

Daily life 771

Chapter 771 Network And Rehabilitation (5)

Having made all the necessary arrangements, Yang Qing decided to go to the Medical Valley to inform Ma Yuan of his departure, whilst he was there, he would also try and help out for an hour to further hone his abilities.

After losing the use of his physique temporarily, and realizing the gains he had made after, when it came back, Yang Qing promised himself to continue with the same practice of his spells and techniques without the aid of his physique, and with its aid so he could hone his base abilities, and increase his sensitivity to the effects his physique had on all his abilities.

When he arrived, he found Tan Jue had already begun her daily treatment of Ma Ling, with Ma Yuan waiting patiently at the side still wearing the same nervousness he had on him the first time he saw Ma Ling surrounded by a silver water cocoon.

Yang Qing told him of his departure without getting too much into it which he wasn't sure Ma Yuan heard, as he was a bundle of nerves.

Yang Qing then left for the general admissions hall, to deal with the never-ending stream of injured cultivators. It was during his duties that he got a call about someone and something he had forgotten about.

"Yang Qing where are you? I heard you were back, I already prepared the list for you.."

"Vice Warden Shao An! Sorry, it had escaped my mind. I'm at the Medical Valley doing my rounds, but I am just about done, I could come over.."

"There is no need for that. I was about to meet up with Ren Shu later anyway, I might as well do it now. Give me a few seconds.."

When the call ended, Yang Qing couldn't help but take a deep breath of relief. After his first experience at the Requiem, he did not want to step in there. He still couldn't forget the terrifying presence he felt lurking at the bottomless abyss beneath the twelve humongous mountains. The thought of going back there again blood run cold.

As promised, in less than ten seconds had already appeared silently beside Yang Qing who was startled at first before he smiled as he cupped his fists in greeting at the taciturn-looking youth in black robes whose eyes showed the vicissitudes of life standing next to him.

"Vice warden Shao An.."

"Yang Qing.."

Before Yang Qing could suggest they move to a different place to talk as they were currently in the middle of the medical hall, Vice Warden Shao An calmly said,

"We are already isolated in my domain.."

Yang Qing couldn't help but raise his eyebrows in surprise as he didn't notice a thing. Curiously, he started looking around him trying to sense anything out of place. He was pulled out of his investigation by Vice Warden Shao An's mirthful comment.

"You can't feel it, not even someone in the middle stages of the domain realm can notice it. Only someone at the same level as I am can notice it's there.."

On hearing that, Yang Qing promptly gave up on his curiosity with a sheepish grin. The Vice Warden before was rumored to already have half a foot into the soul formation realm if only those of his level could sense the domain's presence, an early-

stage palace realm weakling had no business sensing around for it.

"Since I broke through, instead of feeling stronger, my interactions and experiences only make me feel weaker and weaker..." Yang Qing aggrievedly thought.

"Here.." Vice Warden Shao An said as he handed Yang Qing a light blue jade slip filled with complex runes.

"The list you wanted is in there. I've provided seven names, as per your new role, you can only supervise three. They are all from the horse mountain, while you'd be able to handle those from the ox mountain with the restrictions we have in place, I think it would be easier to handle those at the same level as you..."

Because they were dealing with sensitive information as it involved prisoners of the Requiem, Vice Warden Shao An could only hand over the slip personally, as the runes inscribed on the slip could only be activated by him. He helped Yang Qing register his spiritual imprint on the slip that would grant him and him alone, access to its contents even without Shao An being there.

Once he was done, Vice Warden Shao An said,

"Sorry, I can't stay too long, my schedule is rather hectic of late. Once you have made your decision please inform me and don't take too long as I am about to go into seclusion in the next two or three months, hence the busy schedule.."

"I am about to leave for a few days to establish contact with my network. I will look over the list during my travel, and hopefully, by the time I'm back, I will have already made my decision. Thank you for your help with this, Vice Warden Shao An.."

"It's nothing, besides, in a way you're lessening my workload.." Shao An said with a smile as he disappeared a second later leaving an envious-looking Yang Qing who wondered when he would get to be that powerful.

He couldn't detect Vice Warden Shao An's coming or going, despite him being in front of him. Facing such an opponent, he wouldn't even realize how he died.

"I might as well do what I am good at.." Yang Qing muttered as he used the remainder of the few minutes remaining to heal as many cultivators as he could in a bid to lift his spirits, which it did when he saw the dumbfounded looks on the faces of his patients and the medical valley trainees who looked at him like he was like some sort of monstrous saint.

Soaking in the looks of admiration and awe, Yang Qing's mood improved as he sauntered away, making his way to Gold Eagle Town.

Chapter 772 Gold Eagle Town

Gold Eagle Town, was a town under the jurisdiction of the Order. It was located several hundred kilometers away from the grounds that held the headquarters and its facilities. The town was governed by the administration department, with silver guards patrolling its alleys, maintaining Order.

Other than the name, the silver guards, and the general administration, the buildings, or the people that had swarmed the region filling it with life had no relation to the Order. It was a town that was created out of convenience. There was only so much convenience and help the Order could provide within its walls when it came to accommodation, transport, and other services.

With the number of cultivators who swarmed through its doors, it could not cater to all their needs.

For example, a rank 5 clan whose prized member was involved in a case, which prompts a few of their members to make the trip with him or her. Once they arrive, it's unknown how long the case would take to be resolved, where will they stay as they wait. The inns and pavilions within the grounds of the Order were not infinite, and in as much as the Order encouraged the owners of said inns and pavilions to institute fair pricing, sometimes, fair was relative.

Not all rank 5 organizations were the same, they may not be able to afford the cost, and although the Order tried to address this issue by creating the green landscape that cost two low-grade spirit stones, its lack of privacy made it inappropriate for most, especially the low ranked organizations to whom it was primarily made for, who were always nervous due to its open nature where anyone could see them. It was an unnerving feeling for them as it made them feel like prey exposing itself to countless predators and the Order couldn't very well inscribe isolation arrays all over the place as it was a costly endeavor.

Accommodations weren't the only issue, there was transport, while the Order did help somewhat through the use of its flying ferries, the continent was vast in size, and those who came were from all over, they could hardly transport them all, and those that they could was but a drop in the ocean. Cultivators would have to arrange their means both to and from the headquarters.

With numerous constraints and limited capabilities, the Gold Eagle Town was born out of that need. The Order provided 120,000 acres to mercantile and escort organizations that would like to either build a branch or a main headquarters there. The cost of building would be catered by those organizations, while the Order would provide the security and administration.

All organizations regardless of rank were subject to its rules within that acreage. The rules themselves were not that constraining as it was based on fair pricing and the prevention of both overt and covert struggles between those organizations. Whatever feuds they may have with one another they would have to forget it all the moment they stepped in that land. The acreage embodied the Order's will which was fairness to all in its absolute sense.

Though sentiment for the Order was mixed around the continent, when those organizations heard about the acreage of space they were leasing out, along with the promise of protection, countless organizations both the established and the new ones swarmed into the area, and the empty land was transformed into one of the most prosperous mercantile hubs in a few short months packed with any type of business that one could think of.

Inns, pavilions, escort agencies, banks, auction houses, alchemy, and weapon shops, all manner of shops sprouted within with major organizations like the White Rose Pavilion, Thousands Star Treasure Hall, Golden Bamboo Pavilion, Maple Leaf Manor, Gold Earth Bank, Black Talisman Tower and countless other rank 1 and rank 2 organizations opened branches or subsidiaries of their organizations there, while other organizations the ones that were more in rank 3 and lower established their main headquarters there. There was no place better for them to develop. The Order's presence ensured they would not be oppressed by the powerful organizations, not with the Order watching.

