

EMPEROR 991

### Chapter 991 Completion Of Pills

Davis, who sat on the spectator's seat, looked at the stage. The pill concoction had already begun to take place after the ingredients have been all brought out by the participants. However, his concentration wasn't on that but on Immeth Alstreim's actions.

However, he couldn't help but smile in derision a little.

Almost everyone here was a fucking rat! They schemed behind other's back and seemed to have little sense of morality behind their actions.

He cast a glance at Nora Alstreim and couldn't help but sneer at her in a derogatory way.

'Master like subordinate...'

Both of them were backstabbing bitches! Yet, they dared to behave like they were pure, wanting to have a moralistic life while pursuing the peak of cultivation.

Truly, women do know how to play the victim instinctively. If he hadn't seen this, perhaps he would be sympathizing with Nora Alstreim's and Immeth Alstreim's plight, but for the latter, he had already seen through her with the Karma Threads. He knew that Immeth Alstreim was trying to make use of him, but to think that it was for revenge against the ones who used her, he didn't expect that.

He felt that it was more along the lines of trapping him with her body in the behest of her Young Mistress Nora Alstreim, but it seemed like it was her own doing...

Did that mean that she was truly trying to secure a strong man and fortune by having him as her man?

A jade digger?

'Still... Who was that person at last? Father...?'

'Mother didn't say anything about such a person...'

Davis frowned in contemplation before he eyed Nora Alstreim.

'Wouldn't I just know by asking Nora Alstreim for the answer but considering that those two were so secretive despite being father and daughter...'

Davis narrowed his brows, 'Are they hiding their relationship?'

He felt that it was plausible, but for what reason?

He shook his head and leaned towards the front as he heaved a breath.

"... Only thirty of them managed to find the right ones, but those ingredients..." Dalila Leehan suddenly smiled before she cast a look at Alchemist Davis, "If you are capable, you must know what is wrong with those ingredients, no?"

Davis blinked, wondering what he did to deserve this... He felt that he shouldn't have sat here. He cast a look at the stage to observe again as he really hadn't paid attention to the uniqueness of the ingredients.

"If you do not know, just say that you don't know!"

"Just shut up for a moment..."

"You!!!" Dalila Leehan looked shocked by his response.

Her expression fell as she became angered. She was just about to retort before she got interrupted.

"Two of those ten ingredients are of the two opposite nature, and when thrown into the cauldron, their percentage should be accurately balanced. Otherwise, it is possible for the whole concoction to fail. Moreover, if their cauldrons were not above the Low-Level Sky Grade, it is possible for that their cauldrons to explode from the ignition of the two ingredients counteracting each other when they are not perfectly balanced."

Dalila Leehan's expression became disoriented. She knew that it was her fault that she instantly tried to put him down, but she wasn't able to stomach being told to shut up like that. She felt her face slightly burn up in humiliation.

Nevertheless, she gritted her teeth, and gracefully continued, "That's right. This is also a trap that is set up for the unsuspecting alchemists who have never known much about the combination of these particular ingredients before."

Davis simply nodded his head, and Dalila Leehan leaned back with a hateful expression on her face. However, her expression also looked a bit aggrieved.

Who other than her Top Pill Disciple Seniors dared to treat her like this? She found it not one bit to her liking, but as a woman, she knew that she could not behave unruly as she was at fault for trying to tease him.

'Hmph... No fun...' She imperceptibly pouted.

Soon enough, just when the participating alchemists expected that it was going to be easy-peasy in concocting that Low-Level Sky Grade Pill, a muffled sound echoed.

\*Omm!~\*

The alchemist who stood in front of the origin of that sound looked at his cauldron in shock, "What happened!?"

Even though he asked, he knew what this sound signified.

He gulped and opened the lid of his cauldron. Black smoke emerged before it elevated into the skies. He stretched his head and looked into the cauldron, finding some ruined paste that stuck to the bottom of the cauldron.

His expression became ugly as what he feared came to pass! The pill concoction had failed!

"But how!?"

He had no idea. He grasped his head in thought but soon, numerous echoes of muffled booms echoed around the stage, causing him to look around in a stupor. Numerous explosions occurred, and when those people opened their cauldrons, black smoke emerged out.

Looking at them almost simultaneously fail, an imperceptible smile, as well as relief, painted his face.

\*Tcha~\*

However, another muffled sound echoed. It attracted almost all attention since the sound was different than what others heard.

A woman with a confident demeanor stood before her cauldron.

She waved her hand, and the lid opened as her soul force lifted it up for her. At the same time, another strand of soul force entered the cauldron and brought out eight brightly shining pills. Its luster caused the people to marvel at its effects!

"Bi-Energy Condensing Pill!" She voiced out the pill's name.

A Low-Level Sky Grade Pill that restored both essence energy and battle aura of a Fifth Stage Cultivator! It was relatively difficult to concoct since it involved in the amalgamation of restoring two different types of energy!

"This Sophie Alstreim is not bad..." Dalila Leehan nodded her head in approval.

"Indeed, she's very upright and has only eyes for the peak. She rarely concerns herself with internal affairs or public gatherings, so no rarely knows about her. If it weren't for Grand Elder Krax Alstreim favoring her, she would be completely unknown among the junior generation due to her lack of social upbringing."

"She is suitable for the profession of alchemy! Ask her if she is interested in becoming my subordinate, but of course, she would have to abandon the Alstreim Family and follow me to the Thousand Pill Palace since she doesn't have a special status."

Nora Alstreim wryly giggled, "As far as I know, she is completely loyal to the Alstreim Family like us."

"Hehe..." Dalila Leehan snickered, "I've seen many loyal people cave in to the power that is known as wealth..."

However, Nora Alstreim seemed to be thinking of something else as her expression fell.

"Speaking of loyalty and social skills, I can't help but recall a certain person..." She shook her head as she sighed.

Dalila Leehan checked her friend's expression and could tell that she suddenly exuded a bit of sorrow.

"Who is it?" Her eyes flashed as she asked. She became genuinely curious as to who could make the prideful Nora Alstreim feel like this...

Nora Alstreim wryly smiled, "She could be designated as my rival in the past."

Davis suddenly pricked up his ears as he heard a clicking term! Rivals?

'Wasn't mother a rival to Nora Alstreim as they had completed for the Young Mistress's status?'

### **Chapter 992 Garnering Sympathy?**

"In the past...?" Dalila Leehan curiously wondered, "That means that she is no longer fit to be your rival anymore? Why? She took the alchemist path to reach the peak?"

Nora Alstreim shook her head, "She's dead."

"Oh~" Dalila Leehan had her mouth agape before she shut it tight. She wasn't insensitive enough to continue asking questions.

"Looking back... I, at least, wanted to call her a friend once..."

"Friend? You once wanted to call her a friend? It's rich coming from the person who was responsible for the so-called friend's death!" A man's voice suddenly interrupted them.

"What do you mean?" Nora Alstreim actually stood up as she stared at Davis in all seriousness. It looked as if she was offended by his sudden yet strange statement.

"Heh!" Davis sneered, "Keep acting, and I'll see how you'll plead your innocence in the future!"

Dalila Leehan looked back and forth, wondering why they suddenly became tense.

Davis couldn't keep his silence, and he wasn't worried if things went south at this point after hearing all this bullshit from the perpetrator's mouth. It was one thing for her to be proud of her schemes but to lament and act sorrowful as if she was pitying his mother when she was the one who backstabbed her had rubbed him off in the wrong way!

Nora Alstreim's brows were furrowed as she clenched her fists.

'What's with all these people who seem to insist I did something wrong...? Wasn't Ancestor the same...? Even Grandpa quickly avoided by changing the topic...'

