

Daily life 491

Chapter 491 Origin Universe Resonant Light (1)

"That was better than I expected.." Yang Qing thought as he woke up and stretched his body after getting up.

"Who knew giving it a beating could be so therapeutic.."

Yang Qing's gaze viciously drifted to the rotund body of feathers that had a smug contemptuous face slowly peeking out of it.

"A beating? With those gelly hands of yours? Now I understand why you're afraid of leaving the grounds.

With weak skills like that, even I would be afraid to leave.." the celestial nesting weaver mockingly said as it preened its feathers.

"Just you wait.." Yang Qing viciously said as he made his way to his courtyard below.

Getting into a verbal bout with the weaver was a battle he couldn't win, and he didn't want to get triggered into another fight with it. It was too early in the day for that and he was also mildly afraid of what poison would come out of the celestial nesting weaver's mouth.

It knew how to cut through him well with its words from the moment it was a young chick. He sometimes wondered who it learned it from, or if this was a common trait shared by all celestial nesting weavers.

"The less I think of that bird the better, especially with me going to the brook of clarity. Having it in my thoughts is just as dangerous as those memories.."

Yang Qing had a small breakfast and then went on to pour his qi into the tear-shaped blue stone that acted as a key to get to the location where the auspicious grove wood tree was located.

His transportation was just as smooth as it was the first time he was there, and the requiting blissful peak was just as serene and breathtaking as it was yesterday.

"Good morning senior.."

"Morning Yang Qing, you seem to be in good spirits today.."

"Well, I managed to have a good night's sleep thanks to your waters, for that I am deeply grateful.."
Yang Qing fawningly said with a smile on his face.

"Is that so, well, other than the rocks, there is nothing else of value I can offer you. I don't produce fruits either, sadly. But you could pick a bit of the water from the brook of clarity, it loses its spirit-cleansing effects the moment it leaves my vicinity, but it still has a bit of purity effect that could help with flavor. You could use it to boil rice, vegetables, or meat if you want.."

Yang Qing was confused by the auspicious grove wood tree's reply before his look changed to one of embarrassment.

How did he know?

"Little Bohai came in yesterday to see me after we left. It was a pleasant conversation.." said the auspicious grove wood tree.

Yang Qing could detect a hint of teasing and amusement from its tone. His ears reddened even further from embarrassment as it seemed like the elder he so revered from the Judicial Review Committee had already sold him out.

But now that the cat was out of the bag and his ploy had already been seen through, there was only one thing he could do.

"As your junior, it would be wrong of me to refuse. I will shamelessly accept your offer, and if there's anything you need from me don't hesitate to ask, I will do it even if I have to go through rivers of fire or a mountain of blades..." Yang Qing righteously said.

"Would you now?" teasingly asked the Auspicious Grove Wood Tree

Yang Qing let out an awkward smile unsure of what to say. It seemed that Jia Bohai left nothing out in his 'pleasant conversation' with the auspicious grove wood tree.

"But if you do want to repay me, well there is something you could do for me.."

"What is it, senior?" Yang Qing said as he instantly perked up with a hint of nervousness hidden underneath.

"Don't worry, it's nothing complicated. I can feel your qi is quite unique, the effects of a unique cultivation art, no doubt, but your physique seems to amplify its effects even better... Fan Ru chose well when she passed that art to you..."

"You know about it the art?" Yang Qing eagerly asked.

The art itself was incomplete, and though it suited him perfectly, he had to make preparations for further ahead. It was a purple-grade art, and despite the skills he had and how much he enjoyed filling in the blanks when it came to cultivation arts, restoring a purple-grade art was a tall order.

He needed as much help as he could get and from the auspicious grove wood tree's words, it seemed like the saint-grade tree knew a thing or two about it.

"Fan Ru never told you about it?"

"No, she just gave it to me, explained its name and features, and said the rest was up to me as she quickly left to research something..." said Yang Qing with a rueful smile.

"Sounds like her. Well, I don't know much about it other than the fact it belonged to a sect called the universal resonance light sect, a sect as old as the continent itself.

They created the art with the goal of creating an adaptable body, qi, and soul. With it, they could traverse anywhere with no worry at all about the attributes and intrinsic nature of the places they traveled to.

The art was so robust that someone in the core formation realm who cultivated it to the emergent stage could survive in the void for a few minutes thanks to the art.

It was an art meant to guarantee survival and adaptability in all areas and situations. A truly marvelous art, however, for as adaptable as it was, ironically it was stringent in its requirements of the user, few could ever cultivate it beyond the emergent stage.

But with your physique and aptitude, we may yet see what it looks like in natural sentience. Fan Ru may have come to the same thoughts, which was why she gave it to you.."

"She did? You think too highly of me,? but I will try my best, the only problem is what I have now is incomplete, and I'm uncertain of being able to fill in the missing parts, not unless there is a complete copy somewhere.." said Yang Qing with a sigh.

"Well it's not entirely impossible for some copy to exist but I feel the odds of that happening are slim to none. The cultivators of the Origin Universe Light Sect, were....well what's the right word, eccentric? No, Weird? No, I think unique individuals is the right word..."

Chapter 492 Origin Universe Resonant Light (2)

"They were not the conventional kind in everything that they did or who they were. The copy Fan Ru gave you, you can tell wasn't damaged, so the fact that it is incomplete was deliberate, and more than likely the intentional doing of the Origin Universe Light Sect.

It's something they would do, including even inscribing part of it in the bark of a regular tree with no protections whatsoever.

If there is a full copy out there, it is either long lost by now or it's hidden in a place you'd never think of looking, or they never left a complete copy of the art.

You're better putting all that effort into completing it on your own, who knows, maybe in doing so, you might uncover something...

Those tricksters were crafty like that.."

Yang Qing could detect a wariness from the tone of the auspicious grove wood tree.

"Senior you seem to know them well, were you part of the sect or acquainted with them?"

"Part of them?! Are you cursing me?! They would have scammed me to no end if I was part of them...sorry about that.."

"They seem to have history," thought Yang Qing.

"I wasn't part of their sect, but I had the misfortune of being acquainted with one of their members who let's say is one of the reasons I never roam the continent as I used to.." said the auspicious grove wood tree with a wary tone.

"Roam? How does it do that in its form?" wondered Yang Qing as he secretly sized the tree.

"You seem to doubt me. I was a renowned traveler back then, I even managed to get the highest membership grade at the Horizon Odyssey Guild using this.."

One of the blue stones flashed with refracted light and quickly morphed into a humanoid figure which finally transformed into an elderly looking man with autumn orange robes, deep blue hair, and and crystal clear eyes that matched the purity of the brook.

The elderly man seemed to be the embodiment of serenity as he stood there with his hands behind his back. He turned around and faced Yang Qing with a gentle smile.

"Any one of these stones can be my clone if I want, though the further they are from my main body the weaker they get. The weakest they get is a peak stage domain expert, but that is only if I stumble onto some mysterious realms or sneak around the territory of some powerhouses.

Little Zhu and his brother used to pester me so much.." the elderly man said with a light chuckle as he stroked his beard.