Because of those factors, the town was constantly brimming with activity at all times, drawing cultivators from all over, even ones who had no appointments with the Order would flock to the town. It was one of the safest and most convenient places to be in if one was looking for something.

When he was a few kilometers from the town, Yang Qing transformed himself. His green hair turned earth-brown along with his eyes, he changed his face to seem more ordinary, that one would miss it along a crowd, and his whole aura transformed into a simplistic one. He had the aura of a content simple farmer whose simple pleasures in life were tilling the land, enjoying his wife's cooking during breaks, exchanging laughs with neighbors over simple rice wine, and whatever little adventures his life as a farmer would give him, and that was enough. His robes had transformed too, into a light grey coat that complemented the air that surrounded him.

His transformation wasn't the result of some cultivation but was one of the benefits afforded to him by his yin-yang jade nature bones physique. His physique coupled with the purple-

grade art, the universal light of the myriad worlds worked seamlessly together to create the perfect transformation technique, which transformed not only his physical features but also his nature.

Right now he was exuding the presence of someone in tune with the earth element that he would be easily mistaken to have an earth-based physique. His physique and cultivation made him intimately familiar with most elements as it was the foundation with which they both operated under, the foundational building blocks of creation which was why the manifestation of his palace realm was the way it was.

His entire essence had been transformed in the process, and it was more natural because of his physique and art which made it almost impossible for anyone in the palace realm to see through it, as his qi, his soul, his blood, and his entire body exuded the flavor of the earth element.

Yang Qing didn't bother to disguise his cultivation base, and though he was reserved and stable with his aura, his cultivation base as a second-stage palace realm cultivator was there for anyone to see. Hiding his cultivation base would likely bring more trouble than avoiding it. In a world where strength was king, it was foolish to hide your cultivation base all in the name of blending in.

If he hid his cultivation base, some arrogant foundation establishment cultivator would likely come to bully him so that they could feel better themselves and were more than likely to make a showing of it, drawing more attention to himself. Even reducing it to the core formation realm seemed silly to him because if he was forced to act and revealed the abilities of a palace realm cultivator, wouldn't people wonder why he was hiding it in the first place, drawing more attention?

It was easier to let his true cultivation base show to deter such troubles at the root. A palace realm cultivator appearing wasn't odd, but a palace realm cultivator pretending to be a qi refinement cultivator, now that was extremely odd.

Nodding in satisfaction at his transformation, Yang Qing made his way to the branch of the Gold Earth Bank that was in the town. Thanks to his green jade token, and the amount currently held with them, he was given great treatment as one of its moderately rich clients. He was even given a talisman that would grant him special access and notifications to upcoming auctions the bank held that weren't available to most, along with the promise of receiving special discounts across several businesses that they had a close association with.

Seeing the service and perks offered, Yang Qing couldn't help but regret why he had not acquired their services. Most of Yang Qing's earnings were spent within the confines of the Order so he never thought of putting them anywhere other than his storage ring and the vaults in his abode.

He had entertained the thought of having his earnings and treasures stored elsewhere like the Dragon Meadow, but unless one of their members approached you it was next to impossible to locate them, and later he thought of starting up with the White Rose Pavilion, which also operated banks amongst their long list of businesses, but after the auction embarrassment, Yang Qing swore to never give them his business.

After that, he never gave it much thought, but now, after experiencing the treatment provided by the Gold Earth Bank, he had to rethink it. While he didn't have millions in high-grade spirit stones, he did have monarch-grade treasures and artifacts, collections of blue-grade scrolls, talismans, and cultivation arts that were just as valuable.

"Maybe I could try the Thousand Star Treasure Hall.." thought Yang Qing, as he thanked the attendant of the Gold Earth Bank for giving him information on the escort agencies that were moderately priced but offered decent prices.

The attendant gave him an extensive list, and it came as no surprise that a few within the list would give him a decent discount because of his membership with the bank. Yang Qing looked over the list before he finally settled on one. It was relatively new when compared with the rest, which was one of the reasons Yang Qing chose it. Trying to break out and establish its foot in the industry, it was sure to go above and beyond for every new customer it got, compared to the long-

established ones.

While it was a work trip, Yang Qing never forgot it was his vacation, he was going to combine both and ensure he enjoyed the trip as much as possible, much better than during his evaluations where he had been on a deadline. All that trip did was saddle him with endless troubles, but now it would be different, there was no Ellie to disturb him and no Lei Weiyan haunting him to finish his evaluations, it was just him and the comfortable skies, and he was going to make the most of it, and finding a good escort agency was the start of it.

Chapter 773 Bluefin Spine-Tailed Swift

After leaving the Gold Earth Bank, Yang Qing walked for almost two hundred meters before he came to a stop in front of a three-story building that was made of wood that was a mixture of red and white. Looking at it made one feel like they were staring at the sunset covered with white puffy clouds. It brought a sense of relaxation to someone's mind like they were resting from the day's labors.

Yang Qing raised his eyebrows in admiration and surprise. The wood used to build the building came from a vermilion cloud tree, and from the effects it had, Yang Qing estimated it couldn't have been less

than 20,000 years old. Seeing that it could affect his mood, and lull him into a relaxing mood, it was definitely a monarch grade material, and the marksmanship, while he wasn't a professional in that regard, after interacting with Chief Song Chuanli for years, he could tell the workmanship for the building before him was decent and probably a blue grade craftsman did the work.

Yang Qing's surprise wasn't because of the materials used, or the level of craftsmanship, while both were good, it wasn't exactly a standout when compared to the rest of the buildings in the town. The Gold Earth Bank building had a few ascendant-grade materials, and the arrays inlaid within it were likely the work of a gold-grade formation master and they were not alone in this as other organizations had used more or less the same level of materials and craftsmanship.

The reason he was surprised was because the building before him was the headquarters of the newly created Bluefin spine-tailed swift escort agency. It was the agency he had decided to use for his travels. From the description given by the staff of the Gold Earth Bank, it had only been around for some thirty-odd years, with its founder, a rogue cultivator who was in the early stages of the palace realm.

Despite its young history and lack of organizational backing most escort agencies had, it did not seem lacking in any way, whether it was the design of its headquarters or the services it offered and the positive reviews it garnered from said services. In those thirty years, it had been rapidly gaining in repute, and by the estimates of that staff member, it wouldn't be long till it caught up with the long-established agencies, especially with its founder at its helm, its rise was all but guaranteed.

Out of curiosity Yang Qing asked the staff what gave them such confidence as he felt it had to be one of the reasons the bank agreed to be in a marketing partnership with them by giving its members special discounts when using that escort agency. He knew Banks were just as stingy as the Order, even more so. They would rarely engage in something that they would not profit immensely from. They must have seen something in the agency for them to willingly invest in them. Even though they didn't necessarily provide monetary support, just the association with Gold Earth Bank was more than enough support from the bank.

The response he got was because of the owner's prospects, specifically his talent. He was a few years shy of sixty but he was already a fourth-stage palace realm expert, and he had made such an achievement without the backing of a sect, clan, or any large organization. A 50-year-old palace realm cultivator was already in the realm of genius, one could only imagine what his achievements would have been like had he been nurtured by some of the top-tier factions. From the staff's words, he was thought of highly by their branch president. He had a good head on his shoulders, knew how to cultivate relationships, and had tremendous talents, bar any misfortunes, the rise of his agency was all but guaranteed.

That had been one of the factors as to why Yang Qing decided to settle on them. Ideally, he would have gone for the Wind Gliding Mercenary Escorts, but since he was going as the mysterious head of the green jade pavilion and the post would follow him throughout his career, he might as well establish a new line of relationships for that character.

Yang Qing made his way into the building, it was silent, and graceful just like the outside, not too showy, but comfortable and elegant with just the right amount of touch.

The welcoming attendant guided him to one of the staff members, her demeanor polite with a gentle smile and it was not surprising that she was beautiful to boot. Her name was Li Mei and was a peak-stage foundation establishment cultivator. Though she did try to handle herself professionally, exuding calmness and hospitality, Yang Qing could tell she was slightly unnerved around him. Yang Qing couldn't help but wonder if the escort agency didn't deal with palace realm clients often.

She guided Yang Qing to a desk that housed a cultivator who was in the seventh stage of the core formation realm. He looked to be in his early thirties, with handsome, black hair neatly tied in a daoist top knot and elegant silk blue robes which added to his elegant charm.

Despite looking perfectly composed, his pupils trembled slightly when he saw Yang Qing and Li Mei walk over. When they reached his desk, he stood up while cupping his fists with respect.

"Good morning fellow daoist, on behalf of the Bluefin spine- tailed swift, I would like to offer my thanks for visiting this establishment and will do our utmost to cater to whatever escort needs you may have.."

"Thank you, my name is Yang Qing.."

"Nice to meet you daoist Yang Qing, I am Duan Ting, the third escort supervisor of this agency.."

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Duan Ting, and just call me Yang Qing, just Yang Qing is okay with me.."

Yang Qing decided to just go with his name as is even if his face and aura had changed. It wasn't like his name was so unique that he would be easily identified by it.

Duan Ting nodded with a smile as he turned to Li Mei who was anxiously waiting to be told to leave, but unluckily for her, Duan Ting had another task for her.

"Miss Li Mei could you bring us a fresh pot of jade rabbit spring tea.."

Li Mei's eyes widened slightly in surprise before she left for the order. Yang Qing was just as equally surprised. Jade rabbit spring tea leaves were considered monarch-grade materials, they cleansed and healed the body, purging it of impurities. Most alchemists drank a brew made of its leaves to cleanse themselves of pill poisoning which came about from exposure to the potions and pills they brewed. Even without consuming them through long-term exposure, it would sip through their skin. Jade rabbit spring tea helped purge their bodies of those accumulations, which not only cleansed their bodies, but strengthened their souls too, and its taste was just as magical as its abilities.

Yang Qing wasn't about to be pretentious and refuse it, he even had half a mind to ask for a full pot to drink just by himself.

"The Gold Earth Bank was right, your services really are good.." said Yang Qing.

"Our founder encourages us to be sincere and welcoming in our duties.." Duan Ting modestly said.

"So how can we be of service, Yang Qing.."

Chapter 774 Ferry Tiers

"I was looking to visit these four places.." Yang Qing said as he took out a map from his storage ring and unfurled it on Duan Ting's desk.

Four locations had been circled on the map, with those four places having the symbol of a green jade pavilion on top of them.

"There are a few things that I need from these shops. Is there a flight going along that route, and what are the charges? I'd also like to know flying at a moderate speed, how long would it take for you to get me to all four of those places.." asked Yang Qing.

The four places he had circled were four shops of the Green Jade Pavilion and they were located close to the territories of the four agents he had intended to meet.

With an attentive look, Duan Ting examined the map as he narrowed in on the four places.

"The first place should be in Camel Lake-town in Hanming province under the Sun Birch Kingdom, the second is Five Peak Valley under the territory of Moonpine Kingdom, the third is Thousand Forgehold City under the territory of the Ascendant Divine Armament Sect, and lastly Azure mirage city in Swan Oak province under the Great Chen Empire..

Considering the distance, it should take four days, to make the complete journey but it will only be four days if you hire our highest-tiered service.." Duan Ting said after some thought.

As if afraid of being misunderstood he added,

"It's not that I am trying to make you go for the highest tier. Our travels have a lot of stopovers during regular travel for drop-offs and picking up new customers as we make our journey.

Only when we have a highest-tier customer do we remove those stops, maintaining it only a maximum of three stops outside of yours along the route, and the stops don't last more than five minutes..."

"That's fairly understandable. How many tiers are there?"

"There are three, gold which is the highest tier, silver tier follows after it, and the lowest is the bronze tier.."

"I take it, other than fast travel, the tiers come with other privileges.."

"Yes they do, please have a look.." Duan Ting said as he handed Yang Qing a jade slip. Li Mei had arrived at that time and deftly poured tea for both of them, leaving after for her duties, looking relieved as she left.

Yang Qing breathed in the relaxing aroma of the jade rabbit spring tea soaking its flavorful scent. Without hesitation, he took a sip, and the reputation of its taste and effects were not unfounded. He took another sip and then proceeded to pour a sliver of his spiritual essence into the jade slip Duan Ting had handed off to him to read its contents.

"Gold tier service- costs 1,000 high-grade spirit stones.."

Yang Qing almost spit his tea when he read the cost, luckily with his excellent reflexes and will, he managed to hold himself.

"1,000 and they are the moderately priced one? How expensive are these trips?" he wondered as he read through the rest of the contents.

Despite his miserly nature, as he read through he couldn't help but feel it was well worth the price. Gold-tiered customers would rarely share the same ferry because of the priority afforded to them on their flight routes and would only do so when their routes overlap with it not infringing on the agreed delays.

Other than preference on route, the privileges extended to their quality of stay within the ferry. They had access to single chambers that had multiple rooms within them such as a cultivation room, alchemy and blacksmithing room, combat room to test their techniques, and said room was retrofitted to handle the abilities of an early palace realm stage cultivator, and the arrays that were outfitted in the chamber were all of the blue grade. They also had an entire floor to themselves.

As for the silver tier, it cost 200 high-grade spirit stones, with every silver tier member having individual access to their chambers which had the same number of rooms as those found in gold tier chambers with the difference being in the quality of the arrays used. Those in the silver tier were all top tier orange grade array. Though they didn't share chambers, they shared the same floor on the ferry.

The last tier, the bronze tier cost 10 high-grade spirit stones, and the chamber was shared four per chamber, with the arrays all being low-tier orange-grade arrays.

Even though the prices seemed steep considering there were ferries whose transport costs ranged from 50 high-grade spirit stones at the maximum to 10 middle-grade spirit stones, Yang Qing still believed the

prices of the Bluefin spine-tailed swift were more than fair, because regardless of what tier someone decided to buy, they would all have the same level of security on board the ferry.

The escort agency had six flying ferries and of those six, four always had a palace realm escort on board in which the founder of the agency was one of them and also with the highest cultivation base while the other three, one was at the second stage of the palace realm, and the remaining two were in the first stage of the palace realm.

For 10 high-grade spirit stones, you could gain the protection of a palace realm expert. That in and of itself was a huge bargain that any cultivator with a brain would jump at. Most escort agencies would lump those paying low sums together on a single ferry and give them services, security, and the ferry included that was a reflection of what they paid for.

For example on a different ferry that charged 10 high-grade spirit stones for its services, the security that one would get for such a cost would be middle-stage core formation experts, but when it came to the Bluefin spine-tailed swift, they offered a universal protection system regardless of the amount paid which was one of the reasons they were favored so much. And even the two ferries that didn't have a palace realm cultivator on board, each had an anchoring defensive monarch-grade artifact with each artifact being operated by four late-stage core formation experts. So even with palace realm escorts not being on board, with the artifacts, it was the same as having one on board.