Her eyes almost turned moist at these accusations. Nevertheless, she could understand that an outsider like Alchemist Davis didn't know anything about her, so she relaxed her fists as she promptly calmed down and opened her mouth.

"Your statement... I want you to retract it."

Davis snorted, "Why should I retract my statement?"

"You may not know, but I can guess because it seems that there are people who might be spreading ill rumors about me. This Aqua Flood Dragon incident, which is ultimately brought my Grandmother Grand Elder Elise, has created the opportunity for some people to push me down."

"You're downplaying a calamity to an incident. Your words have no weight and truth in it."

"You!" Nora Alstreim subconsciously walked forwards as her expression turned into a scowl but was held back by Dalila Leehan!

"Alchemist Davis! You have gone too far!"

"If you can slander with that kind of confidence, where's your evidence?" Dalila Leehan stood up for Nora Alstreim.

"Who knows?" Davis remained non-committal as he looked towards the stage where the second round seems to be almost over, "Perhaps the evidence would show up one day, and that day might be the day of her reckoning."

Nora Alstreim trembled from anger. Her anger was even visible in her expression as veins appeared over her fair neck. She tried to keep herself from going berserk on this public platform.

The other day, she heard someone, a woman slandering her of adultery with her grandfather. Of course, she killed her in secrecy and retaliation. Before that, there were all sorts of rumors about her, making her seem like that she was involved in various dark incidents of the Grand Alstreim City.

These incidents happened right after the Aqua Flood Dragon's incident, and it was clear to her that someone was intentionally targeting her!

In all this, doesn't this man understand when she meant that it was only ill and unproven rumors!?

"Nora, you mustn't heed the words of a madman. Let him say whatever he wants. He's simply provoking you." Dalila Leehan warned as she made her friend sit back on the seat.

Her expression became one of indifference before she walked towards Davis and stood in front of him as he looked down on him.

"To receive gratitude and return it with baseless slander. I am really disappointed by your actions."

She coldly looked at him before she returned to her seat without doing anything else. From a short distance away, that burly person, the protector, seemed ready to spring up into action to protect Dalila Leehan from whatever harm that may befall her.

Davis could feel that Dalila Leehan was disappointed in him from her expression alone without her statement, but he could also feel her emotions deeply since she entered his two-meter radius, the range of his Heart Intent. Her disappointment couldn't be any more true, but he did not care for a stranger's opinion of him anyway.

Instead, he was more interested to know what Nora Alstreim felt.

Unfortunately, Nora Alstreim did not enter within his two-meter radius, so he was not able to make sense of her emotions, but he mused that it must be fear, nervousness, and anxiety trying to overwhelm as he could see her still trembling in her seat. After all, from his words, she might be afraid that he might have something on her!

Nora Alstreim lowered her head. It was unknown what she was thinking, but she suddenly raised her head and looked at Dalila Leehan, "You too... think the same?"

"Of course not..." Dalila Leehan shook her head, "Suspicion is one thing, but it could not be true without being proven. In theory, Pills Recipes that only exist in name cannot be considered authentic Pill Recipes unless it is proven that a valid and genuine pill can be made out of it. This is a saying in the alchemist world, and it basically means that we should not believe in baseless rumors."

"Besides, I've known you for more than twenty years. I have faith in my two eyes for perceiving one's character, and I believe that you are not such a person from all our interactions before."

"Dalila..." Nora Alstreim became moved, not knowing what to say.

At times like these, where almost everyone seemed to look at like she was a monstrosity of a woman, Dalila's words became a kind of support that she welcomed with all her heart. Her impression of Dalila Leehan in her heart also increased and made her lean towards her plan for their future.

'Perhaps Alstreim Family isn't my place after all...'

Nora Alstreim sadly thought before she shook her head that this might be unintentional sweet talk instead. She took a deep breath and calmed herself down, reminding herself that she is not allowed to become disheartened!

However, it looked as if she came to possess renewed vigor and confidence from the outside.

'Trying to garner sympathy?' Davis increasingly became disgusted by her actions.

He no longer bothered and looked at the stage where Belias Alstreim floated and announced, "The second round has ended with fourteen participants passing! I must say, this has been quite a haul when compared to the previous Alchemy Exchange, where only seven of them passed the second round despite it being easier than this Alchemy Exchange!"

The spectators cheered for the alchemists who passed, but unlike the cheering in the first round, which was dull, it was pretty over receptive.

"This is perhaps due to an external influence, no?" Elder Belias Alstreim glanced at Princess Isabella for a brief moment, garnering a spontaneous burst of laughter from the spectators.

Even Davis's expression couldn't help but turn into a smile while his mood became better.

### **Chapter 993 Second Round's Completion**

"I'll now announce the results!" Elder Belias Alstreim pursed his lips and moved.

He arrived before the first person who passed and looked at the vial she held in her hands. He politely borrowed it to examine and glanced at the pills for two whole seconds before he looked at the spectators and announced.

"Sophie Alstreim - Eight Normal-Tier Bi-Energy Condensing Pills!"

Sophie Alstreim nodded her head with a smile as she had already confirmed it by herself. At this time, her job was to 'fight' with the examiner if the examiner's verdict was wrong. After all, not all Normal Tier pills looked the same as there would be tiny details of differences, making it difficult for an alchemist to grade the pill.

"Good!" Elder Belias Alstreim nodded in appreciation as he overly smiled at Sophie Alstreim before he moved to the next.

"Augustus Alstreim - Six Normal-Tier and a single Advanced-Tier Bi-Energy Condensing Pills!"

\*Woah!~\*

Sounds of astonishment echoed in the spectator's seat. After all, it was the first Advanced Tier Pill to be made in their sight.

"Good!"

Elder Belias Alstreim moved on to the next one, and next, as he kept announcing the results of all the others who passed, and since their skills were known to be low, they unsurprisingly had a low amount of people and even Crude Tier Bi-Energy Condensing Pills among them.

Elder Belias Alstreim floated towards the last participant and smiled as he looked at the vial. His eyes flashed with appreciation before he announced.

"Claudius Alstreim - Four Normal-Tier Pills and four Advanced-Tier Bi-Energy Condensing Pills!"

The Grand Elders and Elders all looked at each other and nodded in appreciation. This time, there was a true alchemist who would eventually join their ranks in the future, or so they were convinced. And by true alchemists in their perspective, it meant Mid-Level King Grade Alchemist and above!

Becoming a King Grade Alchemist is easier when compared to the sheer amount of knowledge and skill that they must gain at this level!

The people were also shocked since they didn't think much of Claudius Alstreim.

"Four Advanced-Tier Pills!? Who is this person!?" Many clamored as they simultaneously background checked Claudius Alstreim with their connections, but no matter how they checked, they arrived at the conclusion that he was from one of the towns of the Alstreim Family's territory.

They were in deep disbelief at finding such a fact.

In truth, they would look down upon people who arrived here from other cities, but this person was from a town they have never heard of before! It was not that the town didn't exist, but they didn't even deign to look at the people who come from towns.

Even so, some still cast a look at Claudius Alstreim in derision despite his outstanding achievement. They even started booing, and like sheep, people who were silent but incredibly jealous also started to follow them in making stupid sounds.

'So it's like he came from the countryside...' Davis could understand the jealous people's booing, but... he could see that Claudius Alstreim faintly sneered at them while remaining indifferent to their derision. It seemed that he was also looking down on them from a different perspective.

'No wonder Claudius Alstreim has such a bearing even when being humiliated... It is forged through countless experiences of being looked down upon...'

The sound barrier generated from the formation seemed to be inactive the moment the second round finished, so Claudius Alstreim could still hear their echo of jealousy. It was music to his ears.

Sophie Alstreim and Augustus Alstreim narrowed their eyes as they looked at him in all seriousness. They could honestly feel the threat radiating from him, the threat that they didn't feel before as he was

acting all clumsy and easygoing. They made a mental note to not have their legs swept under their watch.

"Therefore, the ranking for this round will be..." Elder Belias Alstreim floated towards the top, right in the middle of the four pillars of the stage. His voice made the people shut up, making the stage silent again.

"Claudius Alstreim takes the first place, Augustus Alstreim second place, Sophie Alstreim third place..." He announced the ranking till the fourteenth place, leaving only two who were seated in the second tier spectator seats as they were seeded.

"This marks the end of the second round while the third, the last round will soon take place within half an hour! It is already known that the participants will have to prepare their own ingredients for pill concoction and that there is no limit for the pill that they could create!"

"Alchemist Davis whose participation was unexpected will freely receive the ingredients from our side. As long as the ingredients' grade is within the Low-Level King Grade, it would be promptly delivered from our ingredient warehouse!"

Davis simply nodded his head in acknowledgment.

Elder Belias Alstreim knew that there was no way Alchemist Davis would ask for Low-Level King Grade Ingredients with his current prowess, so he was not afraid of adding this condition to publicize how magnanimous and generous the Alstreim Family remained.

"Nevertheless..." Elder Belias Alstreim smirked before he continued after a short pause.

"The ranking of the final round is determined by the grade and quality of the pill, so the participant who concocted the highest grade with the highest tier will become the winner of the last round, becoming eligible for not only receiving the unusually high rewards from us but also the grand reward awarded by the Dragon Queen!"

Boisterous cheering erupted from the crowd as most of them looked at the exceedingly gorgeous Dragon Queen in reverence. It was not fake or politeness, but they truly revered both her beauty and her strength from the bottom of their heart since she drove the Aqua Flood Dragon away from destroying their city.

They felt like they could personally kiss her feet for this feat!

The men didn't feel humiliated at the thought since she was a blindingly beautiful woman! Instead, they knew they were ones who were blessed by the heavens to even be able to touch her feet.

The Dragon Queen was an existence who was completely out of their bounds! They didn't even deserve to look at her face straight!

'It is time...'

Davis waited for Dalila Leehan to stand up and leave to the Pill Arena, but since she didn't seem to be not in any hurry, he stood up and left towards the exit.

And as he previously expected, Dalila Leehan instantly stood up and followed him towards the exit.



Davis possessed a wry expression on his face, feeling that he didn't want to be lectured by this self-righteous woman who knew nothing about their past. He didn't blame her, but he didn't want to interact and reason with her either.

They crossed the sky and rendered the place where the first round took place. Davis flew without stop, hoping that she would not do anything, but his hopes were destined to be crushed!

"Wait!" A commanding voice echoed!

Davis ignored her call and approached the door to the Pill Arena.

"Hey! I said, wait!!!" Dalila Leehan screamed in frustration.

Davis stopped and turned to look at her.

"What?"

### **Chapter 994 Scamming Once Again**

Dalila Leehan stared at him in anger before she heaved a breath, her rosy lips pouting in annoyance. Her bosoms slightly bounced as she folded her arms.

"If I win, I want you to apologize to Nora!"

"That's all?" Davis frowned.

No lectures? He expected her to chastise him as the way he behaved was rude and uncalled for when seen from the outside perspective.

"That's all!" Dalila Leehan looked dead serious.

Davis stared at her in confusion for two whole seconds before he nodded.

"Sure, if you win, I can apologize, but don't expect my apology to be... sincere!" he emphasized.

"You! Don't you understand that those slanders were just rumors!?"

Davis sneered, "What do you know?"

Dalila Leehan was about to retort, but he continued.

"Nevertheless, since you want me to do something if you won, isn't it only fair that you do something for me if I win instead?"

He inwardly mused that he was in no way he was going to let this chance slip out of his hand. Since Dalila Leehan seemed to be a genuine Top Pill Disciple of the Thousand Pill Palace, he felt that it would be beneficial to have her owe him.

This way, if he needed any resources, he could contact her instead of searching for it by himself!

"Of course! You can ask me anything as long as it's within my ability to do it!" Dalila Leehan patted her bosom lightly before she realized something and frowned, "You cannot ask me of something unscrupulous to do!"

'Unscrupulous... I wonder if she meant in the meaning of illegal or sexual, perhaps both?' A passing thought flashed past Davis's head before he simply gave the nod.

"That settles it then... If you win, I apologize to Nora Alstreim! If I win, you owe me a favor!"

He didn't entertain her any longer and flew towards the door before he entered the Pill Arena.

Dalila Leehan looked at his back as she stood still, her impression of him somewhat becoming better as he had accepted to apologize.

However, she mildly narrowed her eyes as she recalled. The way he questioned her, it was like he knew about Nora Alstreim's wrongdoing personally. Her brows were furrowed in contemplation, but she didn't think too much of it as she had her own belief and preconceived notions about other characters.

She flew forwards and entered the Pill Arena through the door.

Blinding light flashed over her from the bright skies, and the cheers and noises of the crowd entered her ears. It made her feel giddy and caused her to come out of her previous mindset as her posture subconsciously straightened. It was as if only alchemy was visible in her eyes right now.

Dalila Leehan caught sight of Davis's back before her lips curved into one of curiosity. Although she had determined his character to be still a disappointment, she still didn't know how good his alchemy skills were, especially when his cultivation seemed to be lacking.

'So what if you're a soul cultivating genius below hundred years, having a somewhat strong Fifth Stage Soul Forging Cultivation? It is still not enough to compete against me, considering that the Elder Soul Stage already lacks the capability to concoct High-Level Sky Grade Pills normally.'

'And as for your Sixth Stage Essence Gathering Cultivation, I heard that it was lightning-attributed, which is quite useless in itself when it comes to alchemy other than an extremely few other concoction scenarios where it is required.' Dalila Leehan's lips curved into a condescending smile.

Even if she wanted to be wary of Alchemist Davis, she found it difficult to actually entertain him as a rival at this point in time. Some alchemists had the knowledge but not the skill to back it up. She had seen such people in the Thousand Pill Palace end up in a teaching profession than grow their skills in the alchemy profession.

"But fret not because I will give my best to defeat you and your alchemy completely..." She muttered in a low voice.

Davis looked at the participants who left in dejection. Thirty of them have failed, after all. They acted as if they were given the death penalty as each of their faces were pale as grey.

He ignored them and sent a soul transmission to Elder Belias Alstreim, instructing him to bring a few ingredients, but when Elder Belias Alstreim heard the list of ingredients that seemed to have no indicator or reference to a pill recipe he had knowledge about, he became taken aback.

Did this mean that Alchemist Davis was going to concoct a pill that was unknown to them?

'The ingredients are all at Peak-Level Sky Grade... Don't tell me that Alchemist Davis is simply asking for all these resources so that I wouldn't be able to pinpoint what kind of pill he is making...'

'Or is he trying to openly rob of our resources in plain-sight that is required for his alchemy growth...?'

Elder Belias Alstreim thought as his heart bled, but he just nodded his head in response.

For better or worse, all the ingredients that were requested were present within their ingredient warehouse, but for the Dragon Queen and the nectar she is awarding the winner, he didn't mind taking out these twenty-five or so Peak-Level Sky Grade Ingredients!

He promptly informed a person to get these ingredients from the nearest source.

Davis stood at the center, waiting for the ingredients to arrive, but for some reason, that became his spot as a circle appeared beneath his feet. Other circles also appeared on the stage, and the participants moved randomly to choose the nearest one.

Some even fought for a particular spot, and it became a spectacle to watch, but they didn't escalate it into a battle since they knew that they would be disqualified. Soon, the ingredients Davis requested had also arrived, presented to him in a spatial ring.

Davis checked the spatial ring and its content before he nodded in response. His lips quivered as he couldn't help but sneak in a smirk as if he was a kid who just had done a prank on an elder.

He remembered that Peak-Level Sky Grade Ingredients were so hard to obtain six years ago, but now, he secretly laughed as he easily obtained the half-dozen ingredients required for the Soul Emerging Pill, which he used to drastically increase the quality of his soul force in the past.

It was among the list of ingredients he requested to bring! Moreover, he didn't just request for the ingredients of the Soul Emerging Pill but also the ingredients required to concoct a few relatively unknown pills. At least, he mused that the Alstreim Family might not know about these pills.

Checking on the quality of these ingredients, he realized that these ingredients might be gaining dust over the years since some of them seemed to lost a bit of their essence. He felt that he had to commend the Alstreim Family's ninety thousand years of history! Otherwise, they would in no way possess all the rare ingredients required for the relatively unknown Soul Emerging Pill.

However, losing a bit of essence isn't a problem to him as his true prowess would be able to easily counter the problem. But of course, he was not going to concoct the Soul Emerging Pill now as its value alone was tremendous. Even though it was graded a genuine and authentic Peak-Level Sky Pill, its true value is comparable with a Peak-Level King Grade Pill, or perhaps even a Low-Level Emperor Grade Pill when exaggerated in the market!

## **Chapter 995 The Final Round**

The Soul Emerging Pill.

Davis mused that even the Thousand Pill Palace should not possess a pill of this caliber with them. If these people came to know that he possessed the pill recipe to such a pill, then it is possible that they might pester him to no end or even try to take drastic measures, not bothering about the Dragon Queen's background!

After all, resources regarding the soul were always taken seriously. Their demand wasn't the least bit low, and they were getting rarer and difficult to find. Consequently, it is a given that large Territorial-based struggle is going to be involved at first sight of the Soul Emerging Pill.

Hence, since he was not going to concoct the Soul Emerging Pill, it was a given that he was going to concoct something else.

Davis's lips curved into a sharp smile as he took this seriously. He was not ashamed to scam them of these rare and precious ingredients that were hard to find, maybe taking centuries to discover since he was sponsoring them the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar in reality.

"Now then, I assume every participant is ready?" Elder Belias Alstreim looked around, unaware that he was just scammed big time by a brat. He saw that none of the participants raised an objection, so he nodded his head in satisfaction.

"Good!"

He looked towards Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim when the latter was about to do the same thing, turning to look at the Dragon Queen, but she shook her head, causing him to laugh awkwardly.

Inwardly thanking the Dragon Queen for her ability to understand etiquette, he stood up and opened his mouth, "Everyone, I am driven ecstatic by your skills in this Alchemy Exchange! I can no longer wait to see your dazzling performance in this last round, but before I announce the start, I hope that the person who wins will be magnanimous enough to share the grand reward put forth by the Dragon Queen with us!"

"Of course, in exchange, we are willing to entertain your request no matter as long as it is within the Peak-Level King Grade!"

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim sheepishly smiled, "Of course, it is negotiable, so..."

"That's all this old man has to say to you younglings. May the true alchemy exchange begin!"

Everyone instantly took out their cauldrons, making the crowd become strangely excited again. Davis also simultaneously took out his cauldron, and it garnered a plethora of gasps as the enthusiasts managed to find out that it was a...

"I-t... It's a Peak-Level King Grade Cauldron!!!"

Collective gasps could be further heard from the spectators.

Davis looked at the yellowish turtle dragon-patterned cauldron. It was none other than the Roaring Turtle Dragon Cauldron, which Evelyn bought for him on an errand! It cost him 100,000 High-Level Spirit Stones to purchase this cauldron!

"Hehe, the Dragon Queen treats her subordinates truly good... Going as far as to purchase a Peak-Level King Grade Cauldron for your subordinate's growth is admirable and rewarding indeed!" Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim praised.

Princess Isabella nonchalantly chuckled, "It isn't like you are all going to believe me if I said that he obtained it through his own wealth anyway..."

"Mhm!?" Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim looked taken aback while the other Elders possessed similar expressions on their faces, partly amused and partly bewildered.

Alchemist Davis acquired that Peak-Level King Grade Cauldron by himself? They felt that the Dragon Queen must be kidding...

Even with their eyes closed, they could see that that turtle-dragon patterned cauldron must've cost over a hundred thousand High-Level Spirit Stones, so how can they not doubt Alchemist Davis's ability to buy that cauldron?

Even some Law Sea Stage Experts have that much wealth as their savings and couldn't afford to spend it all on a single cauldron!

Unless Alchemist Davis came from a huge background in the first place, they found it harder to believe that this young man had purchased it through his own wealth!

Davis poured some spirit water into the dry cauldron, making the inner surface moist and wet.

He then took out a few ingredients and placed it on a simple wooden table he summoned to his side. He gradually began to refine those ingredients with his soul force, crushing it by forcibly compressing, grinding, and in that, burning a few parts into aromatic ashes.

All these took him a few minutes to do with precision.

After working on these few ingredients he took out initially, he waved his hand as a few ingredients again came out, but all of them floated in the air, glowing in a plethora of colors from their attribute aura. There were seven such main ingredients whose quality must be untainted or crushed, ground, unlike the initial ones.

Their essence must be maintained wholly in their original state for the concoction to be successful!

Davis checked his inventory once again before he started the pill concoction process. He threw the initial ingredient, which looked like a herb but was an ingredient that changed the entire spirit water into green in color. It was known as the Incandescent Brazen Green Herb. It possessed the properties to combine all the other six ingredients by slow amalgamation process; hence it was the first one to be used.

A few minutes passed as he let it soak in like that, and even without the flames, that ingredient seemed to dissolve in the spirit water before its essence became completely one with the cauldron.

Davis monitored the cauldron, so he knew that this was the moment and threw two more ingredients in at the same time, and simultaneously, two rows of six-tiered flames wisped into existence, intensifying in a blazing manner.

Mystifying Dozen Flame Control!

It was the King Grade Pill Concocting Technique that was imparted to him by Old Man Garvin.

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim widened his eyes in shock!

Looking at the upper row of six flame wisps that were blazing with intensity, and the lower row supplementing the upper row with more heat, causing the heat produced to multiply, the dignitaries became awed by the sheer skill and ingenuity by the concoction method!

"Is that... A Peak-Level... King Grade Concoction Technique?" Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim, who possessed the most discerning eyes in regards to alchemy, possessed a disbelieving expression on his face.

He looked at the Dragon Queen for clarification.

Princess Isabella smirked as she shook her head, "How am I supposed to know? I do not know Alchemy."

However, she became incredibly proud that he managed to make a Grand Elder's mouth hung agape.

She watched him concoct pills in interest. His concentrated expression made it all the more endearing for her to watch, and perhaps for the same reason, she became entranced in watching him work hard.

Davis's brows furrowed as he adjusted the heat of the flames according to the situation of the ingredients.

The quality of his soul force directly correlated to the amount of heat he could produce, but if he was an expert in Fire Laws, the intensity could've been further increased. Unfortunately, he was not and had to rely on his suppressed quality of soul force to melt these ingredients in an accurate manner.

The only saving grace was that he did not have to worry about running out of soul force, and the exhaustion was less, but it still made him use ninety-nine percent of his current soul prowess to reach the heat that was required to dissolve the two ingredients into pure medicinal essences!