"Pardon me senior, little Zhu is it Dean Zhu Lao?" asked Yang Qing as his eyes marvelled at the lifelike clone before him. It felt real in every sense of the word.

"Yes it's him, I can't believe he became a dean. How is he?"

Yang Qing could tell the clone of the Auspicious Grove wood tree seemed worried.

"He seems okay as far as I could tell..." Yang Qing answered.

"Though he had been in forced seclusion for 50 years.." Yang Qing went on to spill the beans about Dean Zhu Lao's embarrassing tale.

As long as others were talking about him, he would do the same. He wasn't about to let his stories be the only thing floating around.

"Ah if he's okay, then that's good.." said the auspicious grove wood tree in relief.

Yang Qing seemed to hesitate about asking something before he finally decided to pull the trigger and ask.

"Senior if you don't mind me asking, his brother, what happened? I have never heard of him before.." asked Yang Qing. I think you should take a look at

It was something he had always wondered about since the welcoming party.

"I am sorry I can't speak of the matter since it's not mine to share, but I can say his brother had a talent so high which honestly in my opinion no man, no beast, no plant could ever hope to match, either in the present, the past or the future.

The term defying was created with him in mind..." said the Auspicious wood grove tree in awe.

He went on to softly mutter the words pity before he turned to face Yang Qing.

"What I need your help with is this?" said the auspicious grove wood tree as he pointed to the brook of clarity.

"You must have learned the spring of resplendence right?"

"Yes," answered Yang Qing as he moved toward the brook of clarity, where the clone of the auspicious grove wood tree was gently brushing its water with his palm.

"When you reach the peak of the domain realm, you can come here and pour a drop of the spring of resplendence into this brook, that's all, will you do it?" asked the Auspicious grove wood tree with a smile.

"I will senior," Yang Qing solemnly answered with relief clearly written over him.

"What does he need it for?" he wondered.

The spring of resplendence was a healing technique, he didn't know what use it would have on an inanimate thing as the brook.

But he didn't ask, since it didn't look like the auspicious grove wood tree would answer as it dissipated its clone after receiving Yang Qing's answer.

Silence ensued, and Yang Qing began his torturous session with the brook of clarity as it exposed him to his experiences from the destruction of the Ice Emerald Sect, adding more scenes than it did the previous day.

For the two hours, Yang Qing still struggled as he did the previous day, and when the two hours were up, the brook cleansed him as it did, alleviating the mental burden from the prior two hours.

After four hours had lapsed, he took out a small flask with space expansion runes on it and put in a bucket's worth of water from the brook of clarity.

He thanked the auspicious grove wood tree after he was done as he eagerly waited for it to transport him back to his abode, so he could boil some rice with the water, and see how much the water improved the taste.

Once at the abode, Yang Qing quickly took out a red earthen clay he had where he gently poured the water from the brook of clarity.

He then took out a 50kg sac of rice from his storage ring and scooped out a handful which he sniffed with pleasure. The rice was pure white and crystalline and looked like tiny gems in rice shape.

This was rice from he had received from the Green Fog Swamp Sect as a gesture of gratitude. Yang Qing couldn't refuse, it would have been rude to do so.

Yang Qing smiled in pleasure as he washed them with the spiritual spring water he had before he finally poured them into the red earthen clay pot.

"I wonder how good it will be.." he muttered to himself with saliva dripping from his mouth as he lit a gentle fire under the pot.

"Oh, it seems I came at the right time.."

Yang Qing couldn't help but click his tongue when he heard the intruder's voice.

"How does he always time his visits?!" he angrily thought.

Chapter 493 Rice By The Pond

"What's that smell?"

The newcomer was a young man with long flowing black hair, smooth jade skin and slender build, and a handsome face which was immediately ruined by the turn of a crazed look that immediately appeared on his face when a bit of steam wafted his way.

Who could the young man be other than Feng Xin?

Yang Qing had a disgruntled look when he saw him appear. He thought he'd get to enjoy the meal by himself but all that went out the window the moment Feng Xin appeared and with the crazed greedy look he had on, the 50 kg sac could very well end up being eaten in one sitting.

"Yang Qing, is this the rice from Green Fog Swamp Sect? " Feng Xin excitedly asked as he took a huge sniff of the tantalizing scent mixed in the steam coming out from the red earthen clay pot.

"It is. What are you doing here? Don't you have cases to investigate?"

"How come yours smells better? When I made mine, it didn't smell this good.." Feng Xin muttered in confusion as he took more breaths.

He even went to the extent of cupping it on his hands and used a quick spell that condensed the steam into liquid which he then took a sip off.

"Mmmh.."

His eyes immediately lit up when he tasted the liquid.

"QING WHERE DID YOU GET THE WATER?!"

Like a deranged fiend, Feng Xin instantly jumped on Yang Qing and grabbed him by the collar as he spewed spittle everywhere with bloodshot eyes.

"Quiet down will you.." Yang Qing casually said as he effortlessly chopped him on his head, planting him on the ground.

"I got it from a senior I'm working with, but I don't have enough, so you can forget about asking me for some.." he said as he regulated the flames while constantly monitoring the rice inside.

"Always stingy.." Feng Xin muttered under his breath in discontent.

"Add some more.." he added.

Before Yang Qing could reject him, he took out his own weapon, which was the leftover hindleg of the green flowered babirusa they had butchered.

He had a smug look on his face as he flamboyantly swung it, which only grew when he saw Yang Qing swallow his words, take out more rice, and add more water, though begrudgingly.

"I wonder if senior Auspicious Grove will let me take more tomorrow? Hopefully he does. Luckily he needs something from me, otherwise, I don't think I'd have a face thick enough to ask for more.." he thought to himself.

Of course, the last part of his thought was him deluding himself, as his shamelessness knew no bounds.

Yang Qing's gaze fell on the babirusa meat that Feng Xin had already begun working on. He was already slathering it with various herbs and spices.

"Might as well go all out.." Yang Qing murmured to himself as he took out various vegetables and herbs which he cleaned, sliced into perfect proportions, and started another fire where he mixed those vegetables and put them to boil using the water from the brook of clarity.

Greedy gulps came out from the both of them a few minutes in when the steam from the rice and the vegetables mixed in with the barbecued smell of the babirusa. I think you should take a look at

Minutes passed by in silence with only the sound of boiling water and sizzling meat echoing around with the two showing an uncharacteristic level of attention and austerity to their works.

After half an hour there was a bowl of pristine white rice that looked like it had been plucked from a divine cloud, next to it was a crispy golden brown loin that dripped with juices, and another bowl were vegetables that had a glamor, and simplicity of their own.

"Shall we.."

"We shall.."

Yang Qing took out four white earthen bowls and two large wooden plates and chopsticks. He served the rice while Feng Xin made a cut of the barbecued babirusa meat.

As they both did this they both eyed each other to make sure the proportions were all equal. Only a fool would blindly trust another foodie when it came to divvying up food.

They wouldn't let the other off for even a single grain of rice, or a milligram of meat. It all had to be equal. It was only when it came to the assorted vegetable soup that they didn't mind that much.

After they had confirmed everything was the same, they each took their plates and bowls with child-like looks of glee, one could even see hints of tears in their eyes as they admired the food.

"Only one thing is missing now.." Yang Qing said as he took out a jar of vermillion wine.

Feng Xin's brows rose up when he saw the wine. It could be considered one of Yang Qing's prized possessions and he rarely took it out much less for him.

"You're awfully generous today.." he asked.

"Well as your boss I can't always be stingy besides think of this as my well wishes for you. You're headed to the mountain, right?" said Yang Qing as he poured two small cups for the both of them before he stored away the wine jug.

"Thank you, boss.." Feng Xin said as he took the wine cup and slowly swirled it with his hands.

The wine was orange-red like it was the crystallization of flames in liquid form. He wasn't a wine lover but this one of the few that he genuinely enjoyed.

He closed his eyes and took a small sip savoring the explosive sensation that came from it.

"This is truly magnificent.." he muttered in pleasure as he put it away.

"That it is.." said Yang Qing as he took a small sip of his own.

With that out of the way, the duo without hesitation instantly went for the rice, both curious if tasted as good as its smell, and when they did, it did not disappoint as a taste they could not describe or expect came busting out of the rice.

In an instant, the taste had eroded any self-control they had that they ended up finishing three bowls in three breaths before they calmed down and had enough patience to mix it with the vegetables and the babirusa meat, and when they did, the taste evolved even further.

It wasn't long before they finished a whole vat of rice, vegetables, and the babirusa meat.

They sat down on the grass by the pond with satisfied yet sorrowful expressions on their faces as they eyed their empty bowls and plates.

Chapter 494 Passing the days (1)

"I think that water should be added to the list of tasty ingredients we created. You can send Longwei half a cup no quarter no just a drop to tease him. I'd like to see the look on his face after the sip, he'd likely storm all the way here.." Feng Xin said with a cheeky grin.

"That isn't bad. In fact, I think I'll have it sent today. He bad-mouthed me the last time I was there. I'll send a half and maybe a half bowl of cooked rice along with it.." said Yang Qing with a gleeful expression.

"Though the rice Cheng Yuan gave us wasn't bad either.."

"It isn't. I'll need to collect some more. That reminds me, Peng Zhen's sentence should be starting in a few days now, I'll go see how he performs as I ask for more.."

"Ask some for me too, I already finished the batch they gave me.."

"It was 100kg, how did you finish it all in that short time?"

"Haven't you finished yours too?" asked Feng Xin with a smile of derision.

"Because of you. If you hadn't come over, it would have lasted longer.."

"We both know it's a lie. It's just us here, why bother pretending when we both know its end was already guaranteed the moment you used that water, even without it, it would have only survived a few days at most.."

"Shouldn't you be leaving.."

"Fine, fine.." Feng Xin flimsily said as he got up to leave.

"Oh, and Qing, sorry i wasn't there.." he said as he left.

"All the best Feng.." Yang Qing muttered with a smile.

When Feng Xin arrived, Yang Qing could already guess what it was for based on the fluctuations of his cultivation base.

He was already at the peak stage of the core formation realm when previously he had been at the tenth stage. He had leaped two minor levels in just a month. Though it may seem like a huge leap to most, Yang Qing knew Feng Xin had been deliberately holding back his cultivation for quite some time, despite already having the necessary accumulations to try a breakthrough to the palace realm.

After Yang Qing's prompt from last time in him not needing to do so, especially not account of Yi Jie, it seemed like Feng Xin listened, and was now making his way to the tribulation mountain for his breakthrough.

Yang Qing had a relieved smile on his face as he wouldn't have to work alone for long with Yi Jie and Feng Xin slotted to join him soon.

With renewed vigor from the thought and the energy from the meal they had, he went searching for the celestial nesting weaver to pay it back for its comments early in the day. After the swift workout, he went to cultivate in the large uncultivated patch of land next to his courtyard.

He wasn't sure he could replicate what happened at the grounds of the Clear River Sword Sect, but after seeing the effects, he was willing to try no matter how difficult or impossible it was.

He managed to cultivate for a few hours. Though the cultivation was fruitful, his experiment bore nothing.

When he was done he called Starlight over for a practice match to help it in the assimilation of the wisdom pearl of the cyclone arc prawn.

After their exercise, he made his way to the Medicine Valley to check on Ma Yuan and his daughter, and also to fulfill his end of the bargain with Tan Jie by assisting the valley with some of their work load.

At the time he had agreed to repay the favor for Tan Jie personally handling the case with Ma Ling, but now, he felt it would help him too, whether it came to understanding more about his cultivation art and physique or to ease his conscience somewhat.

He also wanted to find Ren Shu to try and find any information about the Origin Universe Resonant Light Sect, and the Auspicious grove wood tree's relationship with them. It sounded like the saint-grade tree might have been conned by them at some point, which drew his curiosity at what sort of characters the sect had to be brazen enough to con a saint-grade tree and by the looks of it even get away with it.

When he reached the Medicine Valley he first made a beeline for the Coalescing tranquility rivers of healing, where Ma Yuan and his daughter were.

Ma Yuan had already been given a courtyard to stay in but he spent every moment in the Tranquility River Pavillion where his daughter was kept for close monitoring and restoration.

Due to the fragility of Ma Ling's mind, to avoid overwhelming her and fracturing her mind, Ma Yuan's interaction was set for an hour at most, with the time of day being adjusted in accordance with Ma Ling's state, and during that interaction, he was advised to avoid introducing himself as her father first in case it triggered her like the first time, and he was also to avoid bringing up deep impactful moments of her life in their conversation.

He could only bring up the casual things, and slowly work his way up. The circumstances were anything but easy for Ma Yuan, but he complied. However, he did ask for permission to be allowed to stay close by even if it was outside the pavilion, to which Tan Jue agreed.

Yang Qing found him under one of the trees next to the river in silent meditation. Even with no cultivation, meditation was still useful to Ma Yuan, especially when it came to calming and strengthening the mind, and in a place like the Coalescing tranquility rivers of healing, that effect was magnified by 10,000 times because of the ascendant grade white lotus in the middle known as the confluence aurora harmony white lotus. It did wonders for the mind and soul. Ma Yuan couldn't have chosen a better place to stay.

In Ma Ling's room, he found her encased in a white gelatinous liquid that had green runes within it, and next to her was Tan Jue closely monitoring her.

Yang Qing exchanged a few words with her before she gave him a jade that contained the list of patients he would work on.

The cases would have been a bit complicated if they were given to anyone else, since the bulk of them were miasma poisoning cases that were so severe that they had even tainted some of the cultivator's soul and mental sea, but Yang Qing's yin yang peerless jade bone physique coupled with the universal qi was the bane of miasma and curses.

After thanking Tan Jue for her care of Ma Yuan's daughter, Yang Qing left to work on the cases given, with Ma Yuan none the wiser he was even there.

Chapter 495 Passing the days (2)

Yang Qing went to the Harmony Well Pavilion to deal with the cases Tan Jue had handed him.

There were thousands of pavilions, courtyards, and special locations around the Medicine Valley that catered to different medical maladies.

The Harmony Well Pavilion was an all-purpose pavilion that could be considered a jack-of-all medical hall. It handled everything from healing to regrowth of limbs, purification, and detoxification, internal demons purge, gu removals, and potion and pills brewing.

It had its own small lake and a herb garden to cater to all its needs and the area had been designed by a geomancy specialist and a formation master skilled with the natural formations, which was a sub-type of formation arrays that aimed at using natural features to trigger a symbiotic reaction that resulted in a natural array.

Such types of arrays were never defensive or attack-based but were mostly utility-based. Their aim was to promote the sustainability and longevity of the area they were located under by enhancing the growth of the biotic and abiotic features of the area.

The Harmony Well Pavillion thanks to the efforts of the geomancy specialist and natural array formation master were able to create one such array. The area had a gentle pure spiritual qi that had a quelling effect towards erratic qi caused by internal demons, it could delay violent effects that were caused by certain poisons, and it also helped in reducing the mental strain of the alchemists as they brewed

potions or of the physicians that were working on the patients, thus increasing their efficiency and also how long they could work.

That was just one of its features, as the array was able to boost the growth of various spiritual herbs that were unique to the conditions created by the natural array. It had created a system of its own geared towards restoration.

Yang Qing made his way to the third level of the pavilion as he greeted a few of the Valley members along the way.

It wasn't his first time at this pavilion as this was the place where he spent most of his time when he came over to help whenever he had free time to help practice the skills Deputy Hall Master Ren Shu had taught him.

Most of the cultivators on the third floor were in the late stage of the core formation realm, with a few quasi-palace realm cultivators showing up, while the fourth floor which was the highest was reserved for those in the palace realm.

It had the fewest patients as it was rare for those in the palace realm to get injured and those that did had their own means of dealing with it.

The pavilion mostly catered to outsiders, though those from the Order could be sent there for treatment, but it was mostly centered on outsiders. It saw visits from many cultivators at the core formation realm and below, while those at the palace realm were less, and the majority of those who came in were rogue cultivators.

The flooring of the third floor was made of swirling tranquility marble that made one feel they were within a gentle ocean, while the walls at the side were made of sundew jade stone that created a purifying light and ambiance to the floor that was further amplified by potted monk's chime bamboo plants.

At the center of the floor was a spectral image of crystal green kirin, which was a projection of an ascendant-grade artifact that was used to anchor all the formation arrays used within the building itself.

Yang Qing inserted his spiritual sense into the jade he was given by Tan Jue. Other than containing the patient's names, it also had their faces, cultivation base, affiliations, and the preliminary diagnosis done on them.

After reading through all the names within the jade, which was about 60 of them he immediately began his rounds.

Each patient was in his/her own compartment separated from the others by a green light curtain courtesy of the kirin treasure.

The light isolated presence, noise and acted as a seal to prevent one patient from contaminating the other, or prevent accidents such as berserk explosions from reaching the other patients.

The first patient Yang Qing dealt with was a rogue cultivation by the name of Ye Xun who was a core formation expert in the seventh stage. The diagnosis of his state was poisoning by a ghost vine spider, which judging by the damage done to Ye Xun had been one that was at least at the same level as Ye Xun or slightly weaker. If it had been stronger Ye Xun would not have survived more than a few minutes from its bite.

The ghost vine spider was a spirit beast skilled in stealth which made it adept at even escaping a cultivator's detection via the spiritual sense. It also had speed that matched its abilities in stealth, however, the most dangerous part was its venom.

The ghost vine spider's venom was filled with the purest corpse qi, and unlike corpse cultivators who get theirs through refining corpses, the ghost vine spider is naturally born with it which makes it more potent than that found in corpse cultivators.

Corpse qi was no different than poison mixed in with curses, if a regular cultivator was infected by it, and ghost vine spider's venom contained the purest kind that amplified its effects by a couple of levels. It would eat away at someone's qi, their blood, their flesh, slowly eroding and contaminating every aspect of the cultivator's body to the point they're nothing but a dried husk.

The rogue cultivator Ye Xun had a sufficient amount of corpse qi in his system based on how he was wreathing in pain while he shook violently. His body was covered in grey-black vine markings that released grey smoke. The vines looked like they were strangulating him.

"Luckily it hasn't permeated into his heart, soul, and dantian.." Yang Qing muttered as he placed his palms over Ye Xun's body.

The vines as if alive wriggled as if they were trying to jump out of Ye Xun's skin and latch onto Yang Qing's palm.

Eternal spring flames

Golden yellow flames were instantly produced from Yang Qing's palms exuding a sense of purity that would cleanse every blemish, within it was also an aura of dense life.

The flames instantly doused the grey smoke coming out of Ye Xun's body and then went on to burn away the grey-black vine markings on his body. Upon first contact with the flames, even unconscious, Ye Xun let out a gut-wrenching scream before his expression suddenly eased to one of relaxation.

A shrieking sound came from the grey vine markings as they rapidly receded from Ye Xun's body. Within three breaths his body had been cleared up of all markings, and his desiccated and cracked white skin now had some color within it, with his breathing and qi state coming under a normal rhythm.

There were black ashes on top of his skin which Yang Qing blew away with a wave of his palms. The ashes were millions of eggs the ghost vine spider had planted on him when it bit him. They would only have hatched a month after his death. The eggs had a fluid that would increase the speed of rot and degradation of the body to release corpse qi that would provide the necessary energy required for them to hatch, and when they did they would cannibalize each other until only one was left.

This was why every ghost vine spider was deadly, every single one of them had survived a brutal fight from the instant they hatched, where they had to defeat a million of their brothers and sisters or get eaten themselves, and the reward of being the final victor was to use those million siblings to refine the purest corpse qi out there.

Yang Qing left the rogue cultivator still asleep as he moved on to the next case. Within half an hour he had made quick work of 50 of the 60 cases he had been given by Tan Jue. He dealt with a few poisons, deep battle injuries, and internal demon rampages.

He could feel his skills had improved from when he last used them. He couldn't help but think of the experience he had at the grounds of the Clear Sword River Sect, the brief experience he had when he was trying to investigate if he could find traces of his physique from within his realm that ended up with him getting transported to a jade tree with countless leaves. The experience had resulted in a slight improvement to his cultivation albeit slightly since it still remained at the first stage of the palace realm.

Then there was the substance Green Cocoon left in his palace realm. Its presence had been qualitatively improving his inner palace realm, especially the green flame tree that was at the center. The object deposited was about the size of a pear fruit, however, after his debacle with the red abyssal thorn tree where it got triggered and helped him move and save Mo Lingwei, its size had decreased by half, however, even with a decrease, its effects had not waned one bit.

"Coming here wasn't a bad thing.." Yang Qing mused to himself as he eagerly moved to the next case.

Chapter 496 Passing The Days (3)

After ten minutes he was done, and unlike what he would normally do which was hurrying back to his abode or to the restaurant the moment he finished his work, Yang Qing uncharacteristically offered to do more, by assisting some of the physicians in their cases, which eventually led him all the way to the second floor that had the highest number of patients around.

