## The Eternal Supreme

Chapter 16: Luo Yunshang Advances

Yunshang's eyes gleamed brilliantly. Although her face looked unusually tired, there was an excitement that could not be concealed from it. Her hands immediately flashed and several seals formed on her fingertips, before transforming into streams of true flame that flew into the tomahawk. The weapon, which was a little violent, suddenly produced a pulling force, devouring all the scattering gold dust.

For a moment, the surface of the bright red tomahawk flickered with golden specks as it emanated a steady, heavy aura, giving those around it a feeling as if a mountain was pressing down on them.

"Condense!"

"Fall!"

With the cries, two beams of light flew from her fingertips into the tomahawk, and its scalding heat and the heaviness vanished immediately. Then, it began shrinking rapidly, and turned into a mini axe in the end, falling into her palm.

After carefully inspecting the mini axe in her palm, Yunshang walked joyously toward the few men and handed it with both hands to the white-bearded old man in the middle as she said respectfully, "Master Xu, please have a look!"

Xu Han's gaze lightly swept over the tomahawk as he smiled and said, "It's not necessary. This Sun Smashing Axe has reached the level of the first tier of the superior weapon. Yunshang, you've passed the assessment."

Pa! Pa! Pa!

The other few men all clapped their hands and looked smilingly at Yunshang, their faces full of praise.

Yunshang was elated, and her excitement was too great to contain. "Thank you, Master Xu, and all of you Masters!"

Xu Han shook his head and said, "This has nothing to do with us...it's all your own effort. I'm just curious, how did you melt carmot into red copper? You had failed at this step in the previous assessments."

The other men fell silent, all looking at her, puzzled.

Yunxiao's youthful face suddenly flashed through Yunshang's mind, and so did his elegant, leisured voice:

"Because even though red copper's attribute is metal, it is actually inclined more toward the fire element. So, it has a great melting ability for carmot. As a result, many alchemists prefer carmot when upgrading red copper weapons. But, if it contains the sky crystal sand, it's a different story."

"Because the attribute of sky crystal sand is water, it neutralizes red copper's fire attribute. So, the more you add, the worse red copper's ability to melt carmot gets."

"The solution is quite simple. Treat sky crystal sand as an impurity and use the refinement essence to remove it."

"I see!" Xu Han was enlightened. "I can't believe it was so simple. Your ability to discover this secret is proof of your superior intelligence. The state of Tianshui now has one more true alchemist. Tomorrow I'll send someone to inform His majesty. I'm sure he'll be thrilled and throw another feast for his subjects to celebrate for you."

Yunshang flushed slightly, but as her cheeks were already covered in sweat from the excessive consumption of her soul power and Primordial Qi, that made her look even more attractive. "Master Xu, please inform His Majesty that I don't need a feast, because I don't like too much publicity."

Yan Lei, who was standing behind Xu Han, laughed and said, "This is a great achievement, so how could we not have a feast? Yunshang, you are the most gifted person among the younger generation of the state of Tianshui. In just three years, you've made His Majesty give you two feasts. For hundreds of years, Lord Yang Di was the only person I can remember who had that honor."

In the state of Tianshui, whenever someone was promoted to a first-tier alchemist or stepped into the Three Powers realm and became a Great

Martial Master, the king would host a feast at the palace, inviting all the dignitaries to celebrate.

A feast like this had been held three years ago when Yunshang had broken through the Three Powers realm and become a Great Martial Master.

At Yan Lei's words, Yunshang said hurriedly, "You're flattering me, Master Yan. I'm just a lesser alchemist. How can I ever compare with Lord Yang Di?"

Stroking his beard, Xu Han chuckled and said, "You don't have to be so modest. Lord Yang Di is talented, but he also benefited a lot from being a disciple of Lord Gu Feiyang, who was a ninth-tier alchemist. That's his luck! If you are lucky in the future, your achievements might not be lesser than Lord Yang Di. You just lack a good teacher."

When Yunshang tried to argue, he interrupted her with a slight wave of his hand and said, "Today, the Alchemists' Association needs to celebrate as well. We have two more first-tier alchemists this year alone. Both you and Jia Rong are the rising stars of our branch in the state of Tianshui!"

Another alchemist, Su Yuanqiao, suddenly snorted coldly and said, "President Xu, I agree with you that Yunshang is a rising star. As for Jia Rong...If I'm not mistaken, he's deeply poisoned now!"

Everyone was shocked and looked confused. Xu Han's face flickered as he asked, "What do you mean by that, Yuanqiao?"

A strange glint flashed in Yunshang's eyes. "Master Xu, I'll take my leave now." She was very clever. As soon as she saw Su Yuanqiao's unusual expression, she knew it must be about some classified information, so she took the initiative to avoid it.

Xu Han shook his head and said, "Now that you've passed the assessment, you are officially a first-tier alchemist. That also means you are one of the association's core members. You have the right to know everything about the association, so there's no need to avoid it."

Su Yuanqiao glanced at the crowd as he laughed coldly and said, "I've found out that Jia Rong cheated in his last assessment. He used the prohibited material—Hell Wind stone!"