A few minutes passed by, and he was already starting to sweat as he put in more effort than required because of the suppressed cultivation.

Dalila Leehan and a few others looked at him in shock as they finally noticed!

'How can his soul force be so powerful and intense!'

### **Chapter 996 A Decision Taken From The Urge To Win**

Dalila Leehan had initially possessed a confident and carefree expression on her face as she concocted a pill. She also used a King Grade Cauldron as her pill furnace, but it was only a Low-Level King Grade Cauldron, unlike what Davis pulled out. She inwardly sneered at him because she felt that using a Peak-Level King Grade Cauldron for the Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill everyone present here is going to concoct eventually is an overkill.

Musing that he was showing off his backing and weight as a mysterious alchemist, she no longer had the mind to bother about him and was skillfully concocting a pill with her cauldron for some time when she abruptly sensed that his soul force was abnormally hyped up in terms of intensity!

It was unlike anything she had seen before!

She didn't think such a Peak-Level Elder Soul Stage soul force could exist! Instead, it felt more like she was sensing the prowess of a normal High-Level Mature Soul Stage Cultivator! If an ordinary cultivator's

soul force could be compared to a gentle stream, then Alchemist Davis's soul force could be compared to a flood!

His soul force was completely superior in quality that she had a hard time believing that he was not using a pill to increase his prowess temporarily! After all, she felt no unstable fluctuations from his soul force. Instead, it was strong and durable! She could precisely tell this difference because she had many interactions with Mature Soul Stage Cultivators in the Thousand Pill Palace!

The Elders and the Grand Elders similarly arrived at that conclusion, thinking that Alchemist Davis was truly a Soul Forging Cultivation genius! However, they also felt a bit of pity. After all, no matter how Alchemist struggled, it was set in stone that he would be unable to produce a pill of superior quality.

Not knowing that he had shortly created a commotion, Davis continued to add and refine the ingredients in the Roaring Turtle Dragon Cauldron through the Mystifying Dozen Flame Control. After some time passed, the two main ingredients dissolved its essence into the concoction from the twelve wisps of flames' heat.

He started mixing a few supplementary ingredients he had already readied and kept above the table into the cauldron. He heated them up and fused the supplementary essence required for the essence from the main ingredients to reach a balance and a surge in efficacy.

Dalila Leehan cast a few occasional glances at Alchemist Davis but wasn't able to guess what kind of pill he was concocting. Even the dignitaries didn't know what kind of pill he was creating as the ingredients he mixed in the cauldron in sequence didn't any pill description or recipe they knew.

They only mused that it should be Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill, considering the main ingredients he used were at the Peak-Level Sky Grade.

The three young alchemists from the Alstreim Family became heated up from Alchemist Davis's abnormal soul force that they started to give their everything they had into their pill concoction!

The other participants stopped hoping that Alchemist Davis would make a silly mistake with his low cultivation in front of the crowd, ending up becoming a laughingstock. Instead, they were also sprung up by his prowess as they returned to refining and concocting their own pills in a provoked manner.

Soon the entire Pill Arena's atmosphere changed as it became soundless and calm. Only the sound of gasping of the hard-working alchemists and blazing flames under the cauldrons could be heard seldom.

Time erratically passed like this, sometimes intense, and sometimes calm.

During the calm period of the low-humming and serenely silent cauldron, Davis was able to observe his opponents, but he didn't as he was rather confident with what he was doing, the end result, and concentrated on his own pill concoction instead.

However, he knew the chances he would succeed in this pill concoction were less, so he felt that he should be more cautious so as not to make a careless mistake. Moreover, he deemed that it was more frustrating to apologize to Nora Alstreim than losing the fifty milliliters of the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar to her.

Hence, he did not take away his attention from the Roaring Turtle Dragon Cauldron for a single moment as the urge to win became increasingly entrenched in his head!

He wanted to succeed, no matter what!

The elders and everyone else looked at him like they were looking at a new person. How could one maintain their concentration for so many hours without even casting a glance at the other participants to at least garner their progress?

They felt that Alchemist Davis must completely be a pill maniac, but a few people with discerning eyes could also see that he was mostly struggling with his low-heat soul flames to melt the ingredients. They mused that he was having a hard time due to his low cultivation but did not feel bad at all.

Only the strongest, knowledgeable, and skilled wins in Alchemy!

Davis was almost at the last few steps of the pill concoction, arriving at the last seventh ingredient. This last ingredient required Davis way more heat than the current hotness, and with the suppressed form of soul force he used right now, he couldn't increase the heat further.

Davis had to admit that he had overestimated the quality of his suppressed soul force a bit. Now that he reevaluated, his chances of concocting this particular pill became less than five percent!

'Looks like I have no other choice...'

Davis didn't dawdle around and instantly decided.

The air around him suddenly became chaotic, causing many people who were extremely bored to swivel their heads to him! Some of the participants who had the luxury to care about others turned their heads to him! However, some of them even had their concentration lapse in the concoction, causing them to make a mistake!

Davis didn't care for their hostile reactions as he was focused and occupied. His soul force abruptly spiked, increasing in intensity! It pulsed like a heart before it intrinsically changed to a higher level of cultivation as it brushed past the faces of every participant who was present on the stage!

It was soundless and harmless, seamlessly just making them feel a sudden chillness on their back!

\*ZsS!~\*

The twelve wisps of flames heightened in terms of heat to a tremendous degree, and the last seventh main ingredient quickly started to melt, mixing its essence with the almost paste-like liquid that had begun to form on the bottom of the cauldron!

"What!?"

The dignitaries, participants, and spectators looked at him with a dumbfounded expression on their faces! This feat of breaking through to the Sixth Stage in Soul Forging Cultivation bordered on the level of absurdity when they considered Alchemist Davis's age that is below a hundred years!

There is no way most of them felt that this could be true, but the fact placed before them didn't allow any word of retort to come out of their mouths!



The Grand Elders and Elders all possessed solemn expressions on their faces.

What kind of a person is Alchemist Davis!? How could he be so abnormally talented in Soul Forging Cultivation!?

They couldn't help but cast a glance at the Dragon Queen in askance, wondering where on the Fifty-Two Territories had she recruited this Soul Forging Cultivation genius!?

### **Chapter 997 Doesn't He Have The Same Potential?**

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim also turned his head and caught the Dragon Queen possesses a faint smile on her lips. However, unlike the others, he openly viewed her as an elder, and with his experience, her clear, limpid eyes told him another story altogether as he felt that she looked at Alchemist Davis in a way how a woman would look at her man.

He couldn't put his finger on it but suddenly felt that it could be the case. He promptly removed his gaze and didn't comment over it as the Dragon Queen's personal life was hers, but he could compare them in his mind.

The man was a Sixth Stage Essence Gathering Cultivation and Soul Forging Cultivation Genius below a hundred years old, and the woman was an Eighth Stage Body Tempering Cultivation Genius below two hundred years old! This fact meant that they were clearly compatible if they were to marry each other!

'This...'

If they tied their lives together, wouldn't they give birth to a prodigy who has a valid one percent chance to reach the fabled Immortal Stage in the future!? Even if the fabled Immortal Stage isn't in reach, it is destined that child would reach the peak of the Ninth Stage!

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim just alone got the chills by imagining it, giving him the shock of his life!

'Could it be the Dragon Queen took Alchemist Davis under her wing so that she can strengthen him and have her mysterious background accept him as her groom!?'

His outrageous speculation caused his mind to go awry!

It took him some time to regain himself back from his rampant imagination, but when he saw that Alchemist Davis possess a difficult expression on his face, he nodded his head as he mused, 'Although a breakthrough to the Mature Soul Stage has been achieved, the new powers in Alchemist Davis's arsenal is enough to have him find it difficult adjust the heat of the flames with total accuracy like he was able to do it before.'