Having already made his decision Yang Qing took out 1,000 high-grade spirit stones and paid the fare.

"When will it be leaving?" he asked as he made the payment.

Duan Ting seemed hesitant to answer before a calm voice sounded from behind them.

"We can leave now if you want.."

Chapter 775 Even Her Life

Hearing an unfamiliar voice, Yang Qing turned around and saw a handsome man with deep blue hair that was held together with what looked to be a white and blue feather calmly walk down the stairs. He looked to be in his early forties and had an easygoing aura about him. Sensing his cultivation base, it wasn't all too difficult for Yang Qing to guess his identity.

The man in question had a fourth stage palace realm cultivation and in the Bluefin spine-tailed swift there was only one person who had such strength and Duan Ting's next words served to prove his guess right.

"Founder Bai Chen.." Duan Ting said as he stood up, his gaze and demeanor clearly showing his deep respect for the man.

"Duan Ting.." said the man with a carefree smile on his face. He came to a stop when he was in front of Yang Qing.

"Daoist Yang Qing, I am Bai Chen, the owner of this little establishment. I hope you did not find our services to be lacking.."

"No, no, not at all. I even told Daoist Duan Ting here how the Gold Earth Bank did not lie in its appraisal of your services.."

Bai Chen's eyes flickered slightly when he heard Yang Qing call Duan Ting fellow daoist, who was just as surprised. It was widely accepted that only those of the same realm could address each other. It was rare for a palace realm expert to call a core formation expert a Daoist, even when they had a close relationship.

Quickly camouflaging his surprise, Bai Chen placed his right arm over his chest as a way of showing his appreciation for Yang Qing's complement. It was a sign commonly used by rogue cultivators, though even in the Order they were those who could be found using it because of the symbolic meaning behind it. A hand over the chest was interpreted to mean 'I will remember the favor you have done for me and keep it in my heart.' It was used in place where words need not be said.

"So these are the places you will be going to?" Bai Chen said as he picked up the map on the table.

"Yes,"

"Are you in a hurry to reach those places? If you are, we can shorten the trip to two and a half days.."

"I am in a hurry but not so much. I just hope to make it in good time but also enjoy the trip. I think Duan Ting's timeline of four days is okay for me.."

Bai Chen nodded as he handed the map back to Yang Qing as he turned his head to Duan Ting.

"Are there any customers looking to head in that direction that are still on standby? Rather than keep them pending, waiting for the next ferry, they could go with me.."

"But sir the six ferries.." Duan Ting asked with a doubtful expression.

Bai Chen laughed as he said,

"The bluefin has been completed.."

"It has?" Duan Ting said with a look of surprise and excitement. He wasn't the only one excited, as Bai Chen wore the same look, like a kid who had just gotten a toy he really wanted.

"Bluefin? Do they have a new ferry?"

As if reading his thoughts, Bai Chen said,

"You're in luck fellow daoist Yang Qing. You get to be one of the first customers to be ferried with our new ship, the Bluefin.."

"I am honored.." answered Yang Qing with a smile of his own, infected by the cheerful and excited atmosphere in the area.

He somehow felt that they were not excited just because they had another ferry. He could tell there was more sentiment to it.

Bai Chen made a few arrangements with Duan Ting who left his desk and headed to one of the courtyards owned by the escort agency. For those waiting for their assigned ferry to arrive, they could wait there free of charge which Yang Qing appreciated as it showed the commitment of the Bluefin spine-tailed swift agency toward the comfort of its customers.

Bai Chen guided Yang Qing to a secluded space at the back of the building. Yang Qing noticed some fluctuations evidence that a blue grade array and monarch grade treasure were in the area. The blue-white feather holding Bai Chen's hair together released a gentle blue glow and the grassland and the trees that Yang Qing was seeing faded away to reveal a 200-meter ship built in the shape of a bluefin spine-tailed swift.

"Beautiful.." Yang Qing inadvertently muttered as he stared at the ship.

The level of detail and craftsmanship on the ship was clear for even a blind man to see. The ship looked like a real live replica of the bluefin spine-tailed swift. The spirit bird was famous for its speed and was a bird that closely resembled a kunpeng in terms of abilities as it could travel in water and air with the same level of proficiency.

It had a silk dark blue body, two pairs of wings, and one pair of blue fins. It was a master of both the wind and water dao, which helped in its maneuverability on both air and sea in terms of speed, camouflage, and endurance. It wasn't the most powerful but it was all rounded in when it came to survivability. Yang Qing had always admired the bird, and the ship before him had perfectly captured its soul and grace.

Yang Qing tore his attention off the ship when he sensed a slight fluctuation coming from Bai Chen's body. When he turned to look at him he saw a look of melancholy and appreciation in his eyes.

"Can I ask you something? It's okay to not give a response if you're not able to.." said Yang Qing.

"Is it about the name?" asked Bai Chen reigning his emotions in, wearing his carefree smile from before.

"Yes.." said Yang Qing as he nodded his head.

"It doesn't seem like you chose the name of your escort agency at random..." he added.

"You're right.." Bai Chen said as he cast a warm gaze toward the ship before him.

"The relationship between spirit beasts and humans is a complicated one with both sides trying to kill each other more often than not.

However, that is not the case for me. I was adopted and raised by one. I am alive today because a bluefin spine-tailed swift showed kindness to a baby unwanted by his parents and the world, and accepted him as one of her own, dedicating everything she ever had and was to him..." Bai Chen said before pausing slightly.

"Even her life.."

Chapter 776 Collecting information

"All that I am and that I have is because of her. The name and the ship is so I never forget.." softly said Bai Chen with a smile that was a mixture of gratitude and sadness.

Yang Qing unsure of what to say, just went with what was in his mind.

"It's beautiful.."

"It is, though I would much prefer she was the one here. I doubt she would agree to ferry people around though, and is more than likely to give me a beating and throw me in some infested forest for even suggesting it.." Bai Chen said with a laugh. .c(o)m

"Come, let me give you a tour before the rest arrive.." he added as he led Yang Qing to the ship.

Yang Qing nodded, walking side by side with Bai Chen whose excitement showed as he gave Yang Qing the tour. By his admission, the ship took 10 years to complete, and though it was the youngest ship, in terms of conceptualization it was the maiden ship, it was built from the first ever ship he had which he was given by the bluefin spine-tailed swift who raised him.

Yang Qing could read enough to know the bluefin spine-tailed swift was more than likely not alive and as curious as he was about what happened, he was not insensitive enough to ask about it.

Seeing it from the inside Yang Qing could see why it took ten years. Just the materials themselves didn't look easy to procure by an early-stage palace realm cultivator with no backing. The skeleton of the ship was made of rainbow restoration aspen wood. The material could be considered one of the ones that were at the very top amongst the list of middle-tier monarch-grade material.

Despite it being a monarch-grade material, having its equivalent value in spirit stones wasn't a guarantee that you would get it because of how versatile in its uses it was, making it extremely valuable.

Rainbow restoration aspen wood was highly adaptive to its environment as it afforded protection to its user from what was in said environment. The wood could freely manipulate seven elements i.e. water, wind, earth, fire, wood, metal, and lightning. It used the seven elements to adapt to variables it was subjected to making it an excellent material to build a ship with. It afforded an invaluable adaptive defense during travel when one was traveling over long distances hiding all sorts of dangers and treachery.

It wasn't just the rainbow restoration aspen wood, the entire ship was a trove of precious materials. Yang Qing didn't see any material that was used whether in a functional or decorative capacity that was below the monarch grade. Going off base value, the ship had likely cost tens of millions of high-grade spirit stones.

Yang Qing couldn't help but wonder how Bai Chen had managed to acquire them all in a short ten years. Some of those materials even having the required amount weren't sufficient to procure them and required substantial connections, something that Bai Chen seemed to have though he didn't say much about it, but he did speak a bit about his team as he was showing Yang Qing around.

Of the four palace realm experts, he was sworn brothers with two of them, while one of them was a long-time friend of the bluefin spine-tailed swift that raised him, and the last one was a friend he had made in Jade Leaf Academy who was looking to gain experience and decided being a ferry escort was the best way.

As for the rest of the staff, some like Duan Ting joined to repay a favor, which based on the respect Duan Ting showed, even though Bai Chen modestly avoided what it was, Yang Qing felt it had to be deep. Others were rogue cultivator acquaintances he had made along the way, others were referred to him by the Gold Earth Bank and a few others were from the general populace of the Gold Eagle Town who were looking for work which Bai Chen was in desperate need of considering how young his agency was.

Yang Qing did end up asking why he decided to start an escorting agency, to which Bai Chen replied that it was a way to feel close to the Bluefin spine-tailed swift that raised him as they used to travel all over the continent for the majority of his life since he was little. Flying ferries across the continent helped mirror that feeling.

A few minutes passed by before Duan Ting came over with 20 passengers who all wore the same look of amazement Yang Qing wore when he saw the ship. A few of them even asked Duan Ting in doubt if that was their ship. They were quickly settled in along with the auxiliary staff of the agency that would take care of the miscellaneous stuff on the ship. Despite a ship controller being on the list of staff who boarded the ship, Bai Chen insisted on being the one to fly the ship, even inviting Yang Qing to join him.

Yang Qing could only promise to do it later. He had been dying to look over the list Vice Warden Shao An had given and had been waiting for the right opportunity to go through it. While piloting a beautiful ferry like the Bluefin was enticing it wasn't as enticing as finding out about the dangerous inmates he would be supervising.

Yang Qing oblivious of the gradual transformation happening to him, excitedly went to his assigned floor, then his chamber, and activated all the protection arrays in the room. Out of a healthy sense of paranoia, he took out a few formation flags, 20 high-

grade spirit stones, and a dark stone that looked like it was made of nimbus clouds.

He carefully placed his formation flags at specific positions around the room before placing the calamity-obscuring stone at the center of the formation. He crushed the high-grade spirit stones and sprinkled them on the formation flags before finally muttering an incantation that activated it.

Cloud shrouding shadow veil array

The whole room was instantly swallowed by a dark grey shadow that flashed with grey lightning. Yang Qing couldn't help but smile with a satisfied smile. Someone who had not reached the domain realm could forget spying with the array in place.

Chapter 777 Misfortune Of The Bleeding Moon (1)

Core room of the Bluefin

"Oh.. seems like my hunch was right. He isn't just your typical palace realm cultivator.." Bai Chen muttered as he sensed Yang Qing's aura suddenly vanish.

Even though the gold-tiered chambers were cloaked in blue-grade arrays that had isolation and presence-cloaking effects, with the orb he had in his hands which was the controller of every aspect of the ship from the flying to the arrays, he could sense what was happening throughout the ship.

Though he didn't actively spy on his guests, with the orb he could feel their presence and states, but a few seconds ago Yang Qing's presence disappeared completely, even hiding from the orb which was a top-tier monarch-grade artifact.

The reason he had volunteered to fly Yang Qing was because he had sensed Yang Qing's presence and bearing wasn't the same as others, there was something unique about it, just the pressure of his cultivation base was enough to draw his attention. He was at the fourth stage but when facing Yang Qing, despite the latter having a lower cultivation base in the second stage, Bai Chen felt a slight pressure coming from him, as to why he felt that way his experience at Jade Leaf Academy was enough to give a few reasons.

When he joined the Jade Leaf Academy, he had not yet stepped into the foundation establishment realm, but because of the care and training given to him, his foundations as a qi refinement cultivator were deep enough to gain him admission into the Academy.

A few months in he broke through to the foundation establishment realm with blue-grade pillars. Despite the bluefin spine-tailed swift being a spirit beast to whom grade of pillars had no significance as spirit beasts relied on refining the entire bodies to be one with the dao, the bluefin spine-tailed swift knew extensively about the grade of pillars and other aspects of human cultivation which she didn't hesitate to educate Bai Chen deeply on, till at one point Bai Chen even suspected she was a human pretending to be a spirit beast.

Of the knowledge and wisdom she poured on him, one of them was the grade of pillars and cores and their significance, so he knew what an astounding achievement it was to get blue-grade pillars. Were he anywhere else such an achievement would have been worthy of praise and in some organizations, he would have even been nurtured as a prized seedling but he was in the Jade Leaf Academy, a ground that housed crouching dragons and hidden dragons.

It was there that he got first-hand experience on the fundamental difference between the different grades of the foundation pillars and the cores, which was how he knew for a fact, that Yang Qing had to have had pillars that were at least in the gold grade when he was in the foundation establishment realm following him all the way through to the core formation realm.

The heavy presence he felt coming from him could only come from someone who had deeper foundations than him. It was the same sensation he felt from the academy students with gold-grade and purple-grade pillars and cores. Even with a weaker cultivation base, their presence never lost out to those they were in the same realm with. This was why he was prompted to pilot the trip himself despite not being in the books for it.

To him, someone with Yang Qing's foundations was anything but simple, and with his own background, he could only strengthen himself through the connections he made along the way, which was something he came to be painfully aware of.

Sometimes just being strong wasn't enough, it could only be enough if you had strength capable of shaking an entire continent and an entire era, but if you didn't, the connections were needed, especially as a rogue cultivator where you only had yourself to depend on. He had gotten where he was because of it, and it was the last lesson given to him by the Bluefin spine-tailed swift who raised.

Pushing away the melancholic thoughts that were welling up within him, Bai Chen focused his senses on the orb in his hand which he used to navigate the ship.

...

Yang Qing's chambers.

"Now let's see who Vice Warden Shao An chose for me.." muttered Yang Qing as he used his spiritual essence to unlock the black jade slip in his hands to read its contents. The slip flashed with hundreds of runes and glyphs being lit up before it dimmed out a second later with its contents being poured into Yang Qing's mind.

Guardian new moon spirit, Luo Suyin, sentenced to 100,000 years, has served 400 years of that sentence. Luo Suyin is a saber whose spirit awakened upon the untimely demise of its wielder, Luo Xue.

Luo Xue was the only child of Luo Shen, a blacksmith who lived in the frontier village in Gentle Rock kingdom, a rank 3 kingdom that has existed for 37,000 years. Luo Shen had once been an apprentice for the royal blacksmith and was suited to be his successor, however, he resigned from his post when he fell in love with one of the palace attendants, and together they left the capital for one of the remote villages in the kingdom.

The process went smoothly in part due to the support of the royal blacksmith who was highly regarded in the kingdom and the king at the time.

When he left the palace, Luo Shen had been in the middle stages of the core formation realm and an orange-grade blacksmith, while his wife, Wen Yu had been at the peak stage of the foundation establishment realm, with both being cultivators as imagined it took a while before they conceived a child, almost a century passing by before they finally had one, their daughter, Luo Xue whom they both adored immensely.

However, tragedy struck four years after her birth when her mother went with her to the neighboring forest to harvest some herbs as had been their routine. Only this time there was something different, they were attacked by a deer horned boa that had wandered onto the periphery of the forest where they had been...

Chapter 778 Misfortune Of The Bleeding Moon (2)

Accounts suggest it was running for its life and heavily injured when it stumbled onto the two, however, even heavily injured it had been at the core formation stage, and Wen Yu a peak foundation establishment cultivator at the time, had to sacrifice her life to injure it further, creating a loud commotion in the process alerting Luo Shen who quickly came to their aid. But ultimately it was too late, his wife suffered fatal injuries and had kept herself from passing on by sheer will waiting for their daughter to be rescued, and when Luo Shen arrived, she shuffled off her mortal coil not long after.

Scarred by the events, Luo Shen never left Luo Xue's side, obsessed with keeping herself from all dangers, which led him to use all resources he had to hire her a saber instructor using the contacts of the royal blacksmith when he saw she showed interest for the bladed. That interest blossomed into talent that even garnered praise from the instructor who was famous for guiding the noble scions of the kingdom.

After 15 years, she reached the peak of the foundation establishment realm already her body had already developed saber qi. In admiration of her talents, the instructor offered to refer her to some of the large families who had the resources to help her flourish, but Luo Shen refused, having an intimate understanding of how the noble families operated during his time at the palace.

No matter how much talent she showed, without sufficient background, she would be suppressed and exploited when she got into those families.

The instructor left when he saw he had nothing left to teach her, meanwhile, Luo Shen since the death of his wife, to ensure his daughter's safety and realizing his inability to do it forever, decided to use the one thing he was good at to ensure her safety. For fifteen years, he poured everything he had into crafting her the perfect saber. He knew his talents well, and he had no illusions that he would craft her a weapon with a spirit, but because of intense determination and sacrifice, the heavens saw pity on him.

The saber he created, though it did not have a spirit, had the potential to awaken one, given the right conditions, but even without its spirit awakened, the potential was more than enough for Luo Shen who had exhausted all he had into creating it including damaging his soul in the process which in turn affected his lifespan, a fact he hid from his daughter, the truth known only by him and the blade, that he named guardian crescent moon in the hopes it would always guard and light her path in the darkest of nights hiding its edge beneath the starry skies.

He spent the remainder of his life keeping Luo Xue company making sure they made as many memories as possible before his time was up with the most pleasant one being seeing Luo Xue break through to the core formation realm easing some of his worries. It wasn't long before he passed away asking Luo Xue to live as she wished, if she wanted to leave the village and see the wider world she could but he was insistent on her being wary of the noble families of the Gentle Rock Kingdom, who, unlike the name, were anything but gentle.

After his passing, Luo Xu spent the next decade in the village mourning him, as she polished her heart whilst also bonding with her saber as she had done from the moment it was handed to her. Even though its spirit had not awakened, there was a familial established bond between the two as they continuously affected each other. Luo Xue reaching the core formation realm as fast as she did was in part due to the saber.

However, as if misfortune was hell-bent on pursuing the family, another tragedy struck the Luo family.

The early passing of Luo Shen was a blessing in disguise for him. At least he didn't get to witness the events that transpired if he did...I am not sure how he would have lived with that torment.

The instructor who had trained Luo Xu visited the village during the period that she was mourning her father. He still had not given up on recruiting her for one of the families he supported and hoped with enough time passing, Luo Shen would reconsider. He had even come with a sky-grade herb, the sense-sublimating lily, known for helping a cultivator calm their heart, and deepen their understanding and concentration.

Preferred by most weapon users to strengthen their weapon qi in the hopes of achieving intent, the instructor hoped to use the herb to convince Luo Shen into acceptance as the herb could help her reduce the time needed and smoothen a breakthrough to the core formation realm by helping her deepen her understanding and sensitivity of the saber dao.

His plan proved to be useless as the person he wanted to convince had already died, and the herb he hoped to use as a lure was useless as Luo Xue had already broken through to the core formation realm which further increased his desire to recruit her into the family he supported.

He spent the next few months sharing his insights in the hopes of recruiting her. Before his passing, her father had warned her to keep the saber a secret until she reached the peak of the core formation realm or the saber awakened its spirit. She heeded that advice, however, the instructor was someone she had known ever since she was a child and had guided her on the way of the saber. Other than her father, the instructor could be considered the only other person she was close with.

Despite being a core formation realm expert, all her life she lived sheltered by her father unaware of the dangers of the human heart. Out of sentiment and impatience, she revealed her saber to him in the hopes that he could offer guidance on how she could hasten the awakening process of her saber.."

Yang Qing's heart paused as he knew where this was headed. He had seen enough cases to know this could only lead one way.

"The instructor despite being a middle-stage core formation expert, interacted a lot with the affluent to know a weapon that had the potential to awaken. Unsure of his ability to snatch the saber from her, he opted for the next best thing which was to convince her to join the Zhang family, which was the noble family he was closely affiliated with in the hopes of gaining enough favor with them for them to support his cultivation and raise his station with them.

However, Luo Xue refused him as she wanted to set out on her own and try to be an explorer of the Horizon Odyssey Guild. When the invitation failed, the instructor concocted an excuse and left to inform one of the elders he knew from the Zhang family. From the records, the family was one of three that

had a palace realm expert, so their reputation and power within the kingdom was very high. This was how they were able to fabricate a tale that countless believed.

After informing that elder, the Zhang family quickly dispatched a few of their clansmen to seize the saber from Luo Xue only to find she was not there. Despite her naivety, her father's warning must have rang in her mind sometime later, hence her departure.

The Zhang unwilling to give up on the blade, struck a deal with the royal family and they fabricated a tale with their support that vilified Luo Xue's father claiming he had stolen a precious saber from them whilst he worked as a blacksmith for the royal family and it only came to light thanks to the Instructor.

They framed Luo Xue too saying she refused to listen to reason and killed a few of their retainers who had been sent to her to explain the situation in good faith. Painted as a villain, the whole kingdom turned on her, and it wasn't long before she was found. Three months was how long it had taken and in those three months, she had experienced the depravity of the human heart.

The charade didn't stop there because when she was apprehended, a few days later she was beheaded with that saber. The saber meant to protect was the one that doomed her. Her death and anguish become a trigger for the awakening of the saber's spirit, which in retaliation for her death, immediately after awakening, slaughtered every single person present, those involved in the execution and those witnessing it.

It did not matter whether they had been involved or not, every single person within a kilometer radius of the place where Luo Xue was executed, died by being beheaded.

The saber had been pure white just like the moon, but from that day it transformed into a moon that cried in blood which was the form that its spirit took, a lady with white hair garbed with white and sorrow, crying tears of blood.

The Zhang family from root to stem were slaughtered, which continued to the royal family where every single person in the palace was slaughtered, except one, the royal blacksmith.

Six palace realm cultivators, over ten thousand core formation and foundation establishment experts, and countless qi refinement cultivators numbering in the hundreds of thousands were slaughtered by her in two weeks drenching the execution ground, the Zhang household, and the royal palace in blood.

After the bloodbath, she left for the village where Luo Xue lived with her body in hand, buried her next to her father's grave, and stood vigil for them, where she remained until the other noble families afraid to confront her, forwarded the case of her slaughter to the Order who apprehended her afterward.

Chapter 779 Could only be a rogue cultivator

"How tragic.." muttered Yang Qing with a sigh as he read through the final part of the report which was the rationale for her sentencing.

Blood debts and the collection of said blood debts was something even to date with the Order's presence was allowed. Cultivators fighting over treasures, kingdoms feuding for countless centuries, vengeance being repaid, the Order never prosecuted such cases as it was the way of the world.

However, if certain lines were crossed in the pursuit of that debt, then they would be involved. Ideally, if Luo Siyun had massacred only the Zhang family and the royal family, the Order would not have acted. That was a debt that she was owed, however, from the notes of the sentence, Luo Siyun was given a 100,000-year sentence because among her victims there were 9,786 who didn't have a cultivation base. They were those who were unlucky enough to be caught in the aftermath of her attacks.

Mortals were the bottom line of the Order and the reason they were created and Luo Siyun had breached it. Even though the report didn't contain a descriptive list of the victims, Yang Qing had sufficient imagination to guess a bit about them.

Gentle Rock was a rank 3 kingdom which by virtue meant its lands were rich in cultivation resources and environment and Luo Xue had been executed at the capital which meant the environment was bound to be richer than other regions in the kingdom.

Which group of people were likely to have no cultivation base in a place as prosperous as the capital?

Yang Qing understood why she was given such a steep sentence for her deeds. She was given a hundred-year sentence for every indiscriminate life she took, and in the end, the number was rounded up to 100,000 years likely because of who the majority of the victims were.

Considering the stance the Order took on such violations, she was lucky to have gotten away with such a sentence which was likely made in consideration of the circumstances that led to it.

At the end of the report, Shao An noted that Luo Siyun had been cleansed of the baleful and murderous qi that surrounded her, and coupled with her already enacting her vengeance, her path into becoming a cursed blade had been severed which was why he had placed her on the list of consideration for the rehabilitation program.

After finishing her report, Yang Qing quickly proceeded to the next person on the list. He only had four slots from the list of seven he had been given. He would only make his judgment after he had thoroughly read through all of them, and he felt it would likely not be easy pickings.

The next on the list was a cultivator by the name of Pan Xing. He was a rogue cultivator imprisoned for 38,000 years and had only served 377 of those years. He had been arrested for plundering. He had plundered countless known sects and clans of their prized treasures while it was also rumored he had killed a few talents from prominent organizations while he was exploring mysterious realms.

Mysterious realms were in essence hidden worlds with their own rules of operation. This was what made them extremely dangerous. Other than the dangers posed by the realm itself, cultivators were one of the greatest dangers in that place. Because of its isolatory nature, it was the perfect place to murder without worry of being found out.

It was always said stepping into a mysterious realm was like experiencing a rebirth. Your status or station in life had no relevance in there, and because of the mercurial nature of mysterious realms, some came with strange governing laws like suppressing the use of all artifacts within the realm itself, restricting cultivators to a certain realm or age, with others even sealing the senses of those who walk into them.

In the end, all who walked into a mysterious realm started at the same line, and whether they lived or died ultimately depended on their abilities in part and a whole lot of luck. In there whether you were from a rank 1 organization or a rank 4, none of it mattered, you would both die just as easily if you were careless, either to the machinations of the realm itself or to each other.

The capriciousness of it all was the reason the Order never judged any cases regarding what happened inside a mysterious realm. All who were willing to venture into them had to accept the risks that came with it whatever they may be or how far-reaching they may be. If a rank 3 disciple somehow killed a disciple from a rank 2 sect and they were unlucky enough to have a witness to the deed, whatever happened after that disciple left the mysterious realm, the consequences would be theirs to bear. The

Order would not step in, the same way if that disciple ended up harvesting a great reward instead of a disaster, they would not think of sharing their spoils with the Order.

Disaster and reward were theirs to bear in equal measure which was what happened to Pan Xing. While exploring a mysterious realm he stumbled onto a natural treasure, a pearl built from the essence of a thousand realms illusory clam which granted its owner the ability to seamlessly blend through and survive in countless environments by avoiding detection whilst the pearl transformed the user's body to adapt to the location they were in and this adaptation included phasing through various protections that were not stronger than the pearl's ability.

These protections included formation arrays. Using the pearl, Pan Xing walked through the front door of countless organizations and robbed them senseless, while killing a few that he had grudges with. Out of hubris, he made his deeds known because if he didn't, because of the pearl's abilities, those organizations would have never known he was the one to do it.

As per the report, Pan Xing in his earlier years was infatuated with a girl from the same city as him. They were childhood friends and in jest when they were small they had said they would marry one another, only Pan Xing had taken it seriously. When he reached of age, he sent a formal proposal.

Both his family and hers were cultivation families of similar stature, and considering their history, Pan Xing assumed his proposal would go through without a problem. They were already close friends, their families were close, and when it came to talent even if he wasn't a genius, he wasn't average either.

At sixteen he was already in the foundation realm with a blue-grade pillar and some sects had even made offers for him to join them it was just that he decided to hold out for the very best.

From the report, Shao An did say Pan Xing admitted he had been very greedy as the sect he was waiting for was one of the two holy lands. As a hot-blooded youth, he couldn't imagine anything less, and his childhood sweetheart was the final piece of the equation to complete the picture.

However, the dream life envisioned he imagined was shattered. While he was out growing and improving his strength the girl of his dreams fell in love with another, a core disciple of a rank 2 sect, the White Thundercrane Sword sect. Pan Xing gave in to anger and attacked the disciple only to be soundly trounced by the disciple. He would have been crippled and his clan destroyed had the childhood friend not pleaded for him and his family.

The events that transpired that day became known far and wide and all the sects that had been approaching him in the hopes that he would join them all rescinded their offers for fear of drawing the ire of the White Thundercrane Sword Sect.

Even though the sect didn't pursue the matter of his actions, other sects would avoid him for fear of being tainted by association. His talent wasn't enough for them to risk it and the sects that were pursuing him, none of them were of the same level as the White Thundercrane Sword Sect.

Those sects were not the only ones who drew a hard line on the sand against him, as his family did the same. Out of anger for almost being subjected to a complete cleansing for his foolish act, and the fear of becoming an enemy of a rank 2 sect, while they were only a rank 4 clan, the clan cut off all relations with him and he was removed from the ancestry records. They cared not that he was one of the greatest talents in their clan in a while, none of that mattered, the clan came before a single individual and prolonged association with him risked the fate of the entire clan. Having him around was no different than keeping an unstable cursed artifact. One never knew when it would explode.

The families and other organizations around them may have attacked them in the name of upholding justice on behalf of the slighted White Thundercrane Sect in the hopes of currying favor with the sect, and having Pan Xing around was the greatest excuse those organizations could have in attacking them. For self-preservation they banished him, and publicly at that.

In just a single day his entire world had shifted. He was no longer the prized talent of his clan that was dotted on by almost everyone, the sects who lined up with gifts had shunned him like a plague, with some even threatening to cripple him if he dared approach them, and the woman whom he thought he would share all his glory with, loved another.

A single misstep and he fell from the heavens above and was buried in all kinds of dung on the earth's ground, having worms for company.

He did hope that maybe just maybe someone from the Holy Land would approach him, but they never did, and joining the Order was never in consideration as he never believed in its maxim. Like most, he believed its presence was an eyesore, ruining what a cultivation world was meant to be, thus the only path he saw before him was to be a rogue cultivator.

What happened that day left him jaded, bitter, and resentful of all prominent sects, clans, and other organizations. To him, they were of the same ilk as the White Thundercrane Sword Sect.

With bitterness and a desire to show up to his childhood love that she had made a mistake, Pan Xing trained ferociously and unreservedly. No risk was too great for him if it meant he would grow stronger and his efforts paid off as he ascended to the palace realm and even acquired a precious natural treasure in the pearl of the thousand realm illusory clam in the process.

By his admission, he screamed in manic joy when he got the pearl. He felt like the heavens were supporting him becoming even more zealous in the process.

Using the pearl, he robbed and plundered countless prominent sects, clans, and other organizations and he even used it to fulfill a few assassination contracts, amassing a lot of resources in the process and improving his cultivation base as a result, his aim, reaching the domain realm and rob the White Thundercrane Sword Sect blind, ruin them before finally slapping them silly like that disciple did to him. He had it all planned out as he envisioned what he would do when his childhood love pleaded for that disciple's life.

When he started the heists, he was covert, but later after numerous successes, and the hot rumor that surrounded the mysterious thief, he outed himself. He could care less if his identity was revealed. With the pearl, he could live even comfortably in the most toxic of places, his victims could never find him. He was confident of even hiding against a domain expert.

He hoped his name and exploit would reach the ears of the White Thunderhead Sect, specifically, the hateful couple.

His notoriety grew with the more prominent sects, clans, and other organizations he robbed. Despite how much they tried they could never catch him which garnered him mixed sentiments. Those organizations even ones he had not yet robbed hated him, while rogue cultivators all around sang him praises with every steal he made. It also helped that he shared some of the spoils with countless rogue cultivator factions even donating and supporting various academies, martial schools, and organizations that were known for helping rogue cultivators.

His growing reputation within the rogue cultivators' community became another layer of protection for him. Even though most factions looked down on them, they were also wary of them. Within their community hid countless sleeping beasts that had the capability of shaking the continent when roused which made most factions mindful at times of how they handled rogue cultivators.

However, Pan Xing's luck eventually ran out when one of the clans he wanted to rob ended up having a hidden domain expert that had just freshly broken through, thus news hadn't quite got out. The pearl he had grown to have great confidence in was shattered, along with whatever confidence he had built up over the years.

He would have had his cultivation crippled when he got caught had news not broken out that he was caught which created a storm as a rogue domain cultivator intervened, which prompted other sects and clans that had disputes against Pan Xing to join in retaliation which only served to draw in more sect, clans and other organizations, and the rogue community got stirred to, and eventually over hundred palace realm experts and seven domain experts were almost going to blows.

Luckily the Order stepped in time, and forcibly inserted itself into the situation. From the record, even if Pan Xing's case should have been handled by a palace court judge, it was a domain judge who ended up doing the proceeding. He got 38,000 years which was mostly because of his affiliation with the assassin syndicate he did jobs for, the red scythe mantis.

Both the rogue community and the sects and clans felt the sentence was unfair, but ultimately there was little they could do about it, not without risking falling out completely between the two sides.
Chapter 780 Saint herb garden

"I wonder what happened to the couple.." Yang Qing muttered making a mental note to find out what happened to the core disciple of the White Thunderhead Sword Sect, and the childhood love of Pan Xing.

Next on the list was the founder of a rank 3 manor known as the Jade Miracle Cures Manor. The founder's name was Gao Wei, and he hailed from the Gao Clan which was a rank 2 clan. He came from one of its branch clans. Even as a branch, his clan had considerable resources, and a palace realm cultivator to hold the helm, who happened to be his grandfather.

Gao Wei being the grandson of the branch leader and being talented himself was heavily dotted on within the clan, with his grandfather sparing no expense when Gao Wen revealed he wanted to be a medical instructor. Expending all the resources he could, he managed to get him tutelage under one of the disciples of the Saint Garden Sect, which even though was not a holy land was known as the holy land of medical cultivation because of the achievements of their founder.

It was because of the founder of the Saint Garden Sect that cultivators and mortals dared take risks in trying to find fortuitous encounters. His story was an inspiration to all. The early stages of cultivation

relied heavily on the talent of the body and resources, with the powers of comprehension playing little role in it.

The founder had a prodigious talent when it came to comprehension of the profundities of the dao, but his body was trash. He couldn't sense or absorb qi well with it which was why even after 40 years, the best he reached was the bronze body stage of the body refinement realm which he gained by subjecting himself to near-death torture.

Had things remained the same, he would have likely died either a mortal's death by exhausting his 100-year lifespan, or an early death in his pursuits for greater heights. His story wasn't unique as there were countless people with the ability to understand and decipher even the most difficult of techniques and arts at a glance but were fated to remain mediocre because their bodies couldn't support that first step.

From the body refinement realm to the core formation realm, one's ability of comprehension while it played a part, wasn't that heavy, and it was something that could be taught, but your body's ability was the basic currency. It was only from the palace realm onwards that comprehension became the core currency for growth, a body's talent could do very little and even guidance had limitations which was why the Order only taught till one reached the core formation realm, the next phase depended on the abilities of the cultivator. The senior figures could share their insights but ultimately what became of it depended on the cultivator, unlike the previous stages where there was a clear structured process.

Yang Qing always felt it was a pity, while the heavens was said to be fair, in certain instances, it wasn't. Someone has the ability to see and understand the mysteries of the world, but their body denies them the ability to absorb.

They can see it but never touch it. How miserable and pitiful was that?

The founder of the Saint Herb Garden would have ended up with a miserable fate like his peers had he not stumbled onto a fruit. Not much is known about the identity of the fruit only that it gave the founder the wings he lacked.

The fruit transformed his trash body, into a treasure. He ended up gaining the three-element dao infusion body because of consuming said fruit. The three-element dao infusion body gave him three dantians each with an elemental affinity and as luck would have it, the three elements were complementary to one another. He ended up with a water, wood, and earth infused dantian, respectively.

With his body finally able to sense and cultivate qi, he quickly soared jumping to prominence in a single bound. He spent forty years just to reach the bronze body, but it took him only seven years to leap from the bronze body to the palace realm, a feat few people could ever hope to replicate, and later in life he established himself as one of the most powerful figures of the continent.

The Saint Herb Garden may have not been labeled a holy land, but in many cultivators' eyes it might as well. Countless cultivators were pulled from the jaws of death because of its presence.

Who knows how many cultivators owed their lives to the wondrous medical arts and techniques of the Saint Herb Garden? As long as you had a single breath in you, the moment you stepped in there, dying was an impossibility no matter how terrifying your injuries.

Rumor had it that the founder could restore a completely shattered dantian. It had taken the Order over a dozen gold-grade medical cultivators, and countless ascendant-grade treasures to heal Lai Lei's dantian that had cracks on it, one could only imagine how much effort it would take to restore a completely shattered one like the one Ma Yun had.

In the cultivation world, an injury to the dantian was no different than a death sentence that could not be reversed, and being able to heal it, that was the stuff of legends like achieving rebirth through phoenix's flames.

Yang Qing wasn't sure if the founder could really restore a shattered dantian, but his achievements were undeniable. Countless cures and medical techniques being practiced today originated from him. Even the Medical Valley Master admitted her inferiority when her skills were compared to him. She had the privilege of consulting him some time back, and despite how seasoned she was, she felt like a novice the longer she was around him.

The experience was so unforgettable to her that she said something Yang Qing could never erase from his mind. She said the abilities of the founder of Saint Herb Garden were transcendent and leaped the bounds of sense. What he could heal, who he could heal, he was not restricted even an injured star could be restored. She rated that his abilities were so profound that they were leaping to the realms of creation. She couldn't imagine a cultivator in the past or the current era that could match him, and this even included members of the Flowing Valley Sect.

With such an evaluation, it wasn't strange that the Saint Herb Garden was revered so, whether one was a medical cultivator or not, and for anyone within that field, it would be a tremendous opportunity to gain tutelage in the Saint Herb Garden. Those working in the Medical Valley of the Order were no exception.