

Divine 2561

Chapter 2561: Ice Flame Continent 18

Gu Chaoyan maintained a calm demeanor, her reluctance evident as she spoke, “I’m not particularly inclined to sell it.”

Curiosity piqued, someone inquired eagerly, “What pill?”

“It’s a high-level elixir. Designed for those on the brink of a breakthrough at the ninth level of cultivation, this elixir can be quite beneficial. However, there are only a few available. If you’re interested, I might consider selling them to you,” Gu Chaoyan continued, her hesitation still palpable.

What? Such a pill. Even if it’s not immediately useful, there will come a time when it is! How could anyone not want it?

Seizing the opportunity, someone swiftly declared, “Yes, I want it. Ten Spirit Stones,” and promptly handed over the requested currency.

However, Gu Chaoyan remained unimpressed, showing no interest as she examined the Spirit Stones. She then asserted, “Spirit Stones alone won’t cut it for this pill.”

“I require something more—Dharma artifacts or something entertaining. Feel free to offer whatever you please, and if it catches my interest, we can make an exchange,” Gu Chaoyan stated bluntly.

Frustration brewed among the crowd, with some itching to criticize Kang Shi. Yet, many held their tongues. Kang Shi, with his appearance suggesting proficiency in pill refining, likely owed his skills to prior knowledge rather than a recent boost in cultivation. Considering his past as a young genius, the assumption that he possessed pill-refining expertise wasn’t far-fetched.

The medicinal pills from before were very useful. Now that there were new medicinal pills, there might be others in the future. There was no need to offend him. If they offended him, there would probably be no benefits.

They had already recognized this fact.

“Could I exchange this middle-grade weapon among low-grade ones for one?” inquired someone, holding the weapon in his hand, addressing Dao Seeking. He still possessed an advanced-grade weapon amid his low-grade collection, and this particular one was practically unused. Swapping it for the offered pill seemed fitting; he wouldn’t be at a loss, especially considering he’d soon be able to benefit from such a pill.

Kang Shi, currently without any weaponry, found it apt to acquire one under the circumstances.

Gu Chaoyan nodded, facilitating the exchange.

Observing the outcome, the others refrained from taking advantage of the situation and presented their items one after another.

Incidentally, Gu Chaoyan noticed the presence of crystal Spirit Stones. Although not highly practical, she held a personal liking for them, prompting her to accept them in exchange.

The others perceived a glimmer of hope.

Given Kang Shi’s apparent lack of discernment between valuable and less valuable items, they exploited the situation, offering assorted items to make up the numbers.

Gu Chaoyan paid little attention to Kang Shi’s choices, accepting whatever was presented, be it useful or useless.

“If there’s nothing else, let’s call it a day. I have other matters to attend to,” Gu Chaoyan declared, expressing her reluctance to prolong the proceedings.

Understanding the situation, the participants hastily presented their items as Kang Shi prepared to leave. In a flurry, they swapped a few more items, concluding today’s affair.

Although many had nothing particularly valuable, they continued pondering Kang Shi’s pills.

“There should be other types of pills in the future. Come again when you are free, but obtaining them won’t be easy,” Gu Chaoyan stated expressionlessly.

Acknowledging their understanding, the group departed.

Once they left, Gu Chaoyan refrained from touching any of the items, patiently waiting for something to unfold.

Chapter 2562: Ice Flame Continent 19

She patiently waited for Gao Zhuo to make his selection. Given that Gao Zhuo had three items to choose, while she had seven, she let him go first. Once Gao Zhuo finished making his choices, it would be her turn.

However, as time passed, Gu Chaoyan began contemplating the possibility that Gao Zhuo might not have a genuine need for the items.

Considering an alternative approach, she suggested, “If you don’t find anything you need, you can take three pills out of every ten pills. If you prefer Spirit Stones, feel free to handle the exchange yourself. Otherwise, we can continue as we are now.”

Gao Zhuo declined, stating, “No need. Let’s stick with this arrangement. I find it satisfactory.”