'It wouldn't be a surprise even if Alchemist Davis fails to concoct this unknown pill...'

Dalila Leehan looked at him with widened eyes as her black pupils reflected his concentrated expression. Her body slightly trembled, feeling deep disparity and disbelief. She stood like a statue without doing anything. If it weren't for her shaking, people would have mistaken her for her a real statue.

She was actually the first to complete concocting a pill, so she was leisurely gazing at the others in a superior manner, but his breakthrough had completely taken her aback!

'So w-what if you enter the Mature Soul Stage...? I... I'm still g-going to w-win...!' Dalila Leehan gritted her teeth as she clenched her fists.

She couldn't keep her thoughts coherent as his breakthrough still shook her inside. A man who was less than a hundred years old, but he managed to do the impossible by reaching the Mature Soul Stage?

That was monstrous, even from her perspective! In fact, she almost cried that it was outrageous!

Honestly, she felt that even if she won now, he would quickly overtake her in the near future since he possessed the advantage of a greater, higher-stage soul! Which Alchemist didn't know that a soul of that higher stage would make it tremendously easier to digest the mountain of information written and organized by their predecessors?

It would only be futile for her if she decided to compete with him. Even before she could take him as a rival, it seemed more like that he would completely leave her in the dust in a few months.

Dalila Leehan bit her lips as her expression became nervous.

She felt ridiculous as she could understand this reasoning in her mind! However, she still felt reluctant to accept! Her pride that was constructed through toiling hard in alchemy wouldn't allow her to lose to someone within the same generation!

The only saving grace was that she could win against him but only this once, at this last round! However, she had already made the pill she was concocting. All that she could do is wait for the competition to get over!

'That's right... Even if he enters the Mature Soul Stage, it won't result in a rise in the pill quality as more than half the steps in that pill concoction are already completed... No matter what he tries, it would still end up with the initial predicted quality or even worse considering that he must be having a hard time adjusting to his new soul force...'

Dalila Leehan tried to reason so that she can calm herself down, finally feeling a bit cheered.

Davis didn't know what was going on in these people's mind as he was strictly concentrating on the final step! The flames blazed under the Roaring Turtle Dragon Cauldron as it started to tremble while giving out rumbling sounds.

The spirit water that was filled with the essence of all the ingredients inside had already evaporated and condensed, forming into essence paste at this point!

Davis clenched his fists, condensing the essence paste into pills with his soul force!

\*Tcha!~\* A sound echoed from the half-sealed cauldron.

Davis plopped down on the floor and held his head as if he came to possess a splitting headache. His expression contorted, but he quickly seemed to work it out under control as he readjusted his seating position to the lotus position and meditated.

Needless to say, it was an act!

Considering that most of them did not witness a breakthrough to the Mature Soul Stage with their own eyes, Davis had the confidence that he managed to successfully deceive them into believing that he had entered the Mature Soul Stage just now!

Davis wasn't nervous that people would find out that he was hiding his Soul Forging Cultivation.

The fact that he was hiding his cultivation for his age would be so absurd to them that they would instantly deny such a thought in their heads even if they felt suspicious.

But even if they find out that he was hiding his cultivation, what of it? He still would have the qualifications and would not be disqualified as he is still within a hundred years old.

"It's the first time I'm seeing someone break into the Mature Soul Stage during Pill Concoction, but not that I've seen such a sight in the first place either..." A person from the spectator's seat subconsciously muttered.

Many people became dumbfounded again. Although they had seen it with their own eyes, now only did they come to terms with it. The realization that such a thing happened had finally hit them right in their race!

A Mature Soul Stage Cultivator who was less than a hundred years old!?

The men all possessed eyes of awe, respect, and jealousy, feeling somewhat incredulous. How could the heavens allow him to exist?

The single women and even the married women in the spectator's seats looked at Alchemist Davis in strange light while their lips became dry.

If they could just have his child...

Just the thought of it made them feel excited and even made some of them indescribably close their legs as they started to fantasize.

Nora Alstreim became flabbergasted as she looked around, witnessing all these people's reactions before blinking as she thought of something else. It was a monstrous feat indeed that made her shocked initially, but when she now recalled that Alchemist Davis might be somehow related to Logan since they possessed similar facial features, she felt her heart skip a beat.

'Doesn't this mean Logan also has a chance... the potential to reach the same heights Alchemist Davis reached?'

### **Chapter 998 Final Round's Results**

Nora Alstreim knew that Logan was also an Elder Soul Stage Cultivator, just like how Alchemist Davis had been just a while ago. From the battle they fought before, she knew that Logan possessed Low-Level Elder Soul Stage Cultivation, but it was also clearly greater in intensity, just like Alchemist Davis's soul force.

Although there was a clear disparity between them in their levels, she still mused that Logan had a reasonable chance of becoming able to stand alongside Alchemist Davis in terms of Soul Forging Cultivation!

However, Nora Alstreim quickly shook her head.

Things were pointed out to be already over between them. She berated herself, wondering why she was still thinking about him when he cut her off ruthlessly at that time.

A few minutes later, even before the time limit could be reached, all the participants ended up finishing their pill concoction. As expected, since they reached this round, not one of them ended up failing to concoct pills. Nevertheless, not everyone managed to create high-quality pills either.

Elder Belias Alstreim stood up from the third tier and took a step forward as he flew into the skies. He ended up floating in the middle of the stage again. However, his gaze remained on Alchemist Davis, radiating a type of respect that he had never shown to him before. Previously, he was just looking at him as if the other party was a mere yet talented subordinate, but he finally placed him in a similar position to the topmost disciples of the hegemonic powers!

No, it was even more than that!

Nevertheless, he mused that Alchemist Davis was stabilizing his Soul Forging Cultivation, so he was waiting for him to stand up.

A minute, two, three, and five minutes passed in silence.

Seeing that Alchemist Davis was still in the process of stabilizing his cultivation in meditation, he felt that it was time to explore what the other alchemists had concocted, but for that, he still had to announce the end of the final round.

"Everyone!" Elder Belias Alstreim called out, gathering the crowd's attention to himself.

And at this point, Davis opened his eyes and slowly stood up.

Elder Belias Alstreim noticed this and felt inwardly proud that his timing couldn't be anymore impeccable! He sensed the people in the spectator's seats applaud him for his timing before he smugly opened his mouth.

"Since all the participants have finished concocting the pill before the time limit, I announce that it is time to cough out the results that you all have been eagerly waiting for!"

The crowd woke up to cheer in response!

With a pleased smile, Elder Belias Alstreim approached one of the sixteen present alchemists and started inspecting the pills that the alchemist had made. In two seconds, he gave his verdict.

"This is a Hopeful Fang Pill... It gives one the edge needed to win against opponents of equal strength at the Peak-Level Law Manifestation Stage as it increases the essence energy's power by ten percent!"

"Four Crude Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills! Not bad, but it is probably nowhere near to get you a place in the top ten. Now, don't ask why, because I just know!" Elder Belias Alstreim silenced the reluctant alchemist who wanted to say that he might at least have a chance.

Elder Belias Alstreim moved on to the next participant and similarly went through their pills, and then people started noticing that he was looking at the participants in the order of the ranking that they obtained in the second round.

"Silken Cloud Pill... Able to increase one's bodily defense by having the flesh secrete a substance that drastically causes an impact to be reduced by thirty percent! Four Crude Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills! Your pill is better and harder to concoct the last, so you're in leading as I expected!"

"Four Crude Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills!

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Elder Belias Alstreim suddenly possessed a flabbergasted expression on his face as he looked at the alchemist who concocted only two pills. However, what he found shocking isn't the quantity of the pill but the pill itself!

"This... This is a Joyful Bone Pill...?"

That alchemist awkwardly smiled as he chuckled, "Yes..."

"Aiya... You're daring!" Elder Belias Alstreim laughed out loud while ladies who knew what the Elegant Midnight Pill meant, blushed hard but pretended that they didn't know about it. Dalila Leehan was the same.

"Two Normal Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills! Don't worry. You will definitely enter the top ten!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Elder Belias Alstreim announced the result of eleven of them before arriving before Sophie Alstreim, who took third place in the second round.

"Hand those pills over..." Elder Belias Alstreim waved his hand like a rogue.

Sophie Alstreim giggled, "Uncle, stop acting like a scoundrel... Hehe..."

She moved the lid of her cauldron before using her soul force to yank the pills out of it! Four pills flew outside first, followed by another pill. With two vials in the web between her fingers, she gracefully swiped the incoming pills, bottling them up with a smile on her face before she presented them to Elder Belias Alstreim.

It was obvious that she knew what tier pills she had concocted since she had segregated them into two vials.

"Good!" Elder Belias Alstreim reached out his hand to take the two vials, but it was suddenly taken away by Sophie Alstreim.

Her rosy lips widened, "Don't tell me you've kept the best for the last?"

As she said so, she cast a glance at Davis and subconsciously flashed him a slightly seductive smile as she was interested in him despite him possessing two wives.

"Haha, I'm not flouting the rules." Elder Belias Alstreim laughed, "Alchemist Davis took the first place in the first round, and since he did not require to take part in the second round because he is seeded, his main ranking is still first. Of course, I'm going to keep the best for the last!"

Sophie Alstreim saw that Alchemist Davis paid no heed to her, but she wasn't offended as she knew that he was now an alchemy expert who would soar in the future. This is how it should be. She promptly turned her head and gave the two vials to Elder Belias Alstreim.

"This is..." Elder Belias Alstreim's eyes lit up, "Serene Midnight Pill!"

"The Serene Midnight Pill causes the user to undergo a qualitative transformation to their mind for a long period of time. This is extremely useful in comprehending laws as it is able to keep one's mind concentrated on the laws instead of the contemporary world!"

"That's right... But that isn't its exact use as it is also used to accurately comprehend domain at the time of breaking through into the Law Dominion Stage!"

Elder Belias nodded his head before he announced the results.

"Four Normal Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill and a single Advanced Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill!"

"Very good! I'm confident that you'll enter the top five! You have not disappointed your grandfather!"

"I'm hoping for the second place, but..." Sophie Alstreim's voice became dull as she looked at Augustus Alstreim and Claudius Alstreim before frowning at Dalila Leehan.

As long as the pills that they've created isn't higher in difficulty, tier, quality, and quantity, she knew that she was destined to be in second place. As for the first, she obviously knew that she did not even possess a bit of chance to win against Dalila Leehan.

### **Chapter 999 Top Five**

"Oh? You seem to be not wary of Alchemist Davis's results?" Elder Belias Alstreim chuckled.

"Uncle!!!" Sophie Alstreim muttered in a low voice, afraid that Alchemist Davis might've heard it and misunderstood her thoughts.

After all, it was normal for everyone who had the knowledge to think that Alchemist Davis's initial state of the concoction was slow, not powerful, non-invasive in terms of extracting the essence out of the powerful ingredients. Hence, even if the concocting efficiency in the latter stages had abnormally improved after breaking through, it is normal for them to expect that Alchemist Davis at best would produce a Normal Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill!

It couldn't complete to what she had produced, a single Advanced Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill!

Even so, Sophie Alstreim didn't dare to cast a glance at Alchemist Davis but instead supported him, "So what if Alchemist Davis's pill concoction wouldn't be up to par?"

"Everyone with eyes could tell that it would be just a matter of time before Alchemist Davis shines in the eternally long, back-breaking field of alchemy."

Elder Belias Alstreim laughed, "Little lass, have you finally fallen for a man?"

Sophie Alstreim stared daggers at her uncle while blushed as her heart began to beat rapidly. She cast a side-glance with the corner of her eyes, but when she saw that indifferent expression on his face, her hopes became dashed as her excitement died down.

'That's right... Compared to Young Mistress Nora Alstreim and Thousand Pill Palace's Top Pill Disciple Dalila Leehan, I don't stand a chance...'

It was as if a bucket of cold water was splashed on her head.

Seeing that she did not reject the statement but have a strange expression on her face, everyone whistled at her in a teasing manner.

"Alright, alright..." Elder Belias Alstreim stopped them before he moved on to the next participant.

He arrived towards Augustus Alstreim, but before he could even ask, the latter readily handed him a vial.

Elder Belias Alstreim was not surprised. Alchemists had their own method or preference to condense the pill essence. Some do it above the cauldron while gathering all the essence paste to condense pills, while some do it inside a half-sealed cauldron so that they can harness the complete essence of the pill without losing efficacy.

Augustus Alstreim seemed to have followed the former method to condense the essence of the pills.

Elder Belias Alstreim promptly checked the vial before he announced the results, "This is an Eminent Moon Pill. It abnormally helps the user gather the abnormally special heaven and earth energy at the time of the solar eclipse, enabling them to increase their Gold Stage Body Tempering Cultivation, and it even helps one to successfully step into the Martial Ascendance Stage, but the chances are of it happening is eighty percent."

"Four Normal Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills!"

"Haha, I knew that I was lacking..." Augustus Alstreim self-deprecatingly laughed.

Elder Belias Alstreim patted his shoulders, "Don't worry, with four Normal Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Eminent Moon Pills, you are still within the top five!"

Augustus Alstreim nodded his head, but his heart ached that he couldn't obtain the rewards in the end. Even though he expected it, it was such a disappointment that he inwardly sighed as he lamented his lack of skills. However, his expression became curious as he watched Elder Belias Alstreim head towards the man who got the first place in the second round...

Claudius Alstreim!

Claudius Alstreim waved his hand, and two vials readily appeared in his palm. Elder Belias Alstreim's eyes became focused before he smiled in an appreciative manner.

"You have not disappointed us, Claudius..." Elder Belias Alstreim patted his shoulders before he looked at the crowd and announced, "This is a Weeping Saint Beast Pill. It is a pill that is used to make Saint Beast Stage Magical Beasts uncontrollably cry by making their tear glands inwardly surge with their own energy, making it so that they temporarily lose eyesight for a few hours, and till to date, it is an extremely useful pill that works on most Peak-Level Saint Beast Magical Beast found in the Alstreim Family Territory."

"Three Normal Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills and two Advanced Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills!"

Two Advanced Tier Pills!? Many became shocked at Claudius Alstreim's pill concoction that some of them started seeing him in a new light.

Claudius Alstreim smirked, "Does Elder think I would get the first place?"

"Mhm..." Elder Belias Alstreim shook his head, "Not likely..."

"I see... So, I'll settle with second place!" Claudius Alstreim laughed with a sharp expression on his face.

He cast a glance at Dalila Leehan before hatefully looking at Nora Alstreim in the spectator's seats. Clearly, he was pissed off that he didn't manage to get the first place because of an outsider participating in this Alchemy Exchange.

However, he didn't say anything in the end.

"So I'm in the third-place... sigh..." From a distance, Sophie Alstreim inwardly sighed.

Elder Belias Alstreim looked at the third tier, "Initially, it was decided that Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim would especially nurture the top five, but now what should we do?"

\*Woah!!~~\*

Specially nurtured!? That means a chance to become a disciple to Grand Elder!? The audience's jaw dropped in astonishment as their eyes focused on the third tier.

"You are right..." Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim rubbed his blonde beard, "I have decided to nurture five talented alchemists of our family who manages to get into the top five of this Alchemy Exchange, but the two whom I think would end up in the top five necessarily do not need my attention as they have their own way to learn, not to mention that they are outsiders whom I cannot teach or do have the ability to teach."

"Grand Elder, it looks like we have no choice but to take only three of them in..." Elder Belias Alstreim suggested.

"True, I could take three out of the five as my workload would lessen, but our Ancestor who had instructed me to nurture the top five would become disappointed with me if I do such a thing!" Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim revealed.

So it was an order from the revered Ancestor himself!? No wonder the rewards were higher than usual...

Most of the Elders couldn't help but think while the people were utterly flabbergasted.



Ancestor what? Ancestor who? They had not come in contact with such a person, but their brains trembled at the mere mention of that word as the Elders echoed that word with respect.

The crowd became abnormally silent, speaking with hushed voices, confirming their doubts.

Who else could it be other than their one and only Powerhouse safeguarding the Alstreim Family, Ancestor Dian Alstreim!?

Indeed, Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim had especially received word from Ancestor Dian Alstreim to nurture talents. Otherwise, he would be sitting in his grand mansion, enjoying the life that he had fought for so hard in his youth. Another confusing matter for him was that, if it weren't for Ancestor Dian Alstreim's vague words at the time they met, he wouldn't have thought of inviting Alchemist Davis either!

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim had no idea why Ancestor Dian Alstreim had an interest in Alchemist Davis's alchemy skills in the past, but he could finally see why with all that happened!

### **Chapter 1000 Crude-Tier?**

"Hence, I have decided to give a chance to the nurture the alchemists who have obtained the sixth, seventh, and the eighth-place!" Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim audibly announced.

The alchemists on the stage became stunned! Many at the latter ranks lamented why they didn't try a little bit hard, but those who were able temporarily to obtain the sixth, seventh, and eighth positions became excited as they smiled like fools! They couldn't hide their smile while forgetting to keep calm. They even looked at each other, feeling each other's excitement build up as time passed by!

"Of course, they would have to prove that they can keep up with my teaching! Otherwise, I will send them out without even providing an explanation!" Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim warned.

"Grand Elder is wise..." Elder Belias Alstreim uttered words of courtesy before turning his body to look at the Thousand Pill Palace's Top Pill Disciple.

He wanted to clarify this matter beforehand since he knew that there was a minute chance that Alchemist Davis might also get into the top five. Augustus Alstreim did not concoct an Advanced Tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill like Sophie Alstreim and Claudius Alstreim, so he felt that it was plausible that Alchemist Davis would oust Augustus Alstreim, pushing him back to the fifth place if Alchemist Davis miraculously concocted an Advanced Tier Pill against all odds!

However, he also mused that it didn't need to be an Advanced Tier Pill needed to win against Augustus Alstreim since if the number of Normal Tier Pills Alchemist Davis concocted alone were to exceed Augustus Alstreim's Normal Tier Pills, it would be Alchemist Davis's win!

At that time, only three candidates would be available for nurture when judged by the previous criteria, but now, with Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim's words, even sixth, seventh and eighth place candidates became eligible to be nurtured!

Although this was detrimental as the resources would be spread out to the extra one in the six rather than the initial five, Elder Belias Alstreim felt that it would still be beneficial in the long run!

He arrived before Dalila Leehan and saw that she still had not taken her pills outside the cauldron despite finishing way earlier than the others. Her speed didn't mean that her concoction had been easy, but it meant that she possessed the skills that were way above what they were capable of!

Even he couldn't help but feel envy over the techniques and methods she used to refine and concoct the pill. However, he also mused that those twelve wisps of flames being simultaneously controlled with each of them radiating their own heat; only Alchemist Davis's technique was capable of being exquisite than Dalila Leehan's techniques.

Nevertheless... He didn't know which one was actually the superior technique as he didn't possess knowledge of higher-grade concoction techniques. This was also the reason why the alchemists of the Alstreim Family could never compare to alchemists of the Thousand Pill Palace. They never played on equal ground!

"Please hand over your pill concoction results."

Dalila Leehan soberly nodded her head and formally did the necessary steps to secure the pills. Opening the lid, using her non-corrupting soul force to extract the pills out of the cauldron before neatly placing them in the two vials she had between her fingers. She did all these in a clean and formal manner, and her movements were without any error, dramatically flowing like a melody.

It was as if she practiced this many times in her path to being a grand alchemist!

In response, Elder Belias Alstreim respectfully took the two vials before giving a deep look.

Two seconds passed before he raised his head and resplendently smiled as he was in awe, "This is a Starfall Blood Pill! Using the Starfall Blood Herb as the sole main ingredient with twenty other supplementary ingredients, it is capable of making a Law Manifestation Stage Cultivator restore more than thirty percent of his lost blood essence!"

"Two Normal Tier Pills and Six Advanced Tier Pills for a total of eight pills! It's a grand feat, considering the difficulty to concoct eight pills of Peak-Level Sky Grade quality pills as a Peak-Level Law Manifestation Stage Cultivator is very difficult in the first place!"

\*Woahh!!~~\*

The masses stood in uproar as they cheered for Dalila Leehan. They spoke in loud voices about her, praising her beauty, skills, and her background in a lengthy manner, musing that it was only normal that she was able to concoct a pill with such an effect in an effortless manner!

"Congratulations on obtaining the first place, Top Pill Disciple Dalila Leehan!" Elder Belias Alstreim couldn't stop smiling.

In reality, he was smiling so hard as to not reveal his frustration even though he felt respect for her as an alchemist!

The nectar wasn't going to belong to them! Instead, it was going to belong to that Dalila Leehan and Nora Alstreim, whom he hated a bit!

"It's still too soon to say..." Dalila Leehan shook her head with a frown.

She looked at Alchemist Davis, wondering what in the Fifty-Two Territories he created. Even if he was not up to par, she very much wanted to know what kind of pill he created since even she, a Top Pill Disciple of the Thousand Pill Palace, couldn't tell by occasionally glancing at the concocting process.

She was deeply curious!

Nevertheless, Elder Belias Alstreim didn't take her words seriously and knew that it was just her humility. After all, even the last ranker gets to be in the first place for some time if the others aren't graded yet.

He approached Alchemist Davis with a consoling smile on his face, and soon enough, he stood in front of him.

"Alchemist Davis... There is nothing to worry about, so just take this expand as a tempering session... As long as you make progress in the field of alchemy, one day, you'll look back and won't even remember us, nor recall an event like this transpired. At that time, feel free to recall this middle-aged man's words, hah-aha..." Elder Belias Alstreim consoled with a bit of humor in it.

Davis couldn't help but smile a little at that self-deprecating humor.

Elder Belias Alstreim knew that he had succeeded in gaining a bit of favor and asked.

"Now, I'll be thankful if Alchemist Davis lets me see the pills that you have concocted."

Davis nodded his head and repeated the same steps as Dalila Leehan, following it to a level; although not as perfect as her, he did radiate a scholarly aura that made the women who intently watched him fall into a trance.

If their thoughts were to be translated, they felt that he was ART.

However, when Elder Belias Alstreim looked at the blackened pills that entered the vial, he pursed his lips tightly to not accidentally comment on it!

The way these pills looked as if they were near-trash pills! They do provide some effects but were worse than Crude-Tier that they were not even included and considered as a tier by official alchemists!

And just as he expected, since he floated by the side of the cauldron, he stretched his head and looked at the mess that was left under the bottom of the cauldron. There was a blackish dreg that remained, emitting a foul odor.

Pill waste!