Those housed there were cultivators in the foundation establishment realm. In terms of scale, the number of foundation establishment cultivators around the continent was the highest in number when tallied by realm.

Their bodies were much sturdier and their lifespans longer, and breaking through to reach it was easy, even easier than cultivating a gold body, of course, that only applied when one was forming the lowest grade pillar, the white pillar.

Most cultivators opted for this route, they didn't care much about reaching the peak of cultivation or having sturdy foundations, all they wanted was the long lifespan and durability afforded to cultivators the moment they made it to the foundation establishment realm.

From the moment you broke through to the foundation establishment realm regardless of the grade of pillar you had, your body was immune to all mundane diseases, it was impervious to the elements and change in weather, it was sturdy enough to block iron-based weapons, and even those made of the finest steel, one had enough strength to lift five elephants without breaking a sweat, they could run for 100 kilometers without fatigue setting in, and all their senses were amplified to match that of predators.

Even though they couldn't guarantee their lives in most places due to the chaotic and brutal nature of a cultivation world, as long as their luck wasn't bad, they didn't try to compete for resources and just lived simple secluded lives, their chances of living out the rest of their lives were higher than those in the qi refinement realm and below.

However, ironically, it also had the highest toll of recorded injuries and deaths. When one reaches the foundation establishment realm, one can qualitatively feel a difference that one wouldn't feel in the first two realms. That difference would incite something in them, a hunger to grow, to be more powerful, an intoxicating curiosity if the higher one moves, the better the rewards they will reap.

It was like a cat that had only been eating grasshoppers and butterflies for the longest time finally eating a lizard, then eventually it gets its paws and teeth on an unsuspecting bird. From the moment it eats the bird, it will never return to its grasshopper-eating days and would rather lick its fur than eat one.

For those in the foundation establishment realm, once they feel the power coursing through their body and how the world seems to change around them, for some, a fire is lit in them to seek higher heights, which then prompts them to expose themselves to all sorts of dangers in a bid to seek resources to improve their cultivation bases, this is especially the case from rogue cultivators, or cultivators coming from low ranked sects, or those without enough talent to stand out so they have to put themselves in risk to try and overturn their dealt hands.

No matter the reason, this almost always ends up with them injured or worse, and because the pool of foundation establishment cultivators around the continent is the highest, it means the percentage of injured cultivators within that realm is also the highest.

The Order offers one of the cheapest and most standardized plans when it offers its services, especially when it comes to those in the foundation establishment realm, which is why most who get injured choose to come here even if they belong to a clan or a sect, where they may get healed for free if they're valued or their injuries aren't severe. But even for those valued, some opt to visit the Medicine Valley, because the quality of treatment is guaranteed and the cost is affordable.

Their numbers never dwindle, even with a couple of fully stacked pavilions and courtyards handling their cases. Yang Qing riding the sense of accomplishment he felt from the 60 cases, decided to lend his hand to them for a few hours to help alleviate their burden.

One and a half hours in, the young physicians looked at him with awe-filled eyes, and Yang Qing the glutton for admiration that he was, used every trick to push it even further.

"Mmph, after this, I want to see what stories of me will float around. Maybe Saint Hands Yang Qing, Death Stop Yang Qing, Shining Flame Yang Qing..hehehe, I can't wait. But for that to happen I need to dazzle the new recruits.

Young ones, my saintly reputation depends on you.."

To further this agenda he even circulated his cultivation art to the extreme creating a universal light radiant glow around, and when he felt that wasn't enough he triggered the runes in his bones that were formed when he broke through to the peerless jade physique, to make his skin glow with an ethereal charm.

It seemed to work as there were gasps all around, which he pretended he didn't notice as he wore a fake austere and concerned look when he went to work on the next patient which was a young boy of about 17 years with a cultivation base that was at the third stage of the foundation establishment realm.

He was a disciple of a rank 5 sect, called the Rhino Silver Blade Sect. They were known for their sturdy defenses. They got attacked by bandits as he and his master were headed for an annual combat competition hosted by a local merchant company around their region.

They fended off the attackers, but they were both injured severely with the young cultivator having been poisoned with an arrow coated with ash made from invasive bane juniper tree. If infected by the ash, the victim would get paralyzed from having his qi made heavier by the ash, which then blocks and hardens the cultivator's meridians and even their blood vessels, asphyxiating them to death.

A branch inquisitor found them and had them sent over to the valley. The treatment for the poisoning was to drain them entirely of their qi, along with submerging them in a pond filled with glitter line leeches that would suck any ash that was in the bloodstream.

The ash had already been eliminated all that was left was restoring the qi. They had already finished with the master, and only the young boy was left.

Yang Qing smiled kindly at the young boy who was yet another awe-filled victim of Yang Qing.

However, the moment Yang Qing produced the spring of resplendence, something was triggered from within the boy's body, and whatever it was made Yang Qing's pupils flicker with a black and white radiance, without him knowing, and within the deepest recess of his palace realm, the jade tree flickered.

Chapter 497 Transforming The Pavilion

Everything happened too fast for those around Yang Qing to react. A small finger-sized fern that looked like it was made from delicate white radiant light feathers flew out from the body of the seventeen-year-old boy named Yi Nainzu, charging toward Yang Qing at an alarming speed.

The speed with which it moved was so fast that workers of the Medicine Valley present were unable to trace it or see it.

They only realized that something had happened because of Yang Qing. The moment the radiant light fern appeared from within Yi Nainzu's body, an indescribable power was instantly released from his body, a power that seemed to resemble the duality of everything; Light and dark, hot and cold, sun and moon, destruction and life, till it finally settled on the balance of nature.

A dense green and orange light burst from his body and his eyes, billowing his robes and hair. Within the two lights at the center where the two lights met were two halves of the same circle with one end being white and the other being white, and at its epicenter if one looked closely one could see an ethereal jade tree present.

The Jade tree had a primordial aura around it, it was like it existed when the world was formed.

Everyone present immediately fainted the moment it appeared. A gentle light was released from the tree which covered the specter of the kirin that had been just about to move from its position.

The moment the light touched it, despite being a lifeless stoic specter, the kirin showed an emotion of relaxation and comfort as it lay on the floor, calmly looking at Yang Qing who was now being cocooned with a green and orange light.

The fern that had charged straight at him got trapped in between his thumb and index finger. Two ancient-looking glyphs that were black and white respectively instantly appeared from the two fingers that had trapped the fern.

Yin Yang Sun Moon Eternal Starry Road Lock

An ethereal ancient voice came out of Yang Qing's lips as the two glyphs released a power that changed the whole room. The room seemed like it had been transported to the highest skies and to a different timeline just as the world was forming.

Purple primordial air filled the skies and the sun and the moon were just being born. A starry road immediately appeared between the sun and the moon. The starry road had golden stars mixed in with a few purple, black, and white stars.

Two fingers that looked like they could cover the world appeared and pulled the starry road along with the moon and sun transporting it to the fern which despite its small size, released a blinding dark light that made every array within the pavilion quake, while it threatened to tear the space apart.

It shook with a human-like desperation for escape after seeing something horrifying. However, its movements and the attack it released were instantly and effortlessly quelled by the starry road that had been compressed into a chain that locked it in place.

The starry road in combination with the sun and the moon released a combined light and charm that gently exploded from the fern and proceeded outwards spreading to every floor and every person and object within it.

It was like a radiant dawn had arrived at the pavilion. The thousands of patients on the second floor whether they were maimed, deeply injured, poisoned, or suffering qi deviation, no matter their injuries or sickness, were instantly healed, while all the plants within the pavilion and a few outside immediately burst forth with verdancy as their intrinsic qualities were instantly raised.

The potted monk's chime bamboo that were golden white in color seemed even more sacred after being doused with the starry light being released from Yang Qing's fingertips. Their purifying abilities seemed to have been pushed a few levels higher as there was now some type of melodic dao tune being released with a movement of their leaves that wasn't there.

There were a few vine plants around that had a massive growth spurt that led them to cover the entirety of the pavilion walls and windows. Even the kirin seemed to have been affected as its green color grew darker, and more vibrant and there was now a faint runic pattern flashing on the scales of its body.

All these changes took less than five seconds, meanwhile, the fern in Yang Qing's hand went still as the chain around it covered it and morphed the fern and itself into a small bead that was golden in color with the sun and the moon at its side, along with a faint purple coating and stars.

Yang Qing looked to his left as he said

"It seems I can leave this to them.." he muttered in the same ethereal and transcendent tone.

Though outwardly nothing seemed different, his eyes and the air around him seemed different than his usual self. He was gentle, calm and had an archaic and timeless look to him. He seemed like he predated everything in the world.

His gaze turned from the left and then moved to the bead in his hands.

"Too soon.." he softly said as he sat down in a lotus position and closed his eyes.

Serenity and calmness were restored to the pavilion, however, it was vastly different than it had been a few seconds ago.

Everything had been altered and transformed, whether it was the kirin, the monk's chime bamboo, to the vines hanging on the wall, the air within the pavilion, even the pavilion itself and the pond outside, seemed to have been transformed.

They were now more vibrant, purer, and more filled with life when compared to before. The pavilion was now less of a building but more of a natural feature that had been around for thousands and thousands of years. It felt like an old forest that was brimming with continuous vitality.

Seconds later, two people instantly appeared in the area. One was a female who seemed to be in her early forties in a green robe and black hair neatly tied on her back, the other was a male who matched her in age and had a willowy beard and hair tied in a Daoist topknot and matching green robes.

"What was that energy?" the man asked as he and the female next to him scanned the area around them before their eyes almost instantly fell on the bead that was in Yang Qing's open palm.

"What dense life energy and those undulations, was a soul formation expert here?" said the man with wariness in his tone.

"I can't seem to sense them.." said the lady.

Chapter 498 Talk under the tree

The duo had been on high alert from the moment they walked in, with their bodies tensed up in preparation for defense or attack

The air a few inches away from their bodies rippled from the energies they were releasing.

"If the person really was a soul formation expert, I doubt us with our domain realm cultivation base could detect them.." said the man with the willow beard.

"It seems Tan Jue is rushing here.." said the lady as she turned to her back.

"Do we stop her?" she added.

"For now, until we know what we are dealing with.

The duo instantly vanished from the spot and appeared a few hundred meters away in front of Tan Jue's flight path. She looked to be desperately making her way to the pavilion with worry written over her face. Tan Jue had an impatient and worried expression as she rushed in the direction of the pavilion.

She paused her steps the moment she saw the two.

"Greetings senior Yue Xin, Senior Bai Han..., what happened? Is Yang Qing and the rest okay?!"

"They are okay, but you can't head in there Tan Jue, until we know what is going on. We have already called the deputy hall master, and a few of the valley elders should be making their way here as we speak.." gently said the lady in green robes by the name of Yue Xin.

"But.." Tan Jue bit her lip in worry as her gaze fell on the pavilion with her pupils flickering in worry.

"I promise you, they're okay but because we don't know what exactly happened, we need to be careful. We are restricting the area to anyone below the domain realm.." said Bai Han.

"The deputy hall master is here.." he added as he and Yue Xin immediately cupped their fists as they gently said.

"Greetings deputy hall master Ren Shu.."

Tan Jue stood dazed before she hurriedly cupped her fists in greeting to the figure that had suddenly appeared in front of her.

"Tan Jue greets master.." she said as she addressed the young-looking man with fair skin and a handsome tender face with ocean blue hair gently flowing down his back, donning pure white robes.

"Jue'er you seem flustered, that's unlike you.." he gently said to Tan Jue as he softly patted her head.

"Master, Yang Qing is in there, I was the one..I was the one who sent him...if anything happens..."

"He is okay. Besides there are not many people within the Order who I think can match him when it comes to the ability to safeguard their lives. You know how he is.." the youthful-looking man said with a light chuckle as a mystical light flashed in his eyes as he stared into the pavilion.

"Jue'er go take care of your patients first, I'll have Yang Qing come say hi to you later.." he said with a teasing smile.

"Master..." she had an angry pout on her face for the insinuations her master was making.

Though it wasn't that she hadn't entertained the thought, but she ultimately let them fizzle out due to a few factors, one of which was her instincts told her Yang Qing didn't see her that way, and she loved her work too much to spare the time for anything else.

She was still young and a palace realm cultivator at that, she barely scratched the surface of her lifespan as it was. Her romantic venture would take a back seat for a few hundred years to a thousand before she decided to revisit the matter.

She looked up to find her master, Yue Xin, and Bai Han all looking at her with strange smiles on their faces. Her face reddened up and she hurriedly left the area and flew back to her pavilion.

"Who knew even she could make such a face.." said Yue Xin with a soft smile on her face as she watched Tan Jue's receding figure.

"She needs to act her age sometimes, which was why I always brought her along whenever I was with Yang Qing, hoping some of his traits would rub off on her.." said Ren Shu.

"Isn't that a risk, what if she ends up learning his renowned trait, we are already understaffed as it is.."

The trio smiled at each other as they made their way into the pavilion.

"Such dense life energy.." Ren Shu muttered in awe as he swirled his hands. The air around the hallway flew gently into his hands forming a swirling mix of stars.

"Interesting.." he muttered.

"Bai Han, Yue Xin tell the rest not to come and that the matter here has been handled. The valley master is coming shortly... In the meantime, I'll stay here by myself.." he said as he casually made his way to Yang Qing who was still seated in a lotus position with his eyes closed. He seemed like he was asleep.

The duo nodded in acknowledgment of Deputy hall master Ren Shu's order and left the building to relay the orders given.

"Yang Qing what mischief did you get into again? Was it the art's doing or your physique or both?" said Ren Shu as he scanned around him slowly analyzing everything.

"It seems the research your grandfather has been doing needs more investment. This level of energy, truly a marvel. Though it seems to have cost you something, luckily it isn't something irreversible.." he said as he squatted next to Yang Qing and a gentle blue drop was produced from his hand which immediately fell on Yang Qing's body and disappeared.