Gu Chaoyan nodded in agreement.

With Gao Zhuo’s decision, she decided to assist him in processing some of the items he had chosen, including crystal Spirit Stones. Gao Zhuo, even after choosing items useful for himself, maintained balance by also selecting the Crystal Spirit Stones.

Gu Chaoyan planned to use the crystal Spirit Stones to craft a sword for Gao Zhuo.

After finalizing the details, Gao Zhuo continued to cooperate, demonstrating kindness throughout the process. He even sold some ordinary pills outside to increase awareness of Kang Shi’s available pills.

Half a month elapsed.

Kang Yan and Ziluo began to sense that something was amiss. The individuals who used to gather for teachings and cultivation had dispersed, diligently focusing on their own practices. Ziluo sought answers, approaching Gu Chaoyan with a question, "Where have those people gone?"

"They've chosen to cultivate independently," the person responded.

"Cultivate on their own? What's the point?" Ziluo expressed disdain, understanding the challenges of self-guided cultivation.

The individual hesitated, reluctant to divulge the full story. Yet, under Ziluo's stern glare, they admitted, "Well, here's the thing. Kang Shi has been refining some remarkable pills lately. They've proven highly beneficial for cultivation. Many individuals stuck in the ninth heaven have successfully broken through with Kang Shi's pills, which has motivated everyone to take a more proactive approach."

The person continued, "Although Kang Shi can't cultivate anymore, he's become quite adept at crafting medicinal pills. They surpass the quality of those in the pill refinement room. I'm planning to exchange for one of his pills; he's been lingering in the Ninth Heaven."

"What? Kang Shi, that useless person. Crafting pills? Can he even do that?" Ziluo reacted with disbelief, unsure of Kang Shi's newfound talent.

The person defended, "It seems genuine. Many, including myself, were struggling to break through the ninth level of the Martial Emperor Realm, and his pills proved effective. Considering your current situation, it might be worth trying."

Ziluo pondered. If Kang Shi, despite being considered worthless, could indeed refine pills that facilitated breakthroughs, it could potentially save her considerable time. Besides, Kang Shi had always admired her, making the prospect of asking for a pill seem promising.

Contemplating this possibility, Ziluo remained deep in thought.

Ziluo found herself intrigued and contemplated approaching Kang Shi for pills.

However, she couldn't openly go there without raising questions from Kang Yan. To avoid suspicion, she decided to find a discreet moment to sneak over.

With this plan in mind, Ziluo halted her current cultivation activities and returned to prepare for her covert visit. She was determined to secure one of Kang Shi's pills, but careful considerations had to be made.

In the past, she had eagerly wished for Kang Shi to stay far away, considering him nothing but a burden. Now, with the revelation of his pill refining abilities, the situation had changed. If he could truly craft effective pills, he could prove valuable in the shadows.

However, the key factor was her own cultivation level. If she were at a high level, having Kang Shi refine pills on her behalf would be advantageous.

Dressing up, Ziluo made her way to Kang Shi's location.

Upon arrival, she noticed no one around.

Seizing the opportunity, she hurriedly approached Kang Shi.

Gu Chaoyan, in the midst of crafting pills, overheard the approaching footsteps. Assuming it was a disciple coming for an exchange, she stepped out to greet the visitor.

Chapter 2563: Ice Flame Continent 20

Gu Chaoyan looked up and saw Ziluo approaching. Ziluo appeared to have taken great care with her attire, and an unusual smile graced her face. In the past, encountering Kang Shi would elicit nothing but disdain from Ziluo, her expressions reflecting her aversion. But today was different.

Ziluo had consistently avoided Kang Shi, fearing his lingering influence due to their past interactions. It was a rare occurrence for her to take the initiative to seek him out. Rather than returning home, Gu Chaoyan walked directly towards Ziluo, intrigued to see what Ziluo had in mind. Simultaneously, she refrained from initiating conversation, observing the exchange between the two.

Kang Shi regarded Ziluo with a cold gaze.

Surprisingly, Ziluo found Kang Shi more appealing today. In the past, she couldn't stand the sight of him, viewing him as a good-for-nothing. She actively avoided any association with him. However, today was different.

For some inexplicable reason, Ziluo now found Kang Shi to be rather pleasing. He was no longer excessively ingratiating, no longer desperately trying to win her over or proposing marriage to alter his seemingly useless status. Furthermore, he exhibited a newfound talent.

Few possessed the skill to refine pills effectively, a coveted trait in every race. Contemplating the potential future, Ziluo found herself in high spirits.

Her attitude toward Kang Shi had taken a positive turn.

"I've heard you have potent pills here. I'm currently stuck in the Ninth Heaven and can't break through. How about giving me one of those miraculous pills?" Ziluo's face adorned a genuine, beautiful smile.

Ziluo believed that she could easily obtain what she wanted from Kang Shi. Confident in her approach, she saw no need to rush.

Taking it step by step seemed like the right strategy. By gradually offering Kang Shi some benefits, she anticipated receiving even more. The ideal scenario would involve Kang Shi continuously supplying her in the future, given his longstanding admiration for her.

Aware of Kang Shi's fondness for her, Ziluo was confident that her plan would not fail, drawing from their past interactions.

Observing this interaction, Gu Chaoyan frowned at Ziluo's confident request for pills. It suggested an expectation to receive them without offering anything in return, and the motive behind Ziluo's newfound good temper towards Kang Shi became evident.

Despite this, Gu Chaoyan was in a good mood. Even Ziluo, known for her reservations, was enticed by the pills, proving the success of her and Gao Zhuo's efforts.

However, Gu Chaoyan wasn't about to provide the pills for free. She straightforwardly responded, "You want the mid-grade pills in my hands? Certainly."

Ziluo reached out confidently, expecting to receive the pills without a hitch. She had foreseen this outcome when she approached Kang Shi.

However, Gu Chaoyan's frown deepened as she looked at Ziluo, appearing puzzled. She continued, "Didn't you know that when you came here? If you want this kind of pill, you need to offer something I am willing to accept, or a Dharma artifact. If I don't find your offering satisfactory, I won't give you the pill. Crafting this pill requires significant resources and time, and they are not easy to make. They are highly valuable. If you expect to obtain it for free, wouldn't that be akin to robbery?"

Chapter 2564: Ice Flame Continent 21

Hearing Kang Shi's words, Ziluo's expression immediately changed. The smile on her face was now completely stiff.

She had specially dressed up when she went out, and she had been smiling at Kang Shi today. It was already very good that she could treat someone like him like this. But he actually dared to reject her and say that he wanted something.

She was Ziluo. She actually had to take out something when she wanted pills. What a joke, and it was extremely ridiculous.

"Are you sure that I need to offer something in return?" Ziluo asked seriously.

Gu Chaoyan almost rolled her eyes at her. She had a good idea.

Back then, she looked down on Kang Shi and directly disrespected Kang Shi and his father in front of the Anicca Clan.

Later on, Kang Shi was put in a difficult position. Hadn't they embarrassed him enough?

Now that he only had some pills, they wanted to take them away as if Kang Shi owed her. Even if Kang Shi's cultivation had not improved, he was still a person with dignity.

She really did not treat Kang Shi as humans.

Gu Chaoyan smiled mockingly. "I have never met you before, and I have nothing to do with you. Why don't you give me other disciples? Or are you going to do something special?"

"If you don't have anything, leave quickly. Don't waste time here. I still have a lot of things to do." Kang Shi wanted to chase her away.

Comparisons were odious.

During his lowest moments, nobody showed concern for Kang Shi. Little Junior Sister, on the other hand, believed in his capabilities and extended significant help. Even when she approached him, she never demanded assistance with such confidence. Instead, she either provided him with Spirit Stones or offered her best items. Even if Kang Shi insisted on giving her things for free, she adamantly refused to accept them without offering something in return.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head in disapproval

It appeared that Elder Miss had come empty-handed and for no apparent reason, making the whole encounter a waste of time!

Kang Shi, focused on his pill refining, saw Ziluo's frustration and couldn't help but think how foolish he was. In his mind, she should have realized that if she wanted something, he would willingly give it to her.

Expressing her apparent displeasure, Ziluo took out an accessory. "Here, for you."

Gu Chaoyan turned around, curious about the offering. She hesitated, not wanting to miss out on potential treasures from the daughter of the Clan Leader of True Martial Race.

As Gu Chaoyan faced her, she noticed Ziluo holding the accessory. An eyeroll escaped Kang Shi's reaction to what he perceived as a strange move.

“Why would I, a man and a cultivator, need such a thing?” Gu Chaoyan questioned with a hint of impatience. “I can’t wear it myself, can I? If you’re not sincere, that’s fine, but I have plenty of items available for exchange.”

Ziluo, frustrated, stomped her feet at Kang Shi’s apparent lack of understanding. In her mind, he was simply a fool who couldn’t comprehend the situation. She had hoped to establish a better relationship with him in the future.

Gu Chaoyan, losing patience, left the scene.

Left with no other choice, Ziluo decided to return and fetch something more substantial. It seemed she would need to find the right time to explain things to Kang Shi.

She stomped her feet and left in a hurry. Just as she went out, she bumped into someone.

This person was Little Junior Sister.

Ziluo shot a glare at Gu Chaoyan and stormed out of the place.

Upon stepping outside, she encountered several people, including Gao Zhuo and others, who couldn’t resist teasing her. Gao Zhuo spoke up, “What brought you to Kang Shi’s place? Weren’t you engaged with him in the past? You used to warn him to stay away, and now you’re actively seeking him out. What changed?”

Chapter 2565: Ice Flame Continent 22

“I’m afraid that’s not good. Those unaware might think you still have feelings for Kang Shi!” Gao Zhuo suppressed his laughter and teased.

In the past, Ziluo, along with the Clan Leader of True Martial Race, had continuously warned Kang Shi. Gao Zhuo, having grown close to Kang Shi, now considered him a brother. Seeing Ziluo, he couldn’t resist venting some frustration.

While they allowed officials to set fire, commoners were off-limits. Ziluo could do as she pleased, yet she had numerous demands for Kang Shi.

Though others feared Ziluo's status, some harbored thoughts against her.

Unfazed by the others, Ziluo directed her dissatisfaction at Gao Zhuo, pointing at him. "You're from the Medicine Sect, right? Quite audacious!"

She then turned to the rest and asked, "What's his name?"

"Gao Zhuo," they responded, voices subdued but truthful. Though they disliked Ziluo, they understood her influential position as Kang Yan's wife and potential future leader of the Anicca Clan.

Aware of their predicament, they cautiously avoided provoking her.

"Gao Zhuo from the Medicine Sect, right? You will pay the price," Ziluo threatened with venom in her words.

Gao Zhuo remained indifferent, unafraid of the consequences.

Since he had asked, he was naturally unafraid.

Having anticipated such situations since his association with Kang Shi, Gao Zhuo remained undisturbed as Ziluo departed after her harsh words.

The others cast guilty glances at Gao Zhuo. They all sought pills but were caught in an uncomfortable situation.

"Let's go," Gao Zhuo said, dismissing the incident. As he only regarded these people as customers for pills, he had no particular expectations.

Gao Zhuo left with his companions, leaving conversations to revolve around Ziluo.

In the room, Gu Chaoyan remained oblivious to the outside happenings, engrossed in a conversation with Little Junior Sister.

Having taken a pill earlier, Little Junior Sister's cultivation had advanced to the ninth layer. Like others, she faced a bottleneck and sought a pill from Kang Shi.

Little Junior Sister offered a talisman left by her father to Kang Shi.

Unwilling to accept it, Kang Shi insisted, "Little Junior Sister, keep it for yourself. Take the pills as well."

"..."

"If you ever need pills in the future, just come directly. You don't have to offer these items. Feel free to use the pills as you wish here, do you understand, Little Junior Sister?" Kang Shi reassured.

Gu Chaoyan had intentionally excluded both her father and Little Junior Sister from the list of those needing to provide items as a gesture of gratitude.

"Senior Brother Kang Shi, please accept it. If you refuse, I won't come in the future. How can I take these without giving anything?" Little Junior Sister insisted, unwilling to compromise her principles.

Determined and principled, Little Junior Sister stuck to her beliefs.

Gu Chaoyan hoped that Little Junior Sister wouldn't be overly polite. While she appreciated the gesture with the talisman, Gu Chaoyan wanted to emphasize that if Little Junior Sister accepted today, what about next time? She might not have anything to offer then.

"Little Junior Sister, don't you consider me as one of your own? Back then..." Gu Chaoyan began, hinting at their shared past.

Chapter 2566: Ice Flame Continent 23

"You know what I went through in the clan back then. Everyone kicked me when I was down. No one cared for a worthless person like me who showed no improvement. Despite my past talent, they

mocked me everywhere. It was you who believed in me and offered help when nobody else did. That's why I found the courage to keep going."

"..."

"Though I've never expressed it before, I've always kept it in my heart."

"..."

"Now that I can refine pills, Little Junior Sister, if you ever need them, I can provide. It's a way to repay your kindness from the past."

"..."

"I already consider you as a younger sister, Little Junior Sister. Why treat me like an outsider?"

"..."

"If there's ever anything I need in the future, you can help me in return," Gu Chaoyan sincerely stated.

Little Junior Sister, acknowledging her limits, had been a great support during Kang Shi's challenging times.

Gu Chaoyan was willing to offer these items to him. While she wasn't Kang Shi, assisting him in completing the task meant she also wanted to repay Kang Shi's kindness.

Little Junior Sister gazed at Kang Shi, moved and conflicted. She had always looked up to him, remembering the radiant person he used to be. Kang Shi had provided her with immense encouragement, motivating her to strive for a dazzling future.

Unexpectedly...

He treated her with such kindness.

She realized she had treated him like an outsider.

Brother Kang Shi had been so good to her. If there was an opportunity in the future, she vowed to repay him. She would help him like family.

Little Junior Sister nodded.

Taking the pill in her hand with a smile, she said, “Senior Brother Kang Shi, thank you. I’ll take it away now.”

“Practice well,” Gu Chaoyan encouraged.

“I will.” Little Junior Sister happily skipped away.

Gu Chaoyan resumed crafting the elixir.

Now, news of his medicinal pills had spread throughout the clan.

Once this matter was successfully resolved, they could take things slowly.

Her current focus was on crafting medicinal pills to boost her and her father’s cultivation.

The Anicca Race couldn’t always be controlled solely by the First Elder.

In the realm of cultivation, power lay in the hands of the mighty.

Observing Kang Shi’s father’s situation, she noticed that the power in his hands had gradually waned. As Kang Shi’s father’s cultivation slowed, the First Elder’s strength surged.

In the past two days, she had carefully observed Kang Shi’s father, concluding that his slow progress was due to poisoning.

While the poison was easily curable, catching up with cultivation required the aid of pills.

Gu Chaoyan worked on her pills undisturbed.

Outside the boat, many events were unfolding rapidly.

The most exciting development centered around Ziluo.

With rumors spreading among the disciples they encountered, nearly every member of the Anicca Race became aware that Ziluo had sought out Kang Shi. While it was not unusual for anyone to approach Kang Shi, the fact that he was Ziluo's ex-fiancé added an intriguing twist to the situation.

Kang Yan had always maintained an arrogant demeanor within the clan.

Chapter 2567: Ice Flame Continent 24

Many people were eager to witness the unfolding drama, making it a widely discussed topic. Although most kept their curiosity hidden from Kang Yan, the news still spread rapidly. Even those attempting to keep the information secret found that Kang Yan soon became aware of it.

Kang Yan was furious upon learning the news.

Ziluo had gone to seek out that cripple? Wasn't that an embarrassment to him?

It appeared as though Kang Yan was incapable of fulfilling her needs, leading her to turn to someone he deemed worthless.

With intensity in his eyes, Kang Yan forcefully brought Ziluo back into the house. His gaze bore into her, his temper barely restrained, as if he might unleash his anger on her at any moment.

"Why did you go to that trash? Can't I provide what you need anymore?" Kang Yan's eyes held a sinister edge.

Kang Shi had always been the person Kang Yan despised the most since childhood. Once shining brightly, Kang Yan felt overlooked and unnoticed. Now that Kang Shi was in a dismal state, Kang Yan seemed to relish the idea of many despising him.

And the person he once admired would always harbor resentment towards him.

Now aware that Ziluo had voluntarily sought out Kang Shi, Kang Yan couldn't help but feel a surge of anger. How could he feel good about it?

Ziluo was somewhat taken aback by Kang Yan's intense reaction.

While he had treated her well since their marriage, she had maintained interactions with other disciples. Kang Yan had never displayed any signs of jealousy before. This sudden outburst made Ziluo uneasy.

She quickly explained, "It's like this. I heard from fellow disciples that Kang Shi has pills that can help with breakthroughs, so I went to take a look. I didn't think too much about it. After all, it has nothing to do with him anymore. He's just a regular fellow disciple."

Pills?

Kang Shi?

"What pill?" Kang Yan stared at Ziluo and inquired.

Why was he unaware of the existence of these pills?

"It's a medicinal pill that aids cultivation. There's another type that facilitates a smooth breakthrough in the Ninth Heaven. I find it intriguing, so naturally, I had to verify it," Ziluo explained.

"Why hasn't anyone informed me about this?" Kang Yan furrowed his brows, displaying his dissatisfaction. "Guards!"

His men approached nervously.

The disciples of the Anicca Race and the clan had tacitly avoided mentioning anything about Kang Shi's pills in front of Young Master Kang Yan. As servants, they adhered to the same silence. Aware of Young Master Kang Yan's strong aversion to Kang Shi, they anticipated his fury if he discovered Kang Shi's ability to refine such potent pills. Desiring to avoid blame, they chose to remain silent. To their surprise, their efforts to conceal the information were in vain.

Naturally, the attendants were apprehensive.

Observing Kang Yan's intention to reprimand the servants, Ziluo swiftly intervened.

"I'll discuss this with you," Ziluo said. She signaled for the others to step away, urging them to leave the immediate vicinity.

The attendants expressed gratitude towards Ziluo, believing her to be considerate and responsible. Previously, they had perceived Miss Ziluo as somewhat stern and domineering, but now, their perspective had shifted. They saw her as a kind person, and they felt a sense of obligation to repay her in the future.

Chapter 2568: Ice Flame Continent 25

Ziluo was unaware that these individuals harbored such thoughts about her actions.

Her motives were simple – she believed Kang Yan should not punish a few people, as it would cast significant blame on her. In her perspective, she had done nothing wrong.

She had no knowledge of the gratitude brewing among those people; being the daughter of the True Martial Race Clan Leader, she paid little heed to their existence.

"Enough with the charade. Instead of dwelling on your ignorance of the situation, let's address why I sought him out first. Are we dismissing the potential value of the pill simply because Kang Shi is involved?"

"..."

“Let’s ascertain the efficacy of the pill before making any decisions.”

“...”

“If it’s merely a bluff, the rumors will naturally fade with time. If it turns out to be true, then we’ll need to consider how to handle Kang Shi.”

“...”

“At present, Father controls nearly everything in the clan. His expertise lies in pill refinement, so we can delegate tasks to him accordingly. Can’t we just treat Kang Shi as an ordinary servant? Why make a fuss? What significance does he hold to warrant such attention?”

“...”

“Aren’t you overestimating him by stirring up these matters?”

“...”

“I don’t take him seriously. I’ll arrange for him to prove himself.”

“...”

“I’m going to find out what’s going on,” Ziluo declared.

Kang Yan, still seething with anger, gradually calmed down upon hearing her words. If Ziluo hadn’t intervened earlier, he might have lashed out at those responsible. He couldn’t fathom how such significant information had been kept from him. Regardless, he was not about to grant any favors to a worthless person like Kang Shi.

Did his actions result in the deaths of many of his subordinates? It didn’t add up.

Glaring at Ziluo, Kang Yan, still perturbed by the involvement of Kang Shi and their past engagement, voiced his doubts, “Do you need to go personally? Are you implying you still have feelings for Kang Shi just because he can refine pills now?”

Ziluo, incensed, retorted, “You don’t know what’s good for you?”

“...”

“I did all of this for you, and you’re still doubting me?”

“...”

“I’ve only met Kang Shi a few times. How can I have any feelings for him? If you’re so worried, I’ll go back to the True Martial Race,” Ziluo roared angrily.

Panicking, Kang Yan hurriedly pulled her back. Despite his anger, he recognized the strategic importance of maintaining good relations with the Clan Leader of True Martial Race, who could aid him in the future. Provoking him could complicate matters.

“I’ll discuss it with my father. You don’t have to worry about it. Just stay away from him. You know what happened in the past,” Kang Yan cautioned.

Ziluo nodded, relieved that she had defused the situation. She couldn’t fathom how Kang Yan had perceived her thoughts.

Nevertheless, she still needed to investigate Kang Shi’s affairs. If the pills were as effective as rumored, they could prove beneficial to her as well.

Chapter 2569: Ice Flame Continent 26

How could she refrain from intervening? That would imply she, Ziluo, had no connection to the situation.

In the realm of cultivation, enhancing one’s cultivation took precedence above all else.

This time, her oversight was evident. Due to Kang Shi's enigmatic sutra, she couldn't offer a satisfactory explanation. It had cost her valuable time, resulting in a hasty resolution. After some time passed, she resolved to have a comprehensive conversation with Kang Shi, ensuring clarity on the matter.

Importantly, she couldn't afford to let this become a public spectacle. Shielding herself from rumors was paramount, especially considering Kang Yan's proclivity for causing trouble.

Although Ziluo contemplated her approach, she maintained a composed facade, attentively listening to Kang Yan's instructions. Appearing obedient, she aimed to avoid further confrontation with Kang Yan, knowing it would only worsen her standing.

Satisfied with her compliance, Kang Yan decided not to press the matter further. "I'll discuss this with Father. Focus on your cultivation or rest. Don't meddle in affairs that don't concern you."

Continuing to nod, Ziluo concealed her true thoughts.

Kang Yan departed, leaving her alone.

In a rare moment of tranquility, Ziluo contemplated her next moves, plotting a more strategic approach. She was mindful of maintaining a low profile and avoiding further conflicts with Kang Yan.

Meanwhile, Kang Yan hastened to meet with the First Elder, who remained engrossed in addressing the issue. Unaware of recent clan developments, the First Elder continued his tireless efforts.

Kang Yan barged into the room, displeased, and snatched the items from the First Elder's hands. He placed them on the table, expressing his discontent, "Why are you still engrossed in these matters? Something significant has occurred in the clan. Why weren't you aware?"

The First Elder, unperturbed, inquired, "Clan? What happened?" He hadn't taken Kang Yan's interruption seriously, assuming it was merely another trivial matter.

Observing the First Elder's lack of knowledge, Kang Yan felt a surge of anger. The future leadership of the Anicca Race rested on their shoulders, yet his father seemed oblivious to crucial events.

“What else could it be? It’s about Kang Shi,” Kang Yan grumbled. “Don’t tell me you’re still unaware? Lately, that worthless Kang Shi has garnered attention. He’s concocted some mysterious pills, deceiving the members of the clan. If Ziluo hadn’t investigated, neither of us would have known what was happening.”

Kang Yan simmered with frustration at the thought.

The entire clan concealed it from them?

They were indifferent?

The First Elder, however, did not share Kang Yan’s intense reaction. The revelation that Kang Shi was refining pills did not elicit the same concern.

Kang Shi was not entirely foolish.

Given his stagnant cultivation, seeking alternative paths was logical.

Yet, refining pills?

If that was the case, what warranted such worry?

“Yan’er, recall what your father has often advised you. Maintain composure when faced with challenges. Why don’t you adhere to those teachings?” The First Elder spoke calmly, sensing Kang Yan’s instability.

“When a situation arises, engage your intellect first. In the case of Kang Shi, he has crafted some pills? They are just pills. Why are you so agitated? What makes you think a person of Kang Shi’s caliber is so crucial? He may understand pill refining, but it’s not as if his cultivation is unbeatable.”

“...”

“It’s very simple if he can refine pills. Just let him refine pills for us.”

“Whether it’s Kang Shi or the others, they’re all here for us. Since they’re here for us, we’ll make the best use of them.”

“...”

“Let’s bring him to the Medicine Sect first before addressing him openly. We can obtain any pills we desire.”

“...”

“I’ll handle this matter. You observe from the sidelines. The affairs of the clan will be under our control in the future. You need to learn how to manage things steadily,” the First Elder asserted.

Kang Yan remained slightly dissatisfied, but his father’s reasoning made sense.

His discontent stemmed not from anything else but his aversion to Kang Shi being in the spotlight, no matter the circumstances.

If they utilized him, they would still attract attention.

Kang Yan wished for Kang Shi, this seemingly worthless individual, to continue being unremarkable.

The First Elder patted Kang Shi’s shoulder and conveyed, “Yan’er, now that you’ve matured, Father’s influence in the clan has strengthened. As we’re no longer the same as before, we need to adapt. We must become magnanimous. If he can be of use, we’ll tolerate him. Ultimately, it’s still within your control.”

Understanding his son’s sentiments, the First Elder knew that trifles wouldn’t concern him when aiming for greatness.

Although Kang Yan comprehended, he couldn’t entirely let go. He nodded reluctantly. “Father, I understand.”

The First Elder nodded approvingly. That was more like it.

“It’s good that you understand,” the First Elder replied.

He signaled his men to summon Kang Shi and instructed him to perform a task joyfully.

While Kang Yan lingered nearby, the First Elder awaited further developments.

During this time, the First Elder refrained from further discussion. He aimed to use this period to contemplate how to handle Kang Shi’s situation.

After a brief while...

Kang Shi approached.

He appeared lively, yet somewhat unkempt.

“First Elder, what brings you here?” Kang Shi bowed and inquired, maintaining a balanced demeanor.

The First Elder gazed at Kang Shi.

He sensed a subtle change in Kang Shi, but couldn’t pinpoint what it was.

Concealing his thoughts, he said, “I heard you’ve been refining numerous pills lately, and their effects are quite remarkable?”

Gu Chaoyan quickly discerned that the First Elder had learned about the pills and was gearing up to manage the situation.

Kang Shi smiled and disclaimed, “I dabbled in it casually. Disciples often engage in sporadic pill refining. It’s a common practice. Occasionally, when I refine a surplus, I exchange them with fellow disciples. If they find it worthwhile, they willingly participate.”

“...”

“I’m not actually proficient in pill refining,” Kang Shi insisted.

The First Elder chuckled. “Why so modest?”

“...”

“I comprehend the situation. Your cultivation has remained stagnant. Instead of this, why not consider joining the Medicine Sect? The Medicine Sect has been short of hands in recent years. Rest assured, with your father as the Clan Leader, regardless of your destination, the clan will treat you well.”

“...”

“What are your thoughts?”

“Nothing.” Gu Chaoyan directly declined.

“Kang Shi, don’t be unappreciative. With your current cultivation level, if there’s no improvement within the next two years, you’ll be compelled to work outside the clan. I’m just suggesting this for your own benefit...”