Everyone's face fell as they glanced at each other. They were all alchemists, so they naturally knew what the Hell Wind stone was. Yan Lei said with a serious expression, "Su Yuanqiao, be careful with your words! I know you don't like Jia Rong, and you've been making things difficult for him since he was an apprentice. But, you can't simply accuse him for nothing!"

"I accuse him for nothing?" Su Yuanqiao sneered. "I fear that the toxin has already gone deep into his marrow by now! I've sent someone to find out the materials he had bought after he was promoted. They are all antidotes. Moreover, he was secretly looking to purchase detoxing pills with high prices everywhere. You all should know what detoxing pills are, right? The legendary fourth-grade alchemy pill that can neutralize all toxins, which is so rare that you can't even purchase one with money! Hehe! Five days ago, he began crazily purchasing various poisonous materials, and since he returned in a hurry, he has been in deep seclusion. I bet he must have been at his wit's end, trying to fight fire with fire. Sadly, the toxicity of Hell Wind stone can't be relieved so easily, not even with detoxing pills. I reckon he must be completely crippled by now!"

Xu Han's face gradually grew unsightly. Su Yuanqiao took out a sheet of paper and handed it to the crowd. "Here's the list of what he had done after he was promoted to a first-tier alchemist. You all can have a look." After a brief glance at the list, everyone had a worried look in their eyes.

In the end, the list was passed to Yunshang. She was slightly shocked, for even the meals Jia Rong took each day were clearly recorded on it. It was obvious that Su Yuanqiao had planned this long ago. Now that he had made the move, he must have had every confidence. Jia Rong was probably not going to escape his doom this time!

"If you still have doubts, we can summon Jia Rong here, and you will know that I'm right just by looking at him. Since he came back five days ago, he has been staying in the tower!" When he saw most of the people believing in what he said, Su Yuanqiao could not help feeling complacent.

"Hmph! How do you know he's not cultivating in seclusion?" Anger flashed in Yan Lei's eyes. He and Su Yuanqiao had never liked each other.

"Since Jia Rong was promoted to an alchemist, he had given up his martial arts training and focused on alchemy," Su Yuanqiao sneered. "An alchemist's cultivation is mainly to nourish the soul power. Only through continuous refinement can one enhance soul power. He is only a first-tier alchemist, so

five days are more than enough for him to refine anything. Yan Lei, why are you so protective of him? Are you involved in his use of the Hell Wind stone?"

"Nonsense!" Yan Lei flew into a rage.

"Stop arguing!" Xu Han said in a deep voice. "Jiang Cheng, bring Jia Rong here. Whatever he is doing, he must come at once!"

Xu Han was the president of Tianshui's Alchemists Association, and also one of the only two third-tier Grandmaster Alchemists in Tianshui. He was in a position of great reverence, not inferior to even the emperor. The other third-tier alchemist was the Chief Alchemist of the imperial palace, Zhang Qingfan. Their strength was almost on a par!

The title of the alchemist was not only a symbol of strength, but also a noble status, the pride of all alchemists! As the president of the Alchemists Association, Xu Han would never allow fraud to happen!

The look on everyone's face was grave, as if they all realized that a small storm was coming!

Soon, Jia Rong followed Jiang Cheng to the fourth floor of the Alchemist Tower, the venue that held the qualification assessment. After greeting Xu Han, he nodded to the others. An indiscernible trace of smile emerged on the corners of his mouth when he glanced at Su Yuanqiao. Finally, his eyes rested on Yunshang as he praised, "Jiang Cheng just told me that Lord Yunshang has been promoted to a first-tier alchemist. You're indeed talented! Among the five commanders of the State Guardians, your overall strength is considered the strongest!"

Yunshang nodded and said, "You're flattering me, Lord Jia! The other four commanders' strength is far beyond mine. I just had better luck."

Jia Rong smiled and made no further comment. Instead, he said loudly, "President Xu, I was refining in seclusion. May I know the reason behind the hasty summons? Could it be that we are celebrating Yunshang's promotion?"

There was a flicker of doubt in Su Yuanqiao's eyes. By his inference, Jia Rong's complexion could not have looked this good. He snorted coldly and said, "You're really good at faking, Jia Rong! Even now you can pretend as if you are fine!"

Xu Han took out the list and threw it over as he stared at Jia Rong and said, "Yuanqiao suspects that you used the Hell Wind stone during the last assessment. This is the result of his investigation into you over the past few days. I need an explanation from you right now!"

With a cold snort, Jia Rong took the list and glanced at it. A flame of anger immediately rose from the bottom of his heart. 'This old bastard! I can't believe he actually sent someone to follow me!' At the same time, he had a panicking fear. 'Luckily, Young Master Yun has cured me of the toxin and even taught me a soul cultivation technique. Otherwise, I would have lost my reputation today and been doomed to ruin!'

At this moment, his gratitude toward Yunxiao poured forth like a fountain.