"What is this, I wonder.." he muttered as he stretched his hand for the bead on Yang Qing's hands.

"This?!!" his calm gaze flickered for a brief second before his head turned to the hallway where someone else had appeared.

....

Beneath an ethereal jade tree surrounded by auspicious air, and leaves that looked like they could contain a world were two childlike humanoid figures seated facing each other.

"It was too soon.."

"That it was.."

"But we had to do it...Otherwise, he would have been tainted and possessed"

"That we did.."

"Luckily he had the origin vitality essence to offset the impact.."

"That he did.."

"Too bad we will have to sleep for some time now.."

"It is.."

"But I'm glad he remembered us. I hope he comes here again.."

"That I do too.."

The two silhouettes had two voices though similar sounding had a difference about them. One felt fiery and the other felt cool, each distinct from the other but seemed together.

The two silhouettes immediately vanished from beneath the tree, as the tree swayed gently.

Chapter 499 Valley Master

Harmony Well Pavilion, second floor

"This is quite the surprise you called me to, Ren Shu.."

Ren Shu, who had been analyzing the bead he took from Yang Qing's hands, had turned toward the entrance of the second floor where a young lady appeared.

She looked about twenty years old, had light purple hair, and pink cherry blossom eyes with petal flowers and red-blue flames swirling around them. Her eyes seemed to contain an insatiable curiosity in them.

She wore a simple white flower patterned sleeveless dress and was bare feet and a beauty that looked like it had taken hundreds of thousands of years to create.

Everything about her was vivacious.

"Well, I figured you might enjoy something like this 'valley master'.." said Ren Shu with an easygoing and teasing smile.

"Seems like someone has grown some cheeky spine off late for him to tease his wife like that. I wonder if I should take a page from Meimei and have you go into a 50-year seclusion. It's about time you made that jump to the soul formation realm, you already have the necessary foundations, what do you think 'dear'.." said the young lady with a smile that wasn't exactly a smile.

"Ahem Ru'er please be kind besides if I leave for seclusion, then all the work you've been avoiding in lieu of conducting your experiments, will all fall on you now, dear.."

"Fine, you win.." said the young lady who was the valley master of the Medicine Valley, Fan Ru.

The grounds the Medicine Valley made had all been ushered by her. Over the years since its foundation she has researched and formulated countless recipes that went on to save countless lives, innovated over a dozen medical techniques that could deal with myriad of diseases the Valley would deal with, and was one of the main figures who pioneered ecological succession among spiritual herbs and their environment to achieve climax community, where they could support and maintain each other, without one trying to outdo the other.

She and a few elders of the valley, with Ren Shu included helped find a way to perfectly mend cracked dantians, something that was once considered impossible to remedy.

She was a purple-grade herbologist, which could only be gained by one who could successfully cultivate a saint-grade spiritual plant, had equal matching skills in alchemy, and was steadily raising her medical techniques to reach the level of her herbology and alchemy skills.

Her presence in the Medicine Valley and to the Order as a whole was instrumental to its ability to reach where it is today. However, for months on end, she would neglect most of her duties as the Valley Master whenever she found something interesting to research. She was the type to put her hobbies in front of her job.

Some of the research she went on an unhinged binge on, bore some fruit, but most, were usually useless, like trying to research if certain plants could produce sap that could alter the saliva properties of a spirit beast, and so on and so forth, leaving the valley rudderless most of the time, especially in the early years.

Luckily, Ren Shu came along, who though didn't have her skills when it came to alchemy since she had an innate advantage because of her Yuan bloodline, which gave her an abnormal level of fire control, and innate detection of the property changes, he did match her skills in herbology and medicine, more so the latter.

He already had the qualifications to be a purple-grade physician which meant, he could heal soul formation experts, however, what was holding him back was his cultivation base. Even though he knew how to heal them, his own abilities couldn't keep up with his knowledge, but the moment he broke through to the soul formation realm, his abilities would finally be at the same level as his knowledge.

With his skills, he was able to hold the reigns of the Medicine Valley and in some regard, most saw him as the real Valley Master, since he guided new physicians, was always there whenever he was needed, and his knowledge and skills were revered by both old and young.

..

Just as Ren Shu was sighing at what a handful his wife was, he saw her suddenly laugh as she was looking at Yang Qing.

"For someone who hates working, this little whelp sure worked a lot this time. The transformation he brought seems to have even affected the natural formation encompassing this area.

In a few thousand years, I doubt this would be a true blessed ground of healing, we won't even need to have healers here. They could just be thrown here, and they'd get better..."

She went on to laugh some more and even poked Yang Qing's cheeks as she teased him despite Yang Qing being presently unconscious.

Ren Shu despite trying to hold himself back, found himself smiling alongside her.

"Luckily the backlash from the ability he used wasn't severe, otherwise it would be a pity for the Valley and the Order.." she said with her face suddenly turning serious.

She placed her hand on Yang Qing's glabella as a small red-blue flame rune appeared. Green smoke was instantly released from Yang Qing's forehead.

Her pupils fluttered with a look of surprise.

"So that's how he survived the backlash. Mmph, what a lucky kid, even the green cocoon helped him.." she muttered with clear envy in her tone.

"This looks to have been the trigger for all of it..." Ren Shu said with an austere expression as he handed the bead to her.

"The object inside is a fern, but its body seems to have been made from the threads of the golden thread tree that had been mixed in with the sanguine heart vine, and by its quality, it looks to have been at the peak of the ascendant grade..."

From the trace energy left, it seems to have originated from that boy's body.." Ren Shu said as he pointed toward the seventeen-year-old boy that Yang Qing had approached.

"But what is something like this doing in him? He doesn't have a special physique or background that would draw the attention of someone capable of engineering such a plant.." he added

"Mmmh, I've never seen something like this before. The level of technique of combining the two plants should at the very least require the skills of top-tier gold-grade alchemists who are inches away from the door of the purple grade, though I think they're more than likely at the purple grade and they have considerable resources at that.

Getting your hands on a golden thread tree isn't something just anyone can get since it's born with saint-grade abilities from the onset, and its karmic abilities are nothing to scoff at.."

She paused as her eyebrows rose up.

"There are numerous arrays mixed in, mmh, I can't seem to recognize some of them. Linking array, self-destruct array, cloaking array, alarming array. The kid's technique seemed to have sealed them in a way the one who put them there wouldn't know this.

I had he was skilled with arrays but this? it seems there is a lot we don't know about the jade physiques..." A glint of crazed excitement flashed in her eyes as she said this.

Ren Shu shook his head sideways when he saw this. It was an all too familiar scene. She was about to throw herself into another research for an indefinite period of time.

However, he too was now intrigued by the peerless jade physiques, especially when he saw the changes around him.

"It looks like they have a self-protection mechanism of some sort, just like those with contractual bloodlines from powerful spirit beasts, which have their sentient will embedded in them..."

"Mmh, I wonder if he will remember the trigger, but with the level of power he released, to protect his mind, I doubt he will.." said the valley master.

"This plant is too strange. Send that boy to the special inquisitors and have them investigate if there is anything strange with his background, while I take this to the spirit council.

This thing seems less like a plant, and more like a weapon.." she added as she prepared to leave.

"What about Yang Qing and the rest?" Ren Shu said with an exasperated smile.

"Well you're the acting valley master dear, deal with it.." the valley master said with a cheeky smile as she disappeared.

"Figures.." Ren Shu muttered to himself as he shook his head.

"Oh, that whelp should be up in three days, I'll be back then. You can take him to our abode, and have his grandfather there too.."

Ren Shu waved his hand, and all the sleeping medical valley workers got lined up neatly together in a single file.

When he was done, he bent over to pick Yang Qing up.

"I wonder if we should rename this pavilion after you now, Yang Qing. Knowing him, he is bound to demand it along with trying to scam some compensation from the Order and us...Luckily the lotus lily heart seeds are about to be formed, which should take care of our 'debt'...

Always a handful.." he muttered to himself with a smile as he disappeared from the pavilion, leaving it in its tranquil state.

Those left behind were not in any danger and were fast asleep, and sleeping in that environment created by whatever Yang Qing did, was a blessing for them. Their bodies and souls were continuously being transformed and nourished by the changes in the pavilion caused by Yang Qing, and they would likely continue to reap those rewards even after years had passed by.

Chapter 500 Blank Memory (1)

"Aaargh, why does my head feel like someone took a club to it.."

"Qing'er, Qing'er get up slowly...."

"Grandpa?"

Yang Qing's vision was hazy as he woke up to the blurry face of his grandfather.

"Looks like I'm having the same nightmare with Grandpa again. That darn pit. Grandpa stop haunting me, I've already broken through to the peerless jade physique. Go throw dad in the pit this time..."

Yang Qing felt groggy and his sense of touch along with all his other senses felt sluggish. His body didn't feel like his own. He felt like he was trapped in a string of cobwebs that had a paralyzing effect on him with every touch and movement.

"The dream this time seems different. The sensation seems real, was it the brook's doing? Dammit, Grandpa if you weren't my grandpa I'd throw you into the pit myself.." Yang Qing angrily muttered when he felt his sense of taste dull.

"That's some way to talk to your grandfather you squirt.."

"Even the agitation behind his voice seems real.." Yang Qing muttered in confusion as he stretched his hand toward the hazy image of his grandfather.

He expected his hand to pass through, however, when it made contact, he was visibly flabbergasted.

"What is this?"

"You're not dreaming, Yang Qing.."

"Deputy hall master Ren Shu?" Yang Qing muttered in confusion as he looked towards the source of the voice.

The image was still blurry, and for some reason he felt he couldn't use his palace sense very well, which was why he thought he was dreaming.

His grandfather has appeared quite a lot in his dreams over the years, along with Lei Weiyuan, but Ren Shu has never appeared, not even once.

His voice seemed to have been imbued with a charm that cleared the foggiest he felt.

His vision started clearing up by the second along with his use of his other senses.

"What am I doing here?" He asked in confusion when he noticed he was in a room made of wood from a soul-stirring brown oak.

Based on the design of the room and the materials present, he instantly knew he was in Ren Shu's courtyard since he had been a regular frequenter of the place.

"Wasn't I at the Harmony Pavilion just a few minutes ago? What am I doing here?" he muttered in confusion before his pupils constricted with wariness.

"Grandpa did you do something to me?" he hurriedly asked.

In his younger years, such instances had happened way too often. His grandfather would bribe him with some sweet-tasting herb and before he knew it, he woke up with a foggy mind along with all kinds of side effects.

Seeing his grandfather here, and him waking up confused, it didn't take long for Yang Qing to attribute the whole thing to Yang Fen.

"Qing'er, what type of person do you take me for?!!"

"Yes, I may have done a few things in the past like sneak a potion or two in your meals, knock you out with a few smoke pills, use dissonance echo stones.."I think you should take a look at

The voice of Yang Qing's grandfather, Yang Fen got lower with an awkward look of embarrassment as he went down the never-ending list, but his voice rose up a few decibels with an air of righteousness when he reached the end.

"Qing'er this time it wasn't me!! Master Ren Shu can attest to that. This is what I get for caring for you and even standing watch without rest these past three days. Mmph, what an ungrateful grandchild.."

"What do you mean three days? Deputy Hall Master Ren Shu please check on my grandfather, he is getting along with age, and with his crazy experiments and work habits, he damages his body a lot.." Yang Qing worryingly said as he hurriedly got up from the healing mat he had been lying on, to check on his grandfather's internal conditions.

"Be careful.." His grandfather hurriedly said as he helped support Yang Qing who almost tripped over.

"The kid still cares about his grandfather.." he thought with a smug smile as he helped Yang Qing find his balance.

"Something happened to me.."

Yang Qing turned a solemn gaze toward Ren Shu as he made the statement. The few-second interactions with his grandfather, and his body, made him aware there was something wrong.

And now even with his senses back to normal, he still felt a deep weakness within his body, and the weakness wasn't just in relation to his body, he felt fundamentally down to his soul like he had overdrawn it, and it didn't just stop there, his palace realm felt weaker, less vibrant, and some part of him, felt dormant.

"Yes, there was. Let's go out, Fan Ru should be arriving shortly. Let's wait for her so we can explain things in detail. We too have questions of our own.." said Ren Shu as he led Yang Qing and his grandfather outside the room to a garden of tree peonies, that released a colorful white-red mist that had calming and restorative properties, in addition, they also provided a gentle cool air to the area.

Yang Qing was able to regain a bit of his strength which enabled him to walk alone and even take a seat without help. However, his face was deeply consternated as he stared at his hands clenching and unclenching them.

"Something is seriously wrong.." he gravely said.

"Drink this.." Ren Shu calmly said as he poured him and his grandfather mild green tea.

"Thank you.." said Yang Qing as he took the cup.

A few minutes passed by with none talking to the other. Yang Qing was lost in his thoughts trying to understand what exactly happened to him and the other two left him to it.

However, the silence was broken by the teasing melodic tone of a young woman.

"Little whelp, who knew even you could make such a serious expression?"

"Valley master?!" Yang Qing immediately pulled himself away from his speculative thoughts as he rose up to greet the newcomer.

The young, beautiful lady in a blue flower-patterned dress, bare feet, and cherry blossom eyes which had two different flames burning within them along with swirling white petals.

"You never seemed this excited all the other times I tried to get you to join us?" she added with a cunning glint flashing in her eyes.

Yang Qing froze with an embarrassed smile slowly growing on his face.

"About that?..."

He didn't know what to say after that.

He couldn't exactly tell them he was sorry to deny them all those times because to him the Medicine Valley was the true belly of the beast called the Order. He could forget ever having a break from the moment he agreed to join them.

Then there was also the fact, that despite refusing them, he still shamelessly accepted their gifts, he regularly visited the valley to sponge off their resources, and he would occasionally come to their abode and proposition a few things here and there. The purple lightning bamboo was something he had plucked from the garden in their abode, then there were the countless fruits and rare ingredients he ate every now and then.