

Conqueror 931

Chapter 931: Kowtow In Apology

The devil clan disciples around Mo Su broke out in mocking laughter, sounding especially harsh to the ears.

The gazes of the cultivators waiting outside the square perimeter inevitably fell on Mo Su and Huang Xiaolong.

“A failed refinement? What is happening over there? Could it be that Huang Xiaolong has failed to refine the Divine Essence Pellet?”

“Who knows, maybe his assessment a few months back is fake, just people trying to exaggerate things. I’ve already said early on, Huang Xiaolong might have incredible talent for cultivation, but it is impossible for him to also have that kind of flair for alchemy!”

In an instant, everyone in the crowd seemed to be talking about it.

The overseer, Elder Wang Zhe, already received instructions from Sun Yi beforehand, understanding what Mo Su meant by Huang Xiaolong’s pill concocting having failed.

Wang Zhe announced: “Huang Xiaolong, refinement unsuccessful, pill forming failed. Time used: thirty-two minutes and fifty seconds.”

In Wang Zhe’s eyes, since the ingredients were incorrect, no matter how high Huang Xiaolong’s alchemy refining skills were, his pill would never form successfully, which was why Wang Zhe didn’t even bother to send any disciples to check Huang Xiaolong’s chamber.

At Wang Zhe’s announcement, the crowd gathered around the square was in an uproar, those in doubt earlier made noises of realization.

“Huang Xiaolong really failed!”

“He can’t even refine something simple like the Divine Essence pellet, looks like the stories going around about his alchemist assessment are really fake!”

As the crowd at the edge of the square was clamoring, Mo Su laughed even louder as he looked at Huang Xiaolong, “Thirty-two minutes and fifty seconds; Huang Xiaolong, you’ve already broken the Grand Competition’s record. For billions of years, there has to appear yet any participant who failed in their pill concoction so fast.”

Huang Xiaolong completely ignored Mo Su. His sharp gaze was directed at Elder Wang Zhe instead, speaking with an aloof tone, “You’re called Wang Zhe, right? You didn’t even check my chamber, yet you so easily announced the result, perhaps you already knew the result beforehand? Or can you foretell the future?”

Wang Zhe stiffened, his expression darkened. In terms of status, Huang Xiaolong was merely one of the many average alchemists within the union, how dare he address him by name?

At Huang Xiaolong’s words, the crowd quieted slightly, seemingly thinking about what he had just said.

Wang Zhe stared coldly at Huang Xiaolong, “You only managed to pass your alchemist assessment by luck on that day. Huang Xiaolong, are you perhaps trying to tell me that your pill concoction did not fail and, like young master Mo Su here, you successfully refined a top grade Divine Essence Pellet?”

His derisive tone did not escape the notice of the present people.

Huang Xiaolong remained aloof, “Just check and you’ll know the answer.”

Wang Zhe looked at the closest union disciple, ordering, “Go, check Huang Xiaolong’s refining chamber and bring out the evidence of his failure so everyone can see.”

The union disciple complied respectfully and hurried away.

Everyone waited. About fifteen minutes later, that disciple returned. Wearing an ugly expression on his face, he extended his hand, in which was held a bottle. If one looked clearly, they would be able to see that his hand was shaking.

Noticing this, Wang Zhe's brows couldn't help but crease into furrows, did Huang Xiaolong really succeed in refining the Divine Essence Pellet?

"...E-Elder Wang, these are the Divine Essence Pellets found in Huang Xiaolong's chamber." That disciple stood in front of Wang Zhe, even his tongue seemed to be quivering as he spoke.

Divine Essence Pellet!

A stunned Wang Zhe quickly recovered, "Is it low grade pellets?" If the ingredients were wrong, an alchemist with extraordinary skills could turn them into low grade pellets, albeit there would only be a slim chance. Of course, low grade pellets were also considered failures.

The union disciple stammered: "N-no."

Wang Zhe was taken aback. 'No?' He took the bottle from the disciple's hand. Then, before Mo Su and everyone's baffled gazes, Wang Zhe released the bottle's restriction. Instantly, thumb-sized pills of jade green color appeared one after another, resembling morning dew on tender leaves.

Medicinal fragrance permeated the air, reaching the edge of the square. Even those at the back of the large crowd could smell the fragrance coming from the pills.

"These are?!"

"Tribulation grade pellets!"

"Heavens, they are actually tribulation grade pellets!"

Exclamations sounded from various corners of the crowd, a wave of surprise and shock filled the air. Disbelief was obvious in everyone's expressions.

This was the tribulation grade they had only heard of ah! Every single Divine Essence Pellet exuded a faint tribulation lightning aura.

"Impossible! Impossible!" Mo Su shouted the same words twice, then pointed at Huang Xiaolong, "You cheated! These Divine Essence Pellets weren't refined by you!" The certainty in Mo Su's tone sounded as if he was the overseeing Elder from the Alchemist Grandmaster Union.

"That's right, you cheated! These tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets were definitely not refined by you!" Wang Zhe regained his wits, biting hard on his statement, almost shrieking as he pointed an angry finger at Huang Xiaolong, "Some big guts you've got, how dare you cheat in the competition! I'm revoking your participation qualification this instant, and you are forever forbidden from participating in the Alchemist Grandmaster Grand Competition!"

The ingredients were wrong, how could Huang Xiaolong have refined any tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets?!

'This is absolutely impossible!'

Wang Zhe was adamant that Huang Xiaolong cheated, blurting these words by reflex.

The corner of Huang Xiaolong's lips faintly curved at a derisive degree, "Cheated? Where's the evidence? Wang Zhe, as a Union Elder, don't tell me you can't even determine that these tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets were refined just now."

Wang Zhe flinched.

With his eyesight, of course he could see that the pills were just refined.

"Whether he cheated or not, just look at the chamber's recording and see. We'll know what is what." Mo Su sullenly stated.

“That’s right, Elder. We can check the chamber’s recording.” The union disciple quickly said.

Under Wang Zhe’s agreement, a short while later, the union disciple returned with the video recording array from Huang Xiaolong’s chamber. Channeling his godforce into the formation, it replayed the process of Huang Xiaolong’s refining process.”

Watching Huang Xiaolong easily manipulate the herbs with his alchemy refining skills until he attracted pill tribulation lightning, producing tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets. There was no sign of cheating that could be detected. Wang Zhe’s face grew increasingly uglier as he watched on.

Were the ingredients inside Huang Xiaolong’s chamber not replaced?

Mo Su’s expression was just as ugly.

Huang Xiaolong sneered, “Wang Zhe, do I pass the preliminary round now?”

Wang Zhe struggled internally for a while, then he took a deep breath, revising his announcement, “Huang Xiaolong, refinement successful, rank one tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets; time used: thirty-two minutes and fifty seconds!”

Huang Xiaolong nudged, “And?”

Wang Zhe was confused: “And? There’s more?” He didn’t understand what Huang Xiaolong was implying.

Huang Xiaolong spoke coldly, “Earlier, you announced that I failed without even checking my refining chamber, and after you did, you were adamant that I cheated, wanting to rescind my qualification as well as forbid me from ever participating in the grand competition! Do you really think this matter is so easily solved just by you announcing that my refinement was successful and that I passed? I want you on your knees, kowtow to me as an apology!”

“What?!” Wang Zhe’s face was red with outrage.

Before Wang Zhe could say another word, the spectating crowd was shouting: “Yes, kowtow in apology!”

“Kowtow in apology to Huang Xiaolong!”

The voices grew louder, reverberating like thunder in the square.

Wang Zhe’s face looked darker than muddy water, his loathful gaze fixed on Huang Xiaolong, “This matter ends here. If you continue to make trouble, I can still rescind your participation qualification.”

Chapter 932: Mo Su Wounded

Make trouble? Hearing Wang Zhe accusing him of making trouble pushed Huang Xiaolong’s patience over the edge. A sharp gleamed flitted across his eyes.

Noticing this, Wang Zhe mocked, “What? Want to fight?”

Wang Zhe was aware that Huang Xiaolong was no weakling, however, he was a long standing Elder of the Alchemist Grandmaster Union. Even though his alchemy refining skills were lackluster compared to Huang Xiaolong’s, his own cultivation wasn’t bad.

He was a peak late-Seventh Order Highgod Realm master, which was why he believed that Huang Xiaolong was no match for him in terms of strength.

Huang Xiaolong’s tone turned icy, “You will regret this very soon.” He then turned and left. In a brief moment before Huang Xiaolong left the square, he sent an unnoticeable line of frigid force into Wang Zhe’s body.

When he was passing by Mo Su, Huang Xiaolong gave him a disdainful glance before looking away.

Mo Su was already fuming after knowing that Huang Xiaolong actually refined those tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets. Adding on that disdainful glance, the anger he had been reigning in exploded.

“Huang Xiaolong, stop right there for this Devil Son!” Mo Su bellowed, his fist already striking out at Huang Xiaolong’s back.

“Ten Thousand Ghosts Soul-locking Fist!”

In the next moment, devil qi surged high like a tsunami, enveloping heaven and earth in darkness.

Nefarious howling ghost heads appeared, locking onto Huang Xiaolong.

Those ghost heads condensed from Mo Su’s devil qi formed a giant fist with devil symbols swirling around it that covered Huang Xiaolong.

Mo Su was already a peak late-Eighth Order Highgod Realm after he exited the Hellion Tower, and the Ten Thousand Ghosts Soul-locking Fist was one of the ancient devil clan’s supreme techniques, the momentum of this combination made even the masters watching from the edge of the square palpitate.

Just as everyone watching thought that Huang Xiaolong would be vomiting blood after being struck by Mo Su’s sudden attack, Huang Xiaolong spun around, striking out a palm attack of his own in counter.

The Earthen Buddha Palm!

There were no other techniques such as the Godly Xumi Art incorporated into Huang Xiaolong’s attack. It was a straightforward Earthen Buddha Palm that was used to counter Mo Su’s attack.

In a split second, the palm and fist collided. Tremors passed under the crowd’s feet and their ears buzzed from the booming collision. The seemingly powerful Ten Thousand Ghosts Soul-locking Fist exploded in the air; all ten thousand ghost heads scattered like dust and Mo Su himself tumbled in the air like a broken kite, crashing heavily. It did not stop there though. His body rolled until the edge of the square, miserably lying there.

Blood was flowing from Mo Su’s mouth like it wasn’t worth a penny.

The crowd was stupefied, sucking in a breath of cold air as their senses returned.

Wang Zhe felt his heartstrings twitch, he hadn't expected Mo Su to end up so embarrassing. After all, he was a peak late-Eighth Order Highgod Realm master, not only had his sneak attack failed, he was even sent flying by Huang Xiaolong!

Cold sweat trickled down Wang Zhe's back remembering that he had just taunted Huang Xiaolong moments ago. Had Huang Xiaolong really acted just now...!

Goosebumps ran down Wang Zhe's neck imagining the worst possibility.

Huang Xiaolong spared no glance at the figure that had rolled to the edge of the square. He turned and left with astonished gazes following him.

The devil clan masters were enraged, but just as they wanted to encircle Huang Xiaolong, their impulsive actions were stopped by Elder Mo Zhenru.

Mo Zhenru watched as Huang Xiaolong left the square, making no move to stop him.

Not long after he left the square, another light flickered and a figure stepped out from one of the isolated chambers, Wangu Ye. When he stepped out from his chamber, the first thing he saw was Mo Su lying in a puddle of his own blood, something that genuinely shocked him.

In a few short moments, he inwardly summarized what happened to Mo Su from the noisy crowd, which caused his shock to multiply.

Huang Xiaolong did this!

A peak late-Eighth Order Highgod Realm Mo Su was sent flying by Huang Xiaolong with a single palm strike!

This...!

'This matter must be reported to the Patriarch at the earliest!' Wangu Ye noted, still feeling shocked in his heart.

Although their Wangu Clan had a friendly stance towards their association with Huang Xiaolong, it wasn't to the point of publicly standing on Huang Xiaolong's side in the matter against the Fortune Gate. But now, in Wangu Ye's eyes, it seemed their clan would need to reevaluate their stance towards Huang Xiaolong.

Some time later, Mo Su regained consciousness after Mo Zhenru treated his injuries.

At this time, another light flickered from the direction of the refining chambers and a young woman walked out. She was dressed entirely in white, including the thin veil that covered her face yet was unable to conceal her beauty.

Seeing this young woman, one of the devil clan disciples whispered into Mo Su's ears: "Devil Son, that's the Fortune Gate's Li Lu."

Li Lu!

Hearing this, Mo Su quickly turned to look, desire shining in the depth of his eyes. But that dissipated just as quickly. Mo Su barked an order to the devil clan disciples around him: "We're leaving!"

If it was any other time, Mo Su would have approach Li Lu and attempted to strike a conversation, but right now, he was wounded by Huang Xiaolong, blood stains all over his robe. How embarrassing he appeared right now!

He then turned and left without another word. Inwardly, his killing intent towards Huang Xiaolong soared higher and higher.

On another side, Huang Xiaolong was back in the Sun Moon Residence.

In his yard, Huang Xiaolong circulated his four divine fires, absorbing the shimmering gray energy until three days later when the preliminary round would end and he would return to the square for the next round.

In the next round, the Alchemist Grandmaster Union's twelve Eminent Elders would be present.

Even if Sun Yi and Jiang Lei's Master, Jiang Bi, wanted to make trouble for him, they couldn't use underhanded tricks. Hence, Huang Xiaolong wasn't worried about it.

While he was cultivating in his Sun Moon Residence, within one of the many courtyards of the Alchemist Grandmaster Union, Sun Yi had been waiting for news when he saw Wang Zhe walking in. Not waiting for Wang Zhe to speak, Sun Yi already asked, "Is the result of Huang Xiaolong's preliminary round out?"

Sun Yi had instructed Wang Zhe to report to him once Huang Xiaolong's result was known.

Yet Wang Zhe's head was so low that his forehead was about to stick to his chest. He dared not look at Sun Yi. "Huang Xiaolong, he, he passed the preliminary round."

"What did you say?" Sun Yi, as well as Liu Hao standing behind him, thought they had misheard Wang Zhe.

Wang Zhe cautiously took half a step forward, offering a bottle containing one of the tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets that Huang Xiaolong had refined, explaining, "This is one of the Divine Essence Pellets refined by him using thirty-two minutes and fifty seconds."

Sun Yi grabbed the bottle from Wang Zhe's hands and wiped away the restriction. A round Divine Essence Pellet floated into the air, emitting a refreshing herb fragrance.

Tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellet!

Both Sun Yi and Liu Hao looked as flabbergasted as they felt, brimming with disbelief.

“This is the refining chamber’s recording.” Wang Zhe then handed over a monitoring bead obtained from the formation to Sun Yi, who imbued godforce into it.

Half an hour later, he finished watching the entire process of Huang Xiaolong refining Divine Essence Pellet, looking extremely solemn by the end.

“Eminent Elder Sun, I, I still need to oversee the remaining participants. Y-you see, may I...?” Wang Zhe cautiously sought permission.

Sun Yi waved his hand, “Alright, your business is done here. Return to your duty.”

Wang Zhe was inwardly relieved, but on the surface, he respectfully bowed to Sun Yi and retreated. However, before leaving, as an afterthought, Wang Zhe decided to report to Sun Yi how Huang Xiaolong sent Mo Su flying with a single strike.

Listening to Wang Zhe’s report, Sun Yi and Liu Hai couldn’t hide the astonishment from their faces. Until Wang Zhe’s figure disappeared, the master and disciple duo were still standing in the same spot, barely moving an inch.

A long, long time later, Sun Yi mumbled under his breath, “Even the Eighth Order Highgod Realm Mo Su wasn’t his match? It appears that we must absolutely not allow Huang Xiaolong to leave the Divine Dan City no matter what!”

As Sun Yi was saying this, a whelming murderous aura froze the air in his immediate proximity.

The news of Huang Xiaolong successfully refining tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets during the preliminary round spread throughout the Divine Dan City like wildfire. Every corner of the city was filled with exclamations of awe, shock, and astonishment. Naturally, the incident of Mo Su sneaking an attack on Huang Xiaolong but was sent flying with single a palm strike also spread through the city at rapid speed.

In the blink of an eye, two days came and went.

Huang Xiaolong stepped out from his manor. Tomorrow was the day of the semi-final round, but for unknown reasons, his heart seemed unable to calm down. In fact, it was a downright feeling of unease as if something bad was about to happen.

Unable to calm his heart to cultivate, Huang Xiaolong decided to take a stroll outside, inquiring about the latest news around the Divine Dan City while replenishing some Celestial Blossom Wine.

Chapter 933: Huang Xiaolong Injured

Stepping out from the Sun Moon Residence, Huang Xiaolong strolled idly around, but the feeling of unease in his heart grew stronger instead. At last, his feet brought him to the same restaurant he bought the Celestial Blossom Wine from.

Huang Xiaolong sat at the same table as previously, next to the window. His patronage was naturally welcomed with enthusiasm by the same waiter who served Huang Xiaolong last time.

Similarly, Huang Xiaolong ordered some dishes and two jugs of Celestial Blossom Wine, giving the waiter a top divine grade spirit stone. Similarly, the change was given to the waiter as a tip.

The waiter was over the moon, giving Huang Xiaolong a kowtow in thanks.

After the waiter left, Huang Xiaolong drank his wine without really tasting it while listening to the conversations around him, but most of them revolved around him refining tribulation grade Divine Essence Pellets during the competition's preliminary round and injuring Mo Su.

Listening to the exaggerated descriptions all around, he wryly shook his head.

"Did you hear, yesterday, six masters from the Inert Sword Faction were murdered!"

"It isn't only the Inert Sword Faction, several masters from the Eternal Galaxy's Mu Clan and Zhou Clan have also been killed. From what I've heard, a Wangu Clan Elder died miserably in the vicinity of the Virtuous Legend Square. All of those people were Highgod Realm masters! The scary thing is, after they died, their heads were cut off, leaving only incomplete bodies behind!"

At this point, Huang Xiaolong's ears caught the conversation of a few cultivators that were huddled at a corner table.

Even a Wangu Clan had been killed! Huang Xiaolong was shocked by this news.

Who was it, so daring as to provoke the Wangu Clan? It didn't escape Huang Xiaolong's notice that the victims were all masters belonging to various galaxies' super forces and prominent sects.

"There is a black handprint on those people's body, some say it's the sinister Ghost Refining Palm!"

"Really? The Ghost Refining Palm?! The Ghost Refining Sect's supreme technique! Could it be a disciple from the Ghost Refining World that has come out from the Path to Hell?!"

"Hopefully, it is not. Every time one of those Ghost Refining Sect disciples emerges, a storm of carnage follows. In the last few days, more than three hundred Highgod Realm masters have been killed. At this rate, won't all the Highgod Realm masters inside the Divine Dan City be slaughtered until there are none left?"

"Is the Alchemist Grandmaster Union keeping their hands off this matter?"

"Who said they are keeping their hands off? In the last two days, the Alchemist Grandmaster Union had ordered their enforcer disciples to lock down various points of the city and were given the authority to check all suspicious Highgod Realm masters! But if the killer is truly a Ghost Refining Sect disciple, do you think the union's enforcer disciples are capable of restraining him? Even if the union's twelve Eminent Elders joined hands, they still may not be able to capture this Ghost Refining Sect disciple!"

Listening to these cultivators' conversation, Huang Xiaolong was stunned for a minute.

'The Path to Hell's Ghost Refining Sect?' He had heard the Ascending Moon Old Man mention this Ghost Refining Sect, claiming that even the Wangu Clan, Fortune Gate, the Ancient Devil Clan, Zhou Clan, the Giant Tribe, the Dark Elf Tribe, as well as other super forces walked on eggshells around this Ghost Refining Sect.

He didn't expect a Ghost Refining Sect disciple to have emerged from the Path to Hell at this point of time! If he remembered correctly, those from the Ghost Refining Sect supposedly appeared every hundred thousand years? Counting the time since their last appearance, barely half of that had passed.

It was more than three hours later when Huang Xiaolong left the restaurant and headed back to the Sun Moon Residence.

Just like last time, before leaving, Huang Xiaolong bought more than a hundred jugs of Celestial Blossom Wine.

Back in the Sun Moon Residence, he didn't enter cultivation as he would normally do, but sat in the yard, thinking about what he had heard about the Ghost Refining Sect.

Without a doubt, this sect was the strongest force within the Path to Hell, not just one of the strongest. But where exactly on the Path to Hell the Ghost Refining Sect was located was something that no outsider knew.

Who was the founder this Ghost Refining Sect or how long it had been founded for, this kind of questions about the sect were shrouded in a big mystery. Even more baffling to the people was why every time a Ghost Refining Sect disciple appeared in the outside world, they deliberately hunted Highgod Realm masters.

Was it to cultivate a certain high level ghostly technique? Huang Xiaolong's eyes gleamed.

Time passed, night pulled a blanket of darkness over the sky.

Huang Xiaolong, who had been drinking alone in the yard, abruptly leaped far away from where he just sat. Almost in the same instant he seemed to be avoiding something, the whole Sun Moon Residence started to shake.

The yard Huang Xiaolong had been sitting in crumbled into rubble and part of the land below sunk in.

Out of nowhere, a large black handprint appeared on the floor, ghost qi surging violently from it.

Watching this, Huang Xiaolong's eyes narrowed dignifiedly, his attention fixed on the black-robed young man standing opposite him.

A thin curtain of devil qi veiled this black-robed young man, obscuring his features. The only part that was visible were his faintly glowing green eyes.

"A Ghost Refining Sect disciple." Huang Xiaolong spoke in an unhurried tone, breaking the silence

The young man cackled with glee, although it sounded hoarse and harsh, resembling an owl in Huang Xiaolong's ears. However, there was a kind of medicinal pellet that could alter a person's voice within a certain time period after consuming it, thus, this person's voice may not be his real voice.

"The Highgod Advancement Tournament champion Huang Xiaolong. Well, it looks like you are stronger than what I estimated, even the average early Tenth Order Highgod Realm master wouldn't be able to dodge my ambush." The Ghost Refining Sect young man added as an afterthought, "Your strength is higher than what it's rumored to be."

Huang Xiaolong was clearly frowning.

"But..." As the Ghost Refining Sect young man was saying this, a hint of bloodlust filled his eyes, smacking his lips, "This only makes killing you more meaningful. What rank is the godhead you condensed? High emperor rank or top emperor rank? I'm lacking a top emperor rank godhead."

Huang Xiaolong snickered in response, "Many galaxies' cultivators say that you lot from the Ghost Refining Sect are all peerless talents, possessing unfathomable strength. I too am very interested in what kind of godhead you've condensed."

The Ghost Refining Sect young man let out a sonorous laugh, "Then I shall satisfy your curiosity." His palm was already striking out at Huang Xiaolong before his last word sounded.

'So fast!' The thought flashed in Huang Xiaolong's mind. With his current strength, he merely captured a blurred image.

Huang Xiaolong did not hesitate, immediately displayed his martial spirit innate ability, Space Concealment, vanishing from the spot.

He had just concealed himself when the Ghost Refining Sect young man's eyes shone with a blinding green light, striking out another palm towards the concealed space where Huang Xiaolong was hiding in without a lapse in his actions.

Huang Xiaolong was alarmed, his vigilance peaked. All three of his supreme godhead rotated madly as he struck out an Earthen Buddha Palm.

Rumble~!

The impact from their palms torn open a large space rift.

The pavement cracked and exploded, even the Sun Moon Residence's courtyards that were protected by formations became ruins.

Huang Xiaolong fell out from his concealed space, tumbling in the air for several hundred li before he managed to shake off the force of the impact.

'I'm injured!' Many years had passed since Huang Xiaolong was actually injured.

Knowing how tough his current True Dragon Divine Physique was, there weren't many things that could pierce through his body's defenses in this lower realm. Never had imagined that he would actually be injured by this Ghost Refining Sect cultivator. Moreover, he could feel a strange and powerful corrosive force inside his body, trying to devour his blood essence.

Although Huang Xiaolong couldn't determine the exact cultivation of this Ghost Refining Sect, he still estimated his strength to be around late-Tenth Order Highgod Realm.

"Eh, still alive?!" It was evident that the young man was shocked. He had confidently assumed that Huang Xiaolong would die without doubt from the earlier attack, yet he only vomited some blood.

After brief seconds of shock, the black-robed young man regained his composure, issuing a soft laugh. Following that, his body suddenly expanded to twice its size, attacking Huang Xiaolong once more.

The black-robed young man's palm force ripped the fabric of space. The starlight disappeared as ghost qi devoured everything in sight, swallowing the world into the abyss of hell.

This attack was four to five times more powerful than his last attack.

Chapter 934: A Five-Year Covenan

The mansions neighboring Huang Xiaolong's Sun Moon Residence were easily lifted into the air by the Ghost Refining Sect young man's palm force. Those mansions had their own defensive formations, but against the young man's palm force that was red like blood, their effects were insignificant.

The residents inside the buildings had no time to escape at all. Caught under the terrifying palm force, they died, exploding into scattered blood mist in the air. Their blood essence and godforce were all sucked away by the giant palm.

After drinking those cultivators' blood essence and godforce, the blood-red palm actually grew bigger again.

At this point, Huang Xiaolong no longer hesitated. His Buddhism godforce roared, expelling the corrosive force out of his body. Simultaneously, his body swayed, transforming into a primordial divine dragon.

A blue primordial divine dragon seemingly ten thousand zhang long suddenly appeared in the air above the Divine Dan City, letting out an earth-shaking roar.

Huang Xiaolong's dragon claw slammed down as hard as possible.

The Eleventh move, Dragon Astounding the Fiendgod! Godforce from his Holy Dragon Supreme Godhead burst forth.

Waves of dragon qi formed a giant divine dragon, flying straight at the ghost palm.

Another thunderous boom reverberated in the air from the collision.

Destructive shockwaves swept outward in all directions, destroying everything in their path.

The impact also sent Huang Xiaolong, in his primordial divine dragon form, spinning back another several hundred li. At a closer look, blood was seeping out from underneath his dragon scales, flowing down his claws to the ground below. There were more scales shattered than those intact.

On the other side, the Ghost Refining Sect young man also tumbled back, but merely a dozen meters or so. The ghost qi enshrouding him roiled violently as he regained his balance.

“Primordial Divine Dragon Clan!” The Ghost Refining Sect young man exclaimed. Seeing Huang Xiaolong’s primordial blue divine dragon body, he was dumbfounded. Since when had a blue dragon existed in the universe?!

Just when the Ghost Refining Sect young man wanted to attack again, sounds of whistling wind came from several different directions.

Obviously, his fight with Huang Xiaolong had created too much disturbance, alerting other masters within the Divine Dan City. Quite a few of them exuded powerful auras.

Sensing this, the Ghost Refining Sect young man decisively gave up on the idea of attacking Huang Xiaolong again, but not before flashing him a sinister grin, “Huang Xiaolong, you really did give me a big surprise. Blue divine dragon? Interesting! Five years later is the time when I will succeed the position of Ghost Refining Sect Chief, I wonder if you dare to step on the Path to Hell for a battle with me.”

Hearing this, Huang Xiaolong was slightly caught off guard.

This young man was actually the successor to the Ghost Refining Sect Chief’s position?!

“Oh right, I forgot to tell you. When a new Chief is taking up the position in our Ghost Refining Sect, they would kill a group of Highgod Realm masters during the ceremony as an offering to the Ghost God, and I am no exception. After coming out this time, I also captured a bunch of Highgod Realm masters, one of them seems to be called Ascending Moon Old Man. He is your Master, yes?” The Ghost Refining Sect young man chuckled again.

Huang Xiaolong’s face completely sank. His Master actually fell into the hands of this young man?

Having said what he wanted, the Ghost Refining Sect young man vanished from sight in a flicker.

In this short time, the masters rushing towards them further narrowed the distance.

In order to save himself from further trouble, Huang Xiaolong also vanished from the spot, deciding to leave first.

A few breaths after he left, the first of the masters arrived above the ruins of the Sun Moon Residence. This person was Sun Yi.

Surveying the appalling scene of damage below him, Sun Yi’s face looked extremely grim, and beneath it was ill-disguised trepidation. From the extent of damage he was seeing right now, the people who battled here were more likely than not a little bit stronger than him.

Sun Yi was still looking around when two figures arrived at the sound of whistling wind.

These two were none other than the devil clan Grand Elder Mo Zhenru and the Devil Son, Mo Su. Looking at the scene below, their faces weren’t that much better than Sun Yi’s.

“Huang Xiaolong’s Sun Moon Residence was around this area?” Mo Su suddenly spoke.

There was astonishment in his eyes, “Could one of the parties battling just now be Huang Xiaolong?”

Mo Zhenru shook his head, disagreed, "Judging from the remnant destructive energy here, it cannot be Huang Xiaolong. He doesn't have such strength, merely one of the fishes in the same pond." Mo Zhenru took another glance at the surrounding, "It's just... did he die or has he fled?"

As more and more masters arrived at the scene, each of them revealed a grim expression seeing the ruins below.

When the Alchemist Grandmaster Union's law enforcement team arrived, Sun Yi ordered them to lock down the main streets within the vicinity and search any suspicious people, as well as check if there were any survivors nearby.

Above an empty courtyard at the edge of Divine Dan City, a faint light rippled as Huang Xiaolong appeared.

In a flicker, he easily entered the courtyard and randomly picked a yard, arranging a formation before he could relax slightly to sit cross-legged in meditation. He then swallowed an Undying God Pill and adjusted his breathing.

Although the Ghost Refining Sect young man's ghost palm contained horrifying force, it was just some external injuries to Huang Xiaolong. This level of injuries didn't count for anything. Adding his Instant Recovery ability, in less than half an hour, Huang Xiaolong had returned to his peak condition.

However, his eyebrows were tightly scrunched together at this moment. The old man actually fell into the hands of that Ghost Refining Sect young man's hands. This was a problem, and not a small one at that.

Five years...

It seems it was inevitable for him to make a trip to the Path to Hell. That, however, was another problem. Even though it was common knowledge that the Ghost Refining Sect was located in the Path to Hell, where exactly was it? How was he supposed to rescue his Master at that time?

Huang Xiaolong shook his head as if he was trying to shake away every thought until the Grand Competition ended. Only then would he think of a way to save the Ascending Moon Old Man.

The night gradually gave way to morning. Soft crepuscular rays were shining on the horizon, the sign that another day had arrived.

Getting up, Huang Xiaolong's figure blurred and disappeared from the yard faster than one could blink. Out on the street, he headed in the direction of the Union headquarters.

Today was the day of the Grand Competition's second round. Regardless of others, he had to win the first place today in order for him to challenge Sun Yi. He planned to defeat Sun Yi with alchemy and take his life afterwards.

But the cherry on top was the fact that he could enter the Dan River to cultivate.

The Dan River was vital to improving his strength, helping his cultivation advance further, increasing his winning chances against that Ghost Refining Sect young man.

When reached the Alchemist Grandmaster Union, appearing the competition square, many participants who had successfully advanced to the second round were already there, talking about the battle yesterday that ruined several residences.

"Huang Xiaolong!"

"Didn't they say Huang Xiaolong was killed yesterday? How is he still alive?!"

When the participants and people in the crowd spotted Huang Xiaolong, their expressions clearly reflected their surprise and shock.

The Sun Moon Residence's damage led everyone to assume that he was already waiting in line for his next reincarnation.

Sun Yi, who was at the main terrace overlooking the square, appeared right in front of Huang Xiaolong in a flicker, snapping curtly, "Huang Xiaolong, what exactly happened last night? Where did you run to?"

From his tone and manner, anyone would think that Huang Xiaolong had committed the most unforgivable crime.

Huang Xiaolong didn't even spare a glance at him, walking past him with an aloof expression.

Seeing Huang Xiaolong actually ignoring him, Sun Yi was outraged.

"Enough, Eminent Elder Sun. Today is the Grand Competition's semi-final round, leave all other matters for later." At this time, an Eminent Elder on the main terrace spoke.

This Eminent Elder was one of the Wangu Clan's Grand Elders, Wangu Biran.

Several other Eminent Elders echoed their agreement to Wangu Biran's words.

Sun Yi struggled. In the end, he snorted coldly but no longer insisted, returning to his seat on the main terrace.

Huang Xiaolong watched Sun Yi, a murderous glint in the depth of his eyes that went unnoticed. When the end of the grand competition came, it would also be the end of Sun Yi.

Chapter 935: Li Lu, Is It You?

Huang Xiaolong looked away from the main terrace, his gaze sweeping over the rest of the participants.

Soon, he saw Devil Son Mo Su amongst the participants, but when his gaze moved onto the figure clad in a white dress next to Mo Su, Huang Xiaolong trembled slightly. Excitement rose to his eyes.

Li Lu!

'Is it Li Lu?!'

'Yes, it's her! It's Li Lu!'

Although she was wearing a veil, Huang Xiaolong recognized her at a glance. This person could only be Li Lu.

Huang Xiaolong walked over to Li Lu in hurried steps.

It was obvious that she saw Huang Xiaolong walking towards herself. For a split second, there was panic in her beautiful eyes.

In a span of two to three breaths, Huang Xiaolong reached Li Lu, his eyes bright like stars fixed on her, "Li Lu, is it you?"

A second before this, Huang Xiaolong had thought that his past with Li Lu had faded into memories that were sealed away in the deepest parts of him, yet now, seeing her right in front of him again, Huang Xiaolong realized that she has always been on his mind.

"I'm sorry, you've got the wrong person." Li Lu's response to Huang Xiaolong seemed cold as she added: "I don't know you."

Huang Xiaolong was stupefied.

Although Li Lu hid it very well, the flash of agitation in the depth of her eyes was clearly captured by Huang Xiaolong. He was convinced that she recognized him.

She was lying!

That year, after he killed the Deities Templar's Preceptor, Li Lu's memories and consciousness should have recovered.

Mo Su interjected, his tone hostile, "Did you hear that, Huang Xiaolong? Miss Li Lu says she doesn't know you! Quickly scam!"

After seeing Li Lu, Mo Su was completely conquered. Though his hundred over concubines were beautiful, they couldn't compare to Li Lu. In Mo Su's heart and mind, she already belonged to him. Once he reined her in, she would be the empress of his harem.

Now, right in front of him, this Huang Xiaolong actually struck up a conversation with his woman, Mo Su was extremely upset. Naturally, if this was someone else instead of Huang Xiaolong, he would have killed the bastard with a punch.

Huang Xiaolong turned to Mo Su, looking at Mo Su with a chilling killing intent as he spoke in a low voice: "Get lost!"

Get lost!

Huang Xiaolong's voice thundered, containing overwhelming murderous aura.

Other disciples all turned to look in Huang Xiaolong and Mo Su's direction.

The anger in Mo Su's heart spiraled into a frenzy. In his life, there were only times he told others to scam, and this, this Huang Xiaolong was telling him to get lost? In front of so many people?! His knuckles turned white from clenching his fists hard, devil qi surged around him, but the scene from two days ago when he was sent flying by Huang Xiaolong flashed in his mind.

The flashback was equivalent to icy cold water poured down Mo Su's head, extinguishing his anger.

"Good, good!" Mo Su took a deep breath while glaring at Huang Xiaolong. He then fumed through gritted teeth, "Huang Xiaolong, I admit that you're a tad stronger than me, but dare you compete with me in alchemy refining skills? Later, we'll determine the winner according to our ranking in the semi-finals!"

Huang Xiaolong retorted, "In terms of strength, you're inferior to me, and in pill concocting you're even less qualified to compete with me."

Mo Su laughed madly in anger, "You say I'm not qualified to compete in alchemy with you? I'm the first ranker of the preliminary round, whereas you, you're number two! Don't overestimate yourself, don't you feel ashamed to say that I'm not qualified to compete with you? It's you who isn't qualified!"

Huang Xiaolong scoffed, "Since you're adamant to compete, let's put our lives on the line!"

Betting their lives! Mo Su choked.

"Bet your life and mine. Whoever loses shall implode their godhead on the spot!" Huang Xiaolong coldly stated the terms.

Destroy their own godhead on the spot! Mo Su's expression was getting uglier. Although he was confident that his alchemy refining skills were a level above Huang Xiaolong's, he didn't have the guts to stake his life on it.

"What? Too scared? No guts? Then don't stand here and bark like a mad dog, scam this instant!" Huang Xiaolong snapped.

Mo Su's face was on the verge of collapsing but said nothing in the end. He turned around in a huff and left. When he was out of Huang Xiaolong's sight, killing intent soared in his eyes, surging frenzily. He would let Huang Xiaolong know who was truly unqualified!

Huang Xiaolong turned his attention back to Li Lu, his voice gentle, "I don't know what happened since back then, but after so many years passed I have never given up on finding you. I will not give up on you."

Without waiting for a reply, Huang Xiaolong turned and left.

The semi-final round of the competition would begin shortly, thus everything would need to wait until after.

Although Huang Xiaolong didn't know what happened to Li Lu at that time, how she fared since then, one thing he could be sure of was that Li Lu still had a pure body. In other words, after so many years passed, she did not have any male cultivation companion, she still hadn't forgotten him.

Li Lu watched Huang Xiaolong's back. Her eyes turned slightly red, but due to her veil, no one noticed anything. Moreover, her composure returned almost immediately.

In the main terrace, Sun Yi's face was as black as it could be watching what took place. Huang Xiaolong and Li Lu's relationship seemed to lean towards...

Because of the fact that Li Lu was received as a personal disciple by their Ancestor while passing through a hinterland galaxy, adding the fact that Li Lu had never mentioned her origins, no one in the Fortune Gate knew anything about her past.

Sun Yi's eyes glimmered, no one could guess what he was thinking.

As time trickled by, about ten minutes later, the semi-final round of the grand competition finally began.

Huang Xiaolong and the other ten thousand participants from various galaxies drew sticks. According to the number on their sticks, each participant went and stood at the allocated location.

A formation was arranged above the competition square and its perimeter, locking down the whole area. The space within was then further separated into ten thousand uniformed spaces of one hundred square meters. When each of these ten thousand spaces' array was activated, the participants would be isolated from the outside world, hindering any disturbance during refinement.

On the other hand, these arrays were like invisible walls, all the participants could see the situation of other participants.

The semi-finals had a total of twelve rules.

The union's twelve Eminent Elders on the terrace each took turns to state one of the rules.

After the rules were announced, Wangu Biran declared the beginning of the semi-final round.

The instant Wangu Biran's voice sounded, the many chambers below lit up with different colored flames.

Even though it was said there were twelve rules, things were actually very simple.

Each of the divided spaces below was equipped with pill refining ingredients and a cauldron. The participants merely needed to refine the Myriad Cure Holy Pill within three days utilizing the prepared materials and cauldron.

The ranking would be determined by the grade of the pills!

If the grade and quality of the pills were similar, the time used to refine them would be taken into account to determine the ranking.

The Myriad Cure Holy Pill belonged to the category of healing pellets, a top sacred grade divine pill and also the highest grade of pellets in numerous galaxies. It was one of the hardest medicinal pills to refine.

In the past, when Huang Xiaolong was preparing for the Highgod Advancement Tournament, he had spent a large sum in the Wangu Clan's commerce hall to acquire the Undying God Pills, Extraordinary Divine Pellets, and Myriad Cure Holy Pills. Therefore, the Myriad Cure Holy Pill was no stranger to him.

"Thousand Divine Beast Diagram!" Just when Huang Xiaolong was about to begin, some people in the crowd outside the square shouted.

Huang Xiaolong turned to look. Not far from him, following Mo Su's hand manipulation, the materials in his chamber flew into the air in a row, forming various divine beast manifestations, exactly one thousand divine beasts!

Subsequently, in Mo Su's refining space, a stream black qi that glittered like crystals rushed up.

“Underworld River force!”

The crows stirred with excitement.

Seeing Mo Su being able to manipulate the Underworld River force, the Eminent Elders on the main terrace looked on interestedly.

Chapter 936: Ten Thousand Divine Beast Diagram

“Look over there! The Fortune Gate’s Li Lu is also skilled in the Thousand Divine Beast Diagram!”

A loud voice rang in the air, a person was seen pointing somewhere.

Huang Xiaolong was stunned hearing that and he turned over to look in Li Lu’s direction. The herbs she controlled gathered into various divine beast figures that seemed alive, vivid, and exuded a greater amount of spiritual energy!

This was a sign that someone had flawless control over each herb’s properties.

Although it was the same Thousand Divine Beast Diagram, it was clear that Li Lu’s skill was a whole level above Mo Su.

Then, two different glimmering energies, one red and one black, flowed out from the void above her.

“The fabled Yin Yang force!”

“Heavens, it the Yin Yang force!”

The Yin Yang force was graded higher than the Underworld River force.

Initially, Mo Su's ability to manipulate the Underworld River force had already shocked the crowd and other participants, who would have thought that Li Lu, who most of them had never heard of, was able to utilize an even higher leveled energy, the Yin Yang force!

Even the twelve Eminent Elders watching this from the main terrace revealed a touch of surprise in their expressions.

"Looks like this term's grand competition is a lot more interesting than the last ah. Two participants who can use the Thousand Divine Beast Diagram have appeared, and even the two legendary Yin Yang force and Underworld River force have also appeared. However, that Li Lu's cultivation isn't that high, her ranking might end up being lower than Mo Su's." An Eminent Elder sighed a little ruefully.

"That may not be the case." Sun Yi disagreed. "Although an alchemist's cultivation plays a role during the pill condensation stage, their skill in concocting, or lack of, plays a more crucial role in determining success or failure."

Below on the square, Wangu Ye's alchemy refining skills also attracted the crowd's attention.

He was also displaying the Thousand Divine Beast Diagram and was able to manipulate the Metal Jade force, which was comparable to Mo Su's Underworld River force.

"Mo Su, Li Lu, and Wangu Ye; all three are skilled in the Thousand Divine Beast Diagram, makes me wonder if that Huang Xiaolong has advanced to the same level." Eminent Elder Wangu Biran of Wangu Clan shifted his gaze in the direction of Huang Xiaolong's refining chamber.

But Huang Xiaolong stood there without moving.

Sun Yi snickered watching this, "Whether it was during his alchemist assessment or the preliminary round, this Huang Xiaolong used the Hundred Divine Beast Diagram. This doesn't mean he is hiding his true ability, I think his skills definitely haven't reached the level of using the Thousand Divine Beast Diagram!"

"Don't be so sure, that may not be true." An Eminent Elder that hailed from the Dark Elf Tribe, You Wushang, couldn't resist interjecting.

While these elders were exchanging tit for tat, Huang Xiaolong began to move.

Under his fine control, the herb ingredients inside his refining chamber flew up, forming the shapes of divine beasts. Not one more, not one less, there were exactly one hundred divine beasts.

Watching this scene, Sun Yi's mocking laughter rang on the main terrace, "Eminent Elder Wangu Biran and You Wushang, see that? Didn't I already say that this runt only knows the Hundred Divine Beast Diagram? Therefore, when his pill forms, it can only be a rank three tribulation grade at most!"

Wangu Biran and You Wushang's foreheads furrowed deeply, but with the fact right in front of them, neither of them could refute Sun Yi's words.

Inwardly, the two of them couldn't help feeling a little disappointed.

Even though Huang Xiaolong would be able to refine a rank three tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pill which was astonishing in itself, he was destined to have no connection with the first place in this competition.

Perhaps he wouldn't even make it into the top three.

All of a sudden, Sun Yi's beaming face distorted as if he had just seen a ghost, staring in disbelief in Huang Xiaolong's direction. Noticing his expression, both Wangu Biran and You Wushang looked curiously towards Huang Xiaolong.

The hundred divine beasts that he was controlling were beginning to subdivide. Each divine beast turned into ten!

'Is this a new method?!

Wangu Biran and You Wushang's eyes protruded in shock, neither of them had ever heard of or seen this kind of alchemy refining method!

Not to mention, Huang Xiaolong's subdivided herb divine beasts remained vivid and spirited, exuding a powerful spiritual energy aura.

When other Eminent Elders saw this, consecutive praises sounded from their lips.

Recovering from their shock, Wangu Biran and You Wushang issued a satisfied chuckle, glancing sideways at Sun Yi.

"Eminent Elder Sun Yi, didn't you say that Huang Xiaolong can't perform the Thousand Divine Beast Diagram? Care to explain what we're seeing now? Could it be that my eyes have become blurry with age, or is that the Thousand Divine Beast Diagram?" Wangu Biran took a stab at Sun Yi.

Despite the ugly expression on his face, Sun Yi stubbornly retorted, "Even if that Huang Xiaolong is capable of using the Thousand Divine Beast Diagram, so what? Who can say for sure he won't end up in the fourth place?"

In the next second, terror flickered in Sun Yi's eyes like he was seeing something inconceivable.

Once again, Wangu Biran and the others were stoked by Sun Yi's expression, thus followed his gaze. Some distance away on the square below, Huang Xiaolong's one thousand divine beasts began splitting, subdividing again!

"Ten, Ten, Ten Thousand Divine Beast Diagram!!" Fixing his gaze on the ten thousand beast shapes exuding whelming spiritual energy in Huang Xiaolong's chamber, Sun Yi became tongue-tied, his body subconsciously trembled.

A few of the Eminent Elders were clutching the arms of their seat in shock.

The Alchemist Grandmaster Grand Competition had been organized over a hundred times since the Ten Thousand Divine Beast Diagram had last appeared!

And now, after several hundred thousand years, they were able to see it once more!

“The Ten Thousand Divine Beast Diagram!” Outside the competition square, cultivators amongst the crowd were in an uproar, trembling with excitement.

In an instant, Huang Xiaolong became the center of attention.

Mo Su’s face darkened watching this. That Huang Xiaolong’s skills already reached the Ten Thousand Divine Beast Diagram!

“Even if it’s Ten Thousand Divine Beast Diagram, so what? He can merely manipulate some lousy star force, it’s far from enough to win the first place.” Sun Yi forcefully suppressed the shock in his heart, insisting on his view.

Just as Sun Yi’s voice fell, in the space where Huang Xiaolong stood, glittering star force started to rush out from the void.

Seeing this, Sun Yi’s tension loosened slightly, his eyes shone: “Star force!”

“That is not our lower realm’s star force!” Suddenly, Mu Clan’s Eminent Elder Mu Li, exclaimed in amazement: “That’s Chaos Star force!”

“Chaos Star force!” Wangu Biran, You Wushang, and the rest stared at Huang Xiaolong with mouths agape.

The Chaos Star force was something they had only heard of but never witnessed. In all truthfulness, amongst all of the union’s past chiefs, there were only a rare few who were said to be able to manipulate this Chaos Star force!

Chaos Star force!

Mo Su paled considerably when he heard Mu Li’s exclamation. Li Lu and Wangu Ye were astounded.

At this time, inside Huang Xiaolong's one hundred square meters chamber, ten thousand divine beasts opened their mouths, swallowing the flowing Chaos Star force. In a short time, those divine beasts' bodies were glittering with brilliant starlight, their spiritual energy multiplied to another degree.

Up until this point, Huang Xiaolong had yet to summon any flames to refine away the impurities, but the refreshing fragrance coming from his herbs was enough to intoxicate everyone present.

After bathing his herb ingredients in Chaos Star force, the medicinal properties were brought to their peak. Only then did Huang Xiaolong summon his four divine fires; icy-blue, crimson red, metallic white, and azure. Four colors of flame shone bright and radiant.

Looking at the dancing flames formed from the Black Tortoise, Vermilion Bird, White Tiger, and Azure Dragon Divine Fire spirits, another wave of amazement swept through the crowd, everyone was guessing what kind of flame Huang Xiaolong was using!

Under Huang Xiaolong's control, the four divine fires flew towards the ten thousand herb divine beasts, circling and weaving between them.

The divine beasts lit up with flames from the four divine fires one after another. A burst of herbal fragrance, stronger than before yet not stifling, lingered in the air.

About two hours later, all ten thousand divine beasts were refined by the four divine fires. Subsequently, Huang Xiaolong slowly merged those different portions of essence into one.

As he began merging the herb essences, the whole square seemed to fall into a silence, everyone watched nervously with their hearts hanging in the air.

Chapter 937: Rank Nine Tribulation Grade Pellet!

On the main terrace, Sun Yi watched intently as Huang Xiaolong's herb essences smoothly merged together, his hands hidden beneath the sleeves were tightly clenched together until his knuckles became white. Inwardly, Sun Yi repeatedly prayed, "Burst, burst, burst, burst for me ah!"

Sun Yi watched on without blinking, all of his focus was on Huang Xiaolong's every movement. However, those herb divine beasts and merging essence did not explode.

Instead, as more and more herb essences merged together, the glow emitted grew increasingly bright, like a lustrous gem. As it grew brighter, the herbal scent became stronger as well, giving everyone in the crowd the illusion of bathing inside a fragrant ocean.

Time flowed by.

More and more divine beasts were refined and merged together.

Watching all ten thousand divine beasts being completely refined and merged into one, Sun Yi who had been praying incessantly in his heart was finally enraged seeing that it still hadn't exploded, bellowing. "Goddamn son of a b*tch, burst for me!!"

The unusually quiet competition square was shaken by Sun Yi's abrupt outburst that rumbled like thunder through the square, rendering everyone stupefied as they slowly turned towards the main terrace.

Sun Yi himself was stunned silly, however, the words that had left his mouth couldn't be taken back.

Wangu Biran had always found Sun Yi displeasing to the eyes, hence, when he stumbled, Wangu Biran was right behind him, mocking, "What is Eminent Elder Sun Yi hoping to burst? Your 'chrysanthemum'? I didn't expect Eminent Elder Sun Yi to have such a hobby."

'Chrysanthemum'?

Hearing such a classic jab from Wangu Biran's mouth, the Dark Elf Eminent Elder You Wushang guffawed. A few drops of saliva flew out from his mouth and his body bowled over, shaking. His laughing seemed exaggerated, infecting the other Eminent Elders as well.

Sun Yi's face was black as charcoal, turning uglier from the snickers coming from around the square.

On the square, when all of Huang Xiaolong's herb essences had completely integrated, a crisp humming sound could be heard, brilliant light expanded outward as the herb fragrance gradually evolved into pill fragrance, like never-ending waves.

This phenomenon lasted for more than twenty minutes before a lilting hum of pill condensation rang out from Huang Xiaolong's cauldron.

The light coming from the integrated herb essences became too blinding to look at. In the next moment, thunder rumbled high in the air as a dark cloud swirled above the square.

Although many people had estimated that Huang Xiaolong was likely to produce tribulation grade divine pellets, the crowd still stirred anxiously upon seeing the dark tribulation clouds swirling above the square.

All twelve Eminent Elders wholly focused their attention on one figure.

"The tribulation clouds appeared so fast, I'm curious how many waves of tribulation lightning he will attract!" Wangu Biran commented.

"Considering his use of the Ten Thousand Divine Beasts Diagram, adding on Huang Xiaolong's current strength, it should be seven waves; eight waves is a little difficult, even more so nine!" You Wushuang said with a serious expression.

The other Eminent Elders nodded in agreement hearing You Wushuang's conjecture.

Commonly in the past, the participant who could refine a rank seven tribulation lightning pill was inevitably the first place winner. Still, there were a few exceptions. Sometimes, an eight wave of tribulation lightning could appear, but even so, a ninth wave was nothing more than a record in their Alchemist Grandmaster Union's archive. It hadn't occurred in the last several hundred thousand years because the conditions for refining a rank nine tribulation divine pellet were simply too harsh.

First, the concocting had to be done using the Ten Thousand Divine Beast Diagram. The second condition was cleansing all ingredients with Chaos force; the third being the flames used to integrate the

herb essences together must reach a certain level, and the fourth condition, the person concocting the pill must have a cultivation of Tenth Order Highgod Realm!

The last condition was easy to understand since only a Tenth Order Highgod Realm master could withstand the power of the ninth wave of tribulation lightning!

Any one of these four conditions was indispensable.

Sun Yi scoffed, "Until the pill condensation completes, any mishap could happen. Who knows, the cauldron might explode in the next second!"

Some alchemists were lacking in terms of cultivation, yet fantasized about attracting rank eight or rank nine tribulation lightning. Unable to withstand the might of tribulation lightning, at the last moments of pill condensation it would be struck by tribulation lightning, causing an explosion and resulting in failure.

By this point, the first strike of tribulation lightning flashed towards the pill cauldron. Huang Xiaolong pointed a finger at the streak of lightning, easily dispersing it, causing pure lightning force to fall and integrate into the pool of herb essence.

The next lightning strike was already rumbling in the dark clouds above, stronger than its predecessor by several times.

Huang Xiaolong dispersed the second strike without any effort.

Half an hour later.

"This is the sixth wave, Huang Xiaolong has attracted six waves of tribulation lightning!" The crowd watched on with anticipation, their hearts in their throats.

Huang Xiaolong steadily proceeded with another finger attack, dispersing the lightning, allowing the pure lightning force to blend with the pill.

“Say, do you think Huang Xiaolong can attract the seventh wave?” This was what everyone in the crowd wanted to know the most.

“I heard that Huang Xiaolong’s cultivation is at Fifth Order Highgod Realm, but judging from how easy it was for him to withstand the sixth wave, I think he can withstand the seventh as well.”

As the crowd shared their thoughts with their companions, lightning struck again.

This seventh lightning wave consisted of seven lightning bolts akin to dragons. The overwhelming destructive power they emitted gave the present cultivators great pressure.

In a split second, the tribulation lightning reached Huang Xiaolong. Each streak of lightning was as thick as an adult’s thigh. The average Seventh Order Highgod Realm master would be hard pressed to take on any single streak.

Whereas Huang Xiaolong turned his palm to the sky, slamming out an Earthen Buddha Palm towards the falling lightning.

The seventh wave’s streaks of lightning scattered before Huang Xiaolong’s palm force.

Watching this, Sun Yi’s face warped with anger, a hint of crimson tinged his eyes.

That runt actually withstood the seventh wave of tribulation lightning!

“The eight wave! Huang Xiaolong attracted the eight tribulation lightning wave!”

The crowd was in a frenzy, Sun Yi heard the commotion and looked to the sky. Above the crown of Huang Xiaolong’s head, the eighth wave of tribulation lightning formed and struck.

Looking at the eight streaks of thick lightning, Huang Xiaolong’s Holy Dragon Supreme Godhead spun quickly, causing lightning element godforce to flood out through his fist as he punched out.

An ear-splitting boom shook the square.

During this short span of time, Sun Yi felt his heart twitching.

Mo Su who was still in the midst of refining felt dizzy watching Huang Xiaolong withstanding the seventh tribulation lightning. He felt like he was going faint the very next second.

“The ninth wave! This is f*cking crazy man! Huang Xiaolong actually attracted the ninth tribulation lightning wave!!”

Everyone in the crowd was talking, shouting, exclaiming all at once. Mo Su took another peek at the brewing lightning above.

On the main terrace, Sun Yi, Wangu Biran, You Wushang, and the other nine Eminent Elders jumped to their feet in astonishment.

“How many hundred thousand years has it been since someone attracted rank ninth tribulation lightning?! If Huang Xiaolong’s refinement is successful, it will shock countless galaxies! This term’s first place winner would be none other than Huang Xiaolong!”

“He’s overestimating himself! The ninth wave isn’t so easy to pass. I’m willing to bet that Huang Xiaolong’s pill will burst!”

Those who heard Sun Yi whispered in hushed voices

A manic light flickered in Sun Yi’s eyes as he stared fixedly at Huang Xiaolong’s every movement. Inwardly, he was hollering like a madman, ‘Burst, burst, burst, this old man wants you to burst!’

Looking at the falling ninth tribulation lightning wave, the calmness on Huang Xiaolong’s face rippled. In the next second, one thousand arms fanned out from his back.

The Godly Xumi Art!

His Holy Dragon Supreme Godhead roared: “The Fifteenth Move, Unrivaled Myriad Dragons!”

Thousands and thousands of divine dragons flew up, flying through the nine streaks of lightning, scattering them.

“He actually withstood it!”

“Rank nine tribulation grade divine pellet! Huang Xiaolong’s getting the first place for sure! The question now is, will Huang Xiaolong be able to attract the tenth wave of tribulation lightning and refine a divine pill that only existed in the ancient times?!”

Note:

‘Chrysanthemum’ is a slang for anus; hints that Sun Yi takes the ‘bottom’ role.

To avoid confusion: Unlike other novels where tribulation lightning goes from 1 to 9 (or some other upper limit) where each of them is stronger than the last, here it appears that pill tribulation comes in waves, each of them having the same number of lightning strikes as the wave number.

Eg:

Wave 1: 1

Wave 2: 1, 2

Wave 3: 1, 2, 3

...

Wave 7: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Chapter 938: Challenging Sun Yi

The excitement of the crowd boiled over after Huang Xiaolong managed to survive the ninth wave of tribulation lightning.

Rank nine tribulation lightning divine pellet!

It goes without saying that a rank nine tribulation divine pellet was priceless, something that couldn't be bought with money.

Now that Huang Xiaolong had withstood the ninth wave, when his pills successfully formed, there would at least be a dozen within a batch. If it was on the higher end, the number of pellets could even exceed twenty!

There were also a few people who, after recovering from their shock, wondered if Huang Xiaolong could attract the tenth wave of tribulation lightning. But Huang Xiaolong's movements had stopped.

In the ninth wave of lightning, each streak was sufficient to heavily injure an early Tenth Order Highgod Realm master. Even if Huang Xiaolong transformed into his primordial divine dragon body, there was no guaranteeing he would be able to take on the tenth wave. After all, with his rank nine tribulation grade divine pellets, it was absolutely sufficient for him to win the first place.

His goal was to become this term's champion.

Seeing that Huang Xiaolong had stopped and did not attempt to attract the tenth wave, the crowd sighed, feeling dispirited.

The herb essences inside Huang Xiaolong's cauldron, after having absorbed pure lightning force from nine waves of tribulation lightning, released bright rays of light and a medicinal fragrance much stronger than before.

A humming that contained a heaven and earth force reverberated in the square.

Following that, golden round pellets that emit a radiant luster flew out from the cauldron.

A total of twenty-six golden pellets akin to miniature suns were floating in the air!

Looking at the twenty-six rank nine tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pills, Sun Yi's face was blacker than the bottom of a pot. He had underestimated Huang Xiaolong again.

Not only had he underestimated Huang Xiaolong's alchemy refining skills, but he also underestimated his strength!

Being able to withstand the ninth wave of tribulation lightning clearly proved that Huang Xiaolong's strength was on par with him! And he was a peak early Tenth Order Highgod Realm master!

The problem was, how long had Huang Xiaolong been cultivating compared to him?

When Huang Xiaolong tested his bone-age for the Highgod Advancement Tournament, it was merely two hundred-something. From that time until now, even though some time had passed, Huang Xiaolong's age was still below three hundred years old!

Mo Su had turned completely ashen seeing that Huang Xiaolong actually refined rank nine tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pills. His previous complacency and high spirits all vanished without a trace, his gaze dull.

In terms of strength, you're inferior to me, and in pill concocting you're even less qualified to compete with me!

His alchemy talent and skills were incomparable amongst the ancient devil clan, even their Patriarch Mo Dingtian lamented about the fact that he wasn't as good as Mo Su in this aspect. Now, however, the alchemy skills he had always been proud of were squashed, worth nothing in front of Huang Xiaolong!

Wangu Ye and Li Lu had been paying attention to the movements on Huang Xiaolong's side, and just like all others, they were amazed that he actually refined rank nine tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pills.

A short while later, a union Elder arrived at Huang Xiaolong's chamber, placed one of the twenty-six rank nine tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pills into a high-grade jade bottle, and brought it to the twelve Eminent Elders on the main terrace for the assessment.

The remaining pills were put away by Huang Xiaolong.

Truthfully, it was obvious that Huang Xiaolong's Myriad Cure Holy Pill need not be assessed by the Eminent Elders. After all, it had been refined on the spot. Everyone present witnessed Huang Xiaolong attracting nine waves of tribulation lightning and withstanding the ordeal.

Then again, the Eminent Elders couldn't be blamed for wanting to take a closer look at such a rare pellet. Staring at the rank nine tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pill, these Eminent Elders praised it, whispering in low voices among themselves.

Soon, the group of Eminent Elders finished their assessment and officially announced the result.

"Huang Xiaolong, result: rank nine tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pill. Time used: Three hours, thirty-six minutes, twenty-nine seconds!" Wangu Biran's voice reached every corner of the square.

Even though Sun Yi was extremely averse to this result, he was powerless to change it.

Hearing Wangu Biran's announcement, Huang Xiaolong sat down on the floor where he was, waiting for the competition to end.

According to the rules, regardless of the participant, once they finished refining, they would have to remain where they were and wait out until the time ended.

Three days quickly passed.

This term's Alchemist Grandmaster Grand Competition finally came to an end.

In the end, without any suspense, Huang Xiaolong won the first place!

In the second place was Wangu Ye, having refined a rank seven tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pill in two days and a little over three hours!

At the third place was Li Lu, with a rank five tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pill concocted in two days and one hour!

On the other hand, the person who everyone thought was going to win the first place, Devil Son Mo Su, came in fourth, dumbfounding everyone! Despite refining a rank five tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pills as Li Lu did, he took four hours more to complete the concoction.

In fact, based on Mo Su's strength and alchemy refining skills, refining a rank seven tribulation grade pill was nothing difficult. However, watching Huang Xiaolong successfully refine rank nine tribulation grade pellets had impacted him, causing his mind to be in a turmoil. He was unable to calm down, further affecting the quality of his refinement, resulting in rank five tribulation grade pills.

In the crowd's eyes, the fourth place was a glorious spot. To Mo Su, however, it was humiliating!

Grand Elder Mo Zhenru who accompanied Mo Su didn't look that good either.

During the rewards ceremony, Huang Xiaolong received from Wangu Biran a spatial ring that contained one hundred rank nine tribulation grade divine pellets, one hundred two-million-year-old medicinal herbs, one hundred sacred grade immortal spirit stones, and one hundred Flame Crystal Stones.

After the top ten rewards were distributed accordingly, Wangu Biran genially said to Huang Xiaolong, "According to the rules, other than entering the Dan River to cultivate, every term's champion can also challenge one of the Eminent Elders, competing in alchemy. Which Eminent Elder would you like to challenge?"

Huang Xiaolong decisively pointed at Sun Yi, his cold, "Sun Yi, as an Eminent Elder of the Alchemist Grandmaster Union, dare you compete with me?"

Dare you compete with me!

As he infused godforce into his voice, Huang Xiaolong's words thundered through the square. Everyone present turned to look at Sun Yi seated on the main terrace.

From the time Huang Xiaolong took the alchemist assessment and preliminary competition, Sun Yi had been making things difficult for him. The grudge between Huang Xiaolong and the Fortune Gate was already common knowledge, thus everyone watched Sun Yi with the attitude of waiting for a good show.

Sun Yi snickered, "Huang Xiaolong, who do you think you are? What qualifications does a common union alchemist like you have to challenge me in an alchemy competition?!"

Everyone waiting for a good show was stunned silly by Sun Yi's response.

Although he didn't say it directly, the refusal was clear in his words! Sun Yi was refusing Huang Xiaolong's challenge!

It never occurred to those present that Sun Yi could be so shameless!

Not only was he refusing Huang Xiaolong's challenge, but he also said it so righteously!

Huang Xiaolong was the grand competition's champion, challenging an Eminent Elder was within his rights and part of the rules, yet this Sun Yi claimed that Huang Xiaolong wasn't qualified!

A deep frown sat between Wangu Biran's brows as he said to Sun Yi, "Eminent Elder Sun Yi, as one of the Union's Eminent Elders, you should know very well the rules of the grand competition. Huang Xiaolong can challenge any Eminent Elder."

Sun Yi gave a satirical reply, "Wangu Biran, is it stated in the grand competition's rules that an Eminent Elder cannot refuse the challenge?"

Wangu Biran, You Wushang, and the others stiffened.

Indeed, although the grand competition's rules stated that the champion could challenge any Eminent Elders in alchemy refining, it did not state that the challenge had to be accepted!

Wangu Biran was caught in a dilemma. After all, he wasn't the Union Chief, thus couldn't order Sun Yi to accept Huang Xiaolong's challenge.

Sun Yi then turned to Huang Xiaolong with undisguised mockery on his face, "Huang Xiaolong, I know what you're planning. I defeated your Ancestral Master through alchemy refining competition, causing his miserable death at the end, and you, you want to repeat that on me in order to avenge your Ancestral Master! But what if I don't accept your challenge? What can you do? Of course, if you're capable, you can go challenge the Sacred Dan Temple's five sections instead and become our Union Chief. At that time, you can just order me to compete with you!"

Then, Sun Yi's tone changed to ridicule, "But, no one has had such luck for the past million years, do you think you can do it?"

Chapter 939: That Person Is Me

Huang Xiaolong's cold gaze turned sharp for a second.

All of a sudden, Huang Xiaolong's momentum shot up, violent and mad, earth-shaking. In the next second, an intimidating giant black blade with a length of several hundred li appeared in his right hand.

Oppressive devil qi swirled out from the length of the black blade, deterring anyone from approaching.

A low bellow came from him as all three of his supreme godheads spun quickly, sending godforce into his body as the black blade in his hand slashed down toward Sun Yi.

Sun Yi's expression changed greatly, letting out a roar as if he was trying to gather all the strength inside of him, swinging a punch at the incoming black blade.

Rumble!

A resounding boom was heard, followed by the collapse of the main terrace.

An appalling blade mark split the competition venue and main terrace into halves, whereas Sun Yi was struck into the air, crashing heavily on the ground. Warm liquid rushed up his throat, his mouth spurted blood.

Everything happened too fast, too quick for anyone to react.

Only when everyone saw Sun Yi vomit blood did they realize what happened—Sun Yi, one of the Union’s twelve Eminent Elders, a peak early Tenth Order Highgod Realm master, lost!

Huang Xiaolong withstanding all nine waves of tribulation lightning was less shocking than the scene in front of them. Quite a few people were staring at the black blade in Huang Xiaolong’s right hand.

‘That is...?!’

“The Devil Blade!”

“A several hundred li long devil blade! How is that possible? I’ve seen Mu Qi who passed the fourth floor of the Hellion Tower, and the devil blade he condensed is only two to three meters! How could Huang Xiaolong’s devil blade be this big, this long, this horrifying!”

“When did Huang Xiaolong clear the Hellion Tower’s fourth floor?! Why does the devil blade he condensed have such length?!”

All of a sudden, the atmosphere turned tumultuous.

Out of nowhere, a thought flashed through Mo Su’s head, and his face turned a shade paler. He subconsciously pointed at Huang Xiaolong with a trembling finger, stammering, “S-some, some time ago, the p-pe-person who climbed all the way up to, to the twelfth floor, was you?! You actually didn’t die inside!”

This matter was a hot topic even now, everyone was trying to guess who the person who had managed to reach the twelfth floor of the Hellion Tower was, which sect or family did that person hail from. The burning question was, did he really die inside the tower?

Mo Su's words attracted the crowd's attention. Hearing that the person who had stepped onto the Hellion Tower's twelfth floor could have been Huang Xiaolong, they looked at him with incredulity, eyes widened as never before.

Wangu Biran, You Wushang, and other Eminent Elders directed their shocked gazes at Huang Xiaolong, waiting for him to admit or deny.

"That's right, that person is me." Huang Xiaolong admitted without any ripple of emotion on his face.

At this point, Huang Xiaolong didn't bother concealing the matter.

"What?! It was really Huang Xiaolong!"

"Really, it was Huang Xiaolong, Huang Xiaolong cleared the twelfth floor of Hellion Tower!!"

"The Hellion Tower has been in existence for God knows how many millions, even billions of years. No one has ever reached the twelfth floor, what's more clearing it. Huang Xiaolong actually passed, how monstrous is his talent to achieve that?!"

Hearing Huang Xiaolong admit that he was that mysterious person who passed the twelfth floor, the crowd was on the verge of losing control.

Everywhere in the crowd were exclamations of shock and amazement! Disbelief and excitement spread throughout the square!

Sun Yi was just getting up to his feet again when he heard Huang Xiaolong's words, the admission was like a great hammer smashing at his heart. His legs quivered, forgetting to retaliate at that moment.

Facing these people's shock, Huang Xiaolong appeared as indifferent as usual, but his gaze turned slightly cold when he looked at Sun Yi once more, "Since you said that I can't pass through the Sacred Dan Temple, then I will pass it for you to see. Then, I will take your life!"

At the end of the day, Sun Yi was still an Eminent Elder, if Huang Xiaolong insisted on killing him here and now, he would end up as the common enemy of the entire Alchemist Grandmaster Union.

On the other hand, if he passed the Sacred Dan Temple trial, becoming the Alchemist Grandmaster Union Chief, he could kill Sun Yi without any scruples.

At that time, he would take care of the Fortune Gate as well, once and for all!

As Huang Xiaolong was leaving, none of the union enforcer team disciples dared to block his path, leaving the rest in a daze after they heard that he planned to challenge the Sacred Dan Temple.

Although, for the last million of years, no one has succeeded in passing all five sections of the trial, no one dared to utter a single sound of contempt. No one thought Huang Xiaolong was bluffing.

After all, he was the person who had passed the twelfth floor of Hellion Tower!

Not long after Huang Xiaolong left the competition square, the news of him refining rank nine tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pills, thus winning the first place of the Alchemist Grandmaster Grand Competition, spread at a terrifying speed. Gasps of shock sounded in various galaxies!

Whether it was about Huang Xiaolong winning the first place in the grand competition or about him being the mysterious person who cleared the Hellion Tower's twelfth floor, each piece of information was enough to send waves of shock through numerous galaxies, super forces and prominent sects jumping in agitation!

The City of Devils.

Inside the great hall of the ancient devil clan, Patriarch, Mo Dingtian was totally flabbergasted when he heard the report, "What?! The person who passed the twelfth floor was Huang Xiaolong? He didn't die inside?! On top of that, he refined rank nine tribulation grade Myriad Cure Holy Pills, winning the first place in the Alchemist Grandmaster Grand Competition!"

The present Grand Elders were just as dumbfounded.

After what seemed like half a day, Mo Dingtian stared at the Elder who came in to report the matter, "What about our Devil Son? What place did he get? Is it the second place?"

The devil clan Elder hesitated for a moment, eventually, he honestly reported. "The fourth place! Wangu Ye is in the second place, while the Fortune Gate's Li Lu took the third place!"

"Damnation! The fourth place?!" Mo Dingtian jumped up from his seat, his face warped in fury, "Rubbish! Rubbish!"

The present Grand Elders were stunned, their Devil Son actually got the fourth place?

A few minutes later, a Grand Elder stood up and carefully spoke, "Patriarch, if the person who passed the twelfth floor was really Huang Xiaolong, then could the person who snatched our Devil Bead be somehow related to him as well?"

All these years, Patriarch Mo Dingtian had been investigating the whereabouts of the stolen Devil Bead.

Mo Dingtian and the other Grand Elders froze slightly at the possibility.

His solemn voice sounded, "You're saying that the Devil Bead could be in Huang Xiaolong's hands?"

That Grand Elder replied, "The time when our Devil Bead went missing coincides with the period when Huang Xiaolong entered the hellion Tower. More importantly, when the Devil Son had a conflict with him during the grand competition, that palm Huang Xiaolong struck out with was a Buddhist palm technique, it was said to exude extremely pure Buddhism energy."

At the spot where the Devil Bead went missing, amazingly pure Buddhism energy lingered in the air, which led the devil clan to suspect that someone from the Bodhisattva Faction stole it.

“Since Huang Xiaolong is planning to take the Sacred Dan Temple trial, he won’t be leaving the Divine Dan City for the time being.” The same Grand Elder went on, “If we depart for the Divine Dan City right now and capture Huang Xiaolong, we’ll know for sure after we interrogate him.”

Mo Dingtian’s expression hardened, a piercing glint flickered across his eyes, “Pass down my order, have Mo Zhenru keep his eyes on Huang Xiaolong at all times. All of you, follow me to the Divine Dan City!”

“Yes, Patriarch!”

In less than a few minutes, the devil cultivators clan set off in an imposing manner, heading to the Divine Dan City.

At the same time, in the Fortune Gate’s headquarters, the Sect Chief also received a report from Sun Yi, leaving him stunned.

“This Huang Xiaolong has such devilish talent, we cannot allow him to grow further. Otherwise, our Fortune Gate will...!” A Fortune Gate Grand Elder stressed with killing intent surging from his body, “What we should do now is head to the Divine Dan City while he’s still there and eliminate him completely!”

Chapter 940: To The Dan River

“That’s true, this is a great chance to kill him, we must not let him escape. If he manages to flee, where would we find him then? Killing him would be a thousand times harder!”

“Based on his devilish talent, he would be unmatched in a short few decades!”

All Grand Elders clamored to get rid of Huang Xiaolong as soon as possible.

The extent of Huang Xiaolong’ talent had planted a seed of fear in these Grand Elders’ hearts, and it was germinating at a rapid speed.

The Fortune Gate Chief Wang Yu stood up, a frenzied murderous aura bursting out from his body as he issued an immediate order, all Fortune Gate Grand Elders were to depart to the Divine Dan City with him.

...

Silvery moonlight shone down on the calm and quiet night.

Huang Xiaolong was standing in his yard, pondering about the Sacred Dan Temple.

Initially, he planned to challenge the Sacred Dan Temple tomorrow but changed his mind afterwards.

According to what his Master the Ascending Moon Old Man told him before, a Seventh Order Highgod Realm could merely pass the first section of the Sacred Dan Temple trial. Even though Huang Xiaolong was confident in his strength, he wasn't so sure about the fifth section of the trial.

The last section of the Sacred Dan Temple most likely required the strength of a late-Tenth Order Highgod Realm to clear, which was why Huang Xiaolong decided to cultivate in the Dan River first, starting tomorrow.

With his current peak early-Seventh Order Highgod Realm cultivation, borrowing the accumulated medicinal energy in the Dan River would help him to break through to mid-Seventh Order Highgod Realm at the very least, which would give him a higher chance of passing the trial.

However, the reason for the frown on Huang Xiaolong's forehead right now was Li Lu.

It had been over ten hours since the Grand Competition ended. During this time, he found out that Li Lu was the Fortune Gate Ancestor's personal disciple!

Whilst Huang Xiaolong was contemplating about Li Lu, all of a sudden, in a certain corner, space rippled as a young woman clad fully in white appeared.

Huang Xiaolong was stunned, then joy rushed to his face: "Li Lu!"

The night visitor was naturally Li Lu!

Because the Sun Moon Residence was blasted into dust in his fight with the Ghost Refining Sect young man, Huang Xiaolong was currently staying in an independent courtyard inside a large inn.

He didn't expect she would be able to find him, nor that she would come to find him. Overexcited, Huang Xiaolong crossed the distance between them in a few large strides, reached out and held Li Lu's hands.

Li Lu struggled for a while to pull her hands out of Huang Xiaolong's grip to no avail.

He let out a low chuckle at her effort, looking a little silly, "I was right, your memories already came back, you do recognize me!"

Looking at the silly smiling face in front of her, the cold and tightly sealed door in Li Lu's heart loosened, sighing, "The reason I came today is because of the matter between you and the Fortune Gate."

Huang Xiaolong did not interrupt her, waiting for her to continue.

Li Lu hesitated then said, "I only just found out what happened between you and Fortune Gate. Can you put this matter down and spare the Fortune Gate?"

Spare the Fortune Gate?

Huang Xiaolong heavily sighed in his heart, his voice solemn, "Others, I can spare, but Sun Yi and Wang Yu, these two must die!" Huang Xiaolong somehow felt he owed Li Lu a lot in the past years, however, this was also his biggest concession.

After all, his original plan was to kill Sun Yi first, then exterminate the Fortune Gate.

Li Lu fell into silence, knowing this was Huang Xiaolong's bottom line. After a minute or so of silence, her cherry lips moved, "Thank you." With that said, she turned to leave.

Huang Xiaolong tightened his grip, looking at Li Lu with deep affection, "You really can't stay? In fact, Xiaofei knows about you and hopes I could find you. She hopes to be good sisters with you."

Good sisters!

The meaning of Huang Xiaolong's words was obvious enough.

A trace of panic flashed across Li Lu's eyes, shyness and inexplicable happiness mingled together. Still, she shook her head, "I only want to concentrate on my cultivation right now, other matters can be discussed later."

Discussed later?

Needless to say, Huang Xiaolong was dejected, but the latter part of Li Lu's words meant that there would be a chance in the future.

"I haven't seen you in so many years, I want to see what you look like now." Huang Xiaolong no longer insisted, changing the subject.

Even now, she was wearing a thin veil that covered her entire face.

Li Lu was reluctant. She hesitated briefly before taking off her veil, revealing an alluring face that could bring ruin upon a kingdom.

Compared to the time she was still in Martial Spirit World, Li Lu's features actually didn't change much. But now, there was a hint of maturity on her beautiful face, a tranquil quality, and also a hint of sorrow in her eyes that aroused others' pity.

At the receiving end of Huang Xiaolong's feverish gaze, a touch of red colored her cheeks. Unable to bear it any more, Li Lu turned her face to the side, putting her veil on again. In a flicker, she disappeared right before Huang Xiaolong's eyes.

Huang Xiaolong stood dazed on the spot, feeling lost.

A while later, he let out a sigh.

As moonlight dimmed, the morning light peeked out from the east.

Huang Xiaolong sat all night in his yard. When morning came, he left the inn, walking towards the Alchemist Grandmaster Union.

Because the inn he stayed at was on the same street at the union headquarters, he was already walking through the entrance in a short few minutes.

Waiting for Huang Xiaolong were two Eminent Elders, Chen Man and Zhang Xinchun.

Huang Xiaolong's arrival was warmly welcomed by the two Eminent Elders.

"Young hero Huang wants to enter the Dan River to cultivate?" It was a little unexpected for Chen Man and Zhang Xinchun that to hear that Huang Xiaolong planned to cultivate in the Dan River before taking on the Sacred Dan Temple trial.

Everyone assumed he would be taking the trial today.

Huang Xiaolong nodded, "May I enter the Dan River to cultivate now?"

Chen Man was quick to compose himself, smiling as he said, "Young hero Huang is joking, you've won the first place in the grand competition, you can enter the Dan River anytime you like. We'll lead you over to the back mountain now."

With that said, Chen Man and Zhang Xinchun led Huang Xiaolong through the Union's corridors and buildings, arriving at the back mountain a while later.

Upon arriving at their destination, Huang Xiaolong saw a river several hundred li in length and a few hundred meters wide. Right above the water surface, the medicinal energy accumulated within actually formed qi dragons!

Each of these dragons had obviously given birth to their own intelligence!

Not to mention the fact that they were no soft persimmons. The weakest one had strength equivalent to a First Order Highgod Realm master, and there were also dragons with Fourth Order, Fifth Order, Sixth Order, even Seventh Order Highgod Realm strength!

Huang Xiaolong was secretly smacking his lips.

Such splendiferous amount of pill qi, how long of an accumulation did it take to form these qi dragons?

Zhang Xinchun pointed at the river in front of them, explaining to Huang Xiaolong, "This is the Dan River. After young hero Huang enters the river, you must be careful. Although with young hero Huang's strength you might not be wary of these qi dragons, they have given birth to intelligence after all. They can form a battle array to attack. Moreover, their intelligence has begun merging with the Dan River itself, hence being extremely hard to kill."

Chen Man and Zhang Xinchun subsequently informed Huang Xiaolong about things he needed to look out for in detail.

Although winning the grand competition gave Huang Xiaolong a chance to cultivate in the Dan River, it was limited to a one-time entry. Therefore, Chen Man and Zhang Xinchun advised him to use this chance to the fullest.

Huang Xiaolong nodded, indicating he had remembered everything, then the two Elders simultaneously opened a door through the restrictions. In a flicker, Huang Xiaolong flew in, arriving above the river water.

He had just appeared, but those qi dragons flew towards him like a moth to a flame, attacking Huang Xiaolong from every angle.