"Su Yuanqiao, you old codger! You should be the one who should give me an explanation!" He threw the list down on the floor and said furiously, "Lord President, if I ever used the Hell Wind stone, you all can easily detect it. But if I didn't, I need an explanation from this old codger Su!"

Xu Han nodded and said, "I will. Now, put out your hands and completely restrain your divine sense. We will conduct a thorough examination of your physical condition."

Su Yuanqiao grinned hideously and said, "You need an answer from me? Let's see how you are going to face your death when we find out your problem!"

Jia Rong smiled suddenly as he lifted his head proudly and said, "I, Jia Rong, have nothing to hide. You can examine all you want. Come on!" He rolled up his sleeves and held out a pair of fair hands.

Chapter 17: Annual Assessment

There was a flicker of doubt in everyone's eyes. The pair of hands was as fair as jade, without a trace of corrosion, and Jia Rong seemed to have no fear. Could it be that Su Yuangiao had wronged him?

Su Yuanqiao's heart gave a jerk as he stared at the hands with wide eyes and a bad feeling suddenly surged in his heart. "How is this even possible? How could he have cured the toxin of the Hell Wind stone?" He focused his eyes

and sent out his divine sense abruptly. "I want to examine your body thoroughly! Even if you could cure the toxin, there is no way your soul power could reach the level of an alchemist! I'm going to expose you, faker!"

Right at that moment, almost everyone sent their divine sense into Jia Rong's body. He still had the same fearless look, and was staring coldly at Su Yuanqiao with a hint of mockery in his eyes, as if watching a clown putting on a show.

A moment later, Xu Han's face grew stern as he said coldly, "Yuanqiao, now I need you to give us an explanation!"

Panicked, Su Yuanqiao said, "How is that possible! He was poisoned by the Hell Wind stone...I'm one hundred percent sure!" He frantically swept Jia Rong's body back and forth with his divine sense, and his face grew more and more unsightly.

"HEY! Have you seen enough?"

Jia Rong suddenly cried out in a deep voice as a tremendous soul power exploded out of his mind, slamming hard into Su Yuanqiao's divine sense. An invisible force instantly distorted the air. The sudden attack made Su Yuanqiao hastily withdraw his divine sense, but his opponent followed him into his mind, causing his soul to shake violently!

## Puke!

Su Yuanqiao coughed out a mouthful of his heart's blood as his divine sense was injured. "You...How can your soul power be so strong!" he cried out in horror.

A cold and arrogant smile played about Jia Rong's lips as he scoffed, "I'm a genuine alchemist, so my soul power is naturally stronger than those fakers."

"You!" Su Yuanqiao felt a surge of anger in his heart, which made him cough out another mouthful of blood. "Fine...fine..."

After saying three 'fine' in a row, the gleam in his eyes suddenly faded away, and he looked weary and old for a moment, as if all his spirits had leaked out of him like the air in a balloon.

Xu Han was stunned, and then he breathed a long sigh as he said, "Yuanqiao, why do you have to torture yourself with this..."

There was an abstracted look on Su Yuanqiao's face as he said in a trembling voice, "President, I...I.'m already old and weak...I beg your leave to retire and return to my birthplace, so I can spend my remaining years in the countryside. Please approve my request, President."

Everyone froze in shock as they realized that Su Yuanqiao's divine sense had scattered under the extreme anger, and his soul power rapidly decreased to the level of an apprentice alchemist. Even Jia Rong was slightly surprised, but his heart was filled with unparalleled excitement and joy.

He had practiced the soul cultivating technique for only five days, and yet his soul power was already strong enough to seriously injure Su Yuanqiao. Even though Su Yuanqiao was just a first-tier alchemist, he had made a name for himself for a long time, and his soul power had been stable in the first tier.

'Young Master Yun, who exactly are you?' Jia Rong was now in complete surrender toward the enigmatic teenager. With such an amazing cultivating technique, he was even willing to be Yunxiao's servant for fifty years, not to mention only fifty days!

Xu Han shook his head helplessly. Su Yuanqiao had lost his strength of a first-tier alchemist, and as he was old, it was impossible for him to recover it. Furthermore, if he were to stay in the Alchemists Association, he would have to always be on guard against the revenge from others, for he had offended many people during his prime. "Just go home and get well!" said the president. "Don't worry, I'll inform His Majesty about everything."

Su Yuanqiao said in a trembling voice, "Thank you, Lord President!" Not daring to meet the glances of anyone, he hung his head low as he waddled away.

Xu Han breathed a long sigh again, then said in a clear loud voice, "Due to illness, Master Su has decided to retire and return to his birthplace. From now on, all the old scores between him and everyone else are written off. No one should disturb him for any reason!" When he had finished, he fixed his eyes on Jia Rong.

Jia Rong smiled faintly as he folded his arms over his chest and said, "I agree with the President."

Only then did Xu Han feel relieved. The soul power Jia Rong revealed just now was already stable in the first tier, and his future achievements would only be greater. Everyone present knew it was he who had injured Su Yuanqiao's mind. Otherwise, the old man would not have his cultivation base dropped due to anger. However, no one would want to offend an alchemist with a bright future at the moment for an old man whