to this legendary pill tribulation.

Seeing that the numerous lightning flood dragons were about to land on his Pill Refining Divine Beast Diagram, Huang Xiaolong punched upward at the sky with both fists. Consecutive thunderous booms resounded high in the air.

Under the force of Huang Xiaolong's fists, the lightning flood dragons shattered into tiny drops of lightning rain, assimilating into the divine beasts diagram.

When every drop of lightning rain disappeared into the diagram, the dark clouds above began to disperse, once again revealing a clear blue sky.

From the center of the divine beast diagram, resplendent rays pierced the sky, followed by a lilting sound.

This was the sound of successful pill condensation!

When the pleasing tone ended, the divine beast diagram disappeared. Shiny pellets emitting an alluring fragrance flew out.

In an instant, the fragrance filled the entire square. Every individual in the crowd quivered, feeling refreshed down to their soul. Their gazes changed when they looked at the dozen divine pellets.

Ignoring these people's reactions, Huang Xiaolong collected all the pellets into his hand. Holding twelve Exalted Divinity Pellets in his hand, Huang Xiaolong walked to the host stage, coming to a stop in front of Lin Pinghai.

"Elder Lin, please verify them." Huang Xiaolong spoke calmly.

Only at this moment did Lin Pinghai recover from his daze. With a serious solemn face, he received the twelve Exalted Divinity Pellet on a tray before moving toward the other Elders to verify them together.

In Lin Pinghai and the Elders' sight, inside every single Exalted Divinity Pellet was a lightning flood dragon flickering in and out. Moreover, the amount of spiritual energy inside them was shocking.

Everyone waited with bated breaths for the result.

Xiang Mingzhi's complacent expression had already been replaced with grimness, his victorious smile was nowhere to be seen. The unease from earlier once again rose in his heart, even stronger.

Qin Yi's brows furrowed deeply watching everything.

A short moment later, Lin Pinghai and the Elders were done with the verification. Lin Pinghai took a deep breath as he tried his best to control his excitement, "Huang Xiaolong, twelve Exalted Divinity Pellets, surpassing top grade and reaching the legendary tribulation grade. Moreover, it qualifies as rank one tribulation grade. [1] Time: fifty-minutes!"

Tribulation grade, surpassing top grade pills!

His words were like undulating waves of thunder in the audience's ears, as if tribulation lightning struck the crowd.

Xiang Mingzhi was already bloodlessly pale, barely having the strength to support himself. There was a loud buzzing noise in his brain that wouldn't stop.

Although Huang Xiaolong used eight minutes more than him, their bet was based on the pellet quality to determine victory, and Huang Xiaolong's final result was rank one tribulation grade, then...!

Chapter 689: Give Me Some Face

"No, not possible! They cannot be tribulation grade!" Xiang Mingzhi shouted hysterically, pointing at Lin Pinghai and everyone on the host stage, screaming like a mad person, "It must be you lot siding with Huang Xiaolong, deliberately falsifying things!"

"There had never been anyone able to refine tribulation grade pills! It's impossible for Huang Xiaolong to do that!"

"Not possible! No way in hell could he refine it!!"

Xiang Mingzhi grew increasingly violent and his voice reverberated in the square, causing the crowd to look at him with strange expressions.

On the host stage, Lin Pinghai's patience stretched thin, speaking in a cold tone, "Falsifying things? Huang Xiaolong's refinement attracted pill tribulation lightning, everyone here saw it with their own eyes."

But Xiang Mingzhi retorted loudly, "Pill tribulation? This is only a myth, no one has ever seen how pill tribulation really looks like. Are you saying you can determine that it was pill tribulation based on some old records' description?"

Lin Pinghai was stumped.

Though the 'pill tribulation' that Huang Xiaolong attracted earlier matched the descriptions in old records, it was also true that no one had ever managed to do so. Therefore, determining that the Exalted Divinity Pellets refined by Huang Xiaolong were tribulation grade only on this reason was slightly forceful.

Lin Pinghai turned to look at the Ascending Moon Old Man.

The Ascending Moon Old Man replied with indifference, "Whether or not they are tribulation grade, have a person consume one and we will know. According to old records, consuming tribulation grade pills would cause that person to be bathed in lightning. That is the tribulation lightning rushing out from that person's body, able to cleanse the marrow and replace the tendons. An early-level God Realm consuming a pellet would be equivalent to the effect of a decade's cultivation!"

"This way, I'm sure no one will have further doubts, right?" The Ascending Moon Old Man's cold gaze swept through the crowd around the square.

Naturally, no one had any objection.

The Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi merely raised an eyebrow in silence.

Xiang Mingzhi wanted to argue further but was prevented from doing so with a look from his Master Qin Yi. Thus, Xiang Mingzhi endured.

As no objection was raised, the Ascending Moon Old Man summoned the Alchemist who supervised Huang Xiaolong's Alchemist assessment, Jia Liang, giving one of the tribulation grade Exalted Divinity Pellets to him.

One tribulation grade Exalted Divinity Pellet was more precious than a top divine grade spirit stone. Such a valuable pill could naturally not be given to outsiders.

At that time when Lin Yanhan was making things difficult for Huang Xiaolong, this Jia Liang spoke up for him, therefore, this could be considered a kind of reward for Jia Liang.

With nervous excitement, Jia Liang swallowed the tribulation grade Exalted Divinity Pellet without hesitation. Instantly, a streak of lightning shot out from the surface of his skin. In the blink of an eye, Jia Liang was shrouded by a glaring light as numerous tribulation lightning streaks flew out from his body.

Watching this scene, the Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi and everyone from the Azure Dragon Institute had ugly expressions on their faces.

The scene before their eyes was evidence enough that Huang Xiaolong indeed refined tribulation grade Exalted Divinity Pellets!

Before this, Qin Yi and everyone from the Azure Dragon Institute held a slim hope, but now even that slim ray of hope was shattered to smithereens!

“N-NO! Impossible!! Not true, this cannot be true—!!!” Xiang Mingzhi went hysterical once more, roaring the unwillingness in his heart. “It’s you lot, you are definitely cheating! This is an illusion! A deceitful illusion arranged by you!”

He went through a lot of trouble for the Xuanji Treasure, that was the ancient Xuanji Divinity Faith’s treasure ah, how would he be willing to yield it to the enemy?!

This time, the crowd shook their heads in pity watching Xiang Mingzhi.

On the host stage, the Ascending Moon Old Man exuded a cold aura watching the hysterical Xiang Mingzhi, his tone was piercing cold, “If you dare to roar once more, disturbing the alchemy competition, I will strangle you dead this instant!”

Strangle you dead!

Fury was spewing out from Xiang Mingzhi's gaze, he did not believe that the Ascending Moon Old Man would dare to kill him.

However, when he was just about to open his mouth, the Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi snapped at him: "Enough!"

Xiang Mingzhi stiffened, noticing that his Master Qin Yi was almost glaring at him. Xiang Mingzhi's heart shuddered and he no longer dared to make another sound.

Qin Yi was vexed. This disciple of his had never disappointed him before, but today, all of his face was thrown away because of this disciple. What he was disappointed in was not the fact that Xiang Mingzhi lost to Huang Xiaolong, but his attitude. It was clear as day to everyone that he had lost, yet he was shouting hysterically like an ignorant fool.

What was this? Showing that his Azure Dragon Institute was a sore loser? That they couldn't afford to lose? It was just a mere Xuanji Treasure, losing it didn't matter.

The main reason Qin Yi snapped at Xiang Mingzhi earlier because he knew for sure Ascending Moon Old Man would really kill his disciple! Others might think twice due to Xiang Mingzhi's identity, but not that old monster!

Who was the Ascending Moon Old Man? Even his Master, the previous Azure Dragon Institute Principal, showed fear and ire speaking of him.

Standing where he was, Xiang Mingzhi felt the gazes directed at him. They felt like sharp thorns, as if they were watching a clown, filled with ridicule.

Xiang Mingzhi clenched his fists, his enmity and killing intent toward Huang Xiaolong intensified.

From the beginning until now, Huang Xiaolong had maintained silence, standing there with a detached expression. Keenly sensing the surging hate and killing intent from Xiang Mingzhi, Huang Xiaolong sneered inwardly.

Very soon, a full three hours passed.

Ancestor Mountangoat and the remaining participants stopped what they were doing.

Among one hundred and forty people that reached the final round, other than Huang Xiaolong and Xiang Mingzhi, only Ancestor Mountangoat, He Feifan, Wan Zhenxing, and another old monster Ancestor Myriad Poison succeeded in refining the Exalted Divinity Pellets.

Six people in total!

As for other participants, they either failed or merely reached halfway.

The Exalted Divinity Pellets refined by Ancestor Mountangoat were verified as high grade, better than He Feifan, Wan Zhenxing, Ancestor Myriad Poison, and other old monsters'. He was awarded the third place.

Finally, the result of this term's Alchemist Grandmaster Competition was determined.

No doubt, Huang Xiaolong won the Pill King title at first place, Xiang Mingzhi was second, and third was Ancestor Mountangoat.

Although Xiang Mingzhi won the second place, not a single person from the Azure Dragon Institute felt any spark of joy despite the fact that the second place was also considered a great achievement. Compared to the Xuanji Treasure, the second place was nothing.

The Ascending Moon Old Man personally presented the rank six godhead, three thousand Exalted Divinity Pellets, one sacred grade divine furnace, three thousand divine spirit stones, and three thousand kinds of herbs above one million years old to Huang Xiaolong.

After presenting the reward to Huang Xiaolong, the Ascending Moon Old Man broke into a hearty laughter, "My good disciple, you really did not disappoint your Master!"

Huang Xiaolong didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Then again, with the rank six godhead in his hand, Huang Xiaolong was in a great mood.

Rank six godhead!

On top of that Buddha śarīra that he had refined earlier, it wouldn't take him long to breakthrough to Eighth Order God Realm!

Compared to Huang Xiaolong, when Xiang Mingzhi went to receive his second place reward, he looked like his Master had just died.

A short while later, all rewards were given out.

Just as Xiang Mingzhi was about to return to his Master Qin Yi's side, Huang Xiaolong's cold voice rang in his ears: "Xiang Mingzhi, it seems you've forgotten something."

Xiang Mingzhi's face instantly turned beet-red, knowing exactly what Huang Xiaolong was referring to.

One thousand kowtows!

The crowd that was about to disperse halted their steps.

Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi hesitated for a second before turning to face the Ascending Moon Old Man, "Ascending Moon Old Man, give me some face. This matter, can we let it end here?"

With the Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi's status, him being willing to speak in such a manner was already seen as being humble.

Still, relying on his status, Qin Yi called the Ascending Moon Old Man by his name without the respectful Senior salutation.

The Ascending Moon Old Man sneered, "Give you face? Why should I?"

Chapter 690: Are You Certain?

Prior to this, it was Xiang Mingzhi who challenged Huang Xiaolong before the public, and if Huang Xiaolong lost he had to perform a thousand kowtows. On top of it, he also had to call Xiang Mingzhi Ancestor henceforth!

Xiang Mingzhi had the guts to do that in public surely because the Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi had given the nod of approval.

Who was Huang Xiaolong? He was the Ascending Moon Old Man's personal disciple!

Xiang Mingzhi's action was a blatant act of disrespect toward him. In other words, the Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi did not put the Ascending Moon Old Man in his eyes, not giving him any face!

Since it was so, the Ascending Moon Old Man need not give Qin Yi any face either!

Then again, the Ascending Moon Old Man had never put the status of the Azure Dragon Institute Principal in his eyes.

No one expected the Ascending Moon Old Man to be so direct and unyielding before a crowd, spurning Qin Yi's request without hesitation.

Similar to those present, Qin Yi was finding it hard to believe that the old man had just refused to give him face in front of so many people.

Qin Yi's expression changed, turning cold and sullen, even the temperature in the square plummeted sharply. With Qin Yi's feet as the center, a thick layer of ice spread out on the square.

“Ascending Moon Old Man, are you certain?” Qin Yi asked, a faint sneer on his face. Although he was wary of him, it didn’t mean that he was really afraid of the old man.

Within the four galaxies, there had yet to exist a person that he, Qin Yi, was afraid of!

A good-natured grin spread over the Ascending Moon Old Man’s face, “Boy, your talent is not bad, it seems like you’ve reached the perfection stage in your Three Thousand Azure Dragon Art. However, that year, your Master also reached the perfection stage in his Three Thousand Azure Dragon Art, but he still wasn’t my opponent. Do you really think you’re stronger than your Master at his peak?”

Qin Yi was looking extremely grim, recalling his Master saying that unless his Three Thousand Azure Dragon Art exceed the perfection stage, he wouldn’t be the Ascending Moon Old Man’s opponent. But, that year, his Master did not mention about suffering any injuries from his battle with the Ascending Moon Old Man.

The light of doubt and hesitation flickered in Qin Yi’s eyes.

By this time, all the Azure Dragon Institute masters standing behind Qin Yi had begun to circulate their Qi in silence. Their oppressive momentum enveloped the square, preparing to attack at any moment.

The high tension was suddenly broken by Xiang Mingzhi’s voice. “Master, since the bet was proposed by this disciple, disciple is willing to fulfill it as agreed.” Finished saying that, Xiang Mingzhi walked toward Huang Xiaolong. Before many shock-widened eyes, Xiang Mingzhi bent his knees, kneeling down and starting the first kowtow.

The Azure Dragon Institute Principal Qin Yi’s fists were tightly clenched, releasing a terrifying aura. In the end, he made no further action.

Though Qin Yi prided himself in the fact that his strength had already surpassed the previous Azure Dragon Institute Principal, despite being on the top of the God Ranking List, the Ascending Moon Old Man was already the first ranked on the God Ranking List sixty thousand years ago. So many years had passed, what was the Ascending Moon Old Man’s current strength today?

Not forgetting that this was Royal Pill City, not his Azure Dragon Institute!

Perhaps due to the chilling aura coming from the Azure Dragon Institute Principal, no one dared to ridicule or laugh at Xiang Mingzhi.

With every knock, Xiang Mingzhi called out the word 'Ancestor.' In the enormous square with myriad of prominent forces and characters around, Xiang Mingzhi's lone voice echoed.

There was a tiny frown on Huang Xiaolong's forehead. Xiang Mingzhi's abrupt change in attitude, being able to endure this humiliation, strayed from his assumptions.

For the members of the Azure Dragon Institute, time passed torturously slow.

Xiang Mingzhi returned to Qin Yi's side after he was done with the one thousand kowtows with an exceedingly calm expression.

"We're leaving!" Qin Yi coldly stated, leading the group of Azure Institute masters away.

Before Xiang Mingzhi turned to leave, despite his calm face, the look in his eyes as they swept over Huang Xiaolong contained enmity and viciousness so strong that any other person would have buckled at their knees.

Moments later, the Azure Dragon Institute group disappeared from their sight. Those who were waiting to watch a good show dispersed with stirrings of regret.

Initially, everyone had assumed that one such as the Azure Dragon Institute Principal would not endure watching his personal disciple give Huang Xiaolong a thousand kowtows in apology before the public, but it actually happened! The Azure Dragon Institute Principal actually endured it!

Even more unexpected was that Xiang Mingzhi voluntarily admitted that he lost and kowtowed!

At the same time the spectators dispersed in various directions, a battle of spit ensued, discussing the highlights of the Alchemist Grandmaster Competition.

In this term's Alchemist Grandmaster Competition, Huang Xiaolong actually produced rank one tribulation grade Exalted Divinity Pellets!

Tribulation grade!

Tribulation grade divine pellets had never appeared in the four galaxies before!

Huang Xiaolong was truly deserving of this term's Pill King title!

As things ended, Huang Xiaolong, the Ascending Moon Old Man, Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and the Elders of Alchemist Grandmaster Association made their way to the association headquarters.

According to the Alchemist Grandmaster Association's tradition, every new Pill King was to pay homage to the previous Pill Kings' statues. Of course, after today, a statue of Huang Xiaolong would be added into the line.

After the ceremony was done, the Ascending Moon Old Man returned to his usual self, beaming at Huang Xiaolong, "Kid, you won the first place in the competition, as well as the Xuanji Treasure. You're now a genuine rich man, we must drink our hearts' fill to celebrate! Come, to the Royal Pill House!" The old man looked over his shoulder at Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and the rest, "Let's go, all of you come as well. This kid's buying!"

Huang Xiaolong was genuinely speechless this time. Judging from the situation, it seems like he wouldn't be able to run from his duties as the host

Hence, Huang Xiaolong, Shi Xiaofei, the Ascending Moon Old Man, Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and a large group of Alchemist Grandmaster Association Elders headed to the Royal Pill House in a good mood.

When the owner of the Royal Pill House, Deng Caizhi, received news that Huang Xiaolong and the Ascending Moon Old Man were coming over, he was already respectfully waiting at the entrance to welcome them. He even went a step further and cleared the whole premise, closing their place for a day especially for Huang Xiaolong's group.

The long-established rule was 'one person, one jug of Royal Pill Wine', but Deng Caizhi sent more than a hundred jugs to Huang Xiaolong's group. According to Deng Caizhi, all of them were from his private collection, therefore no rule was broken.

Whether these jugs of wine were really his own personal collection, everyone knew in their hearts, but no one pointed it out bluntly.

Under the influence of good mood and excellent wine, even Shi Xiaofei drank more than she usually did, her delicate face was red as an apple, adding a layer of allure to her beauty,

As the drinking progressed, Chen Ye, Lin Pinghai, and many more continuously raised their cups for a toast with Huang Xiaolong, consecutive calls of 'Senior Brother Huang' rang out, making Huang Xiaolong want to bolt from them. Still, Huang Xiaolong was powerless when these people insisted on calling him Senior Brother Huang.

Whereas Chen Ye and Lin Pinghai were willing to call Huang Xiaolong 'Senior Brother Huang' not entirely because of the Ascending Moon Old Man, but also because both of them were convinced by Huang Xiaolong's alchemy skills.

To them, Huang Xiaolong's skills had already surpassed the Master, saying he was the first alchemist in the four galaxies was no exaggeration. They were people infatuated with alchemy. For them, being able to say that Huang Xiaolong was their Senior Brother was also a great honor.

By the time this group of people made their way out from the Royal Pill House, it was a day and night later.

As they were leaving, those hundred jugs of wine were all bottomed out.

Back in Chen Ye's residence, inside the courtyard arranged for him, Huang Xiaolong took out the rank six godhead with nervous excitement.

Rank six godhead!

Like the previous rank five godhead, this rank six godhead was also from a late-First Order Highgod Realm master, but the vast energy, godforce, and God's Law contained inside this rank six godhead exceeded the previous one by far.

On the same day itself, Huang Xiaolong sat cross-legged within the Xumi Temple and began refining the rank six godhead.

Almost instantaneously, the godforce and God's Law inside the godhead were greedily devoured by the Treasure Dragon Protective Shield Art diagram inside him, becoming a part of Huang Xiaolong.

While he was refining the rank six godhead, the Buddha śarīra was continuously releasing pure Buddhism energy and blood essence into his body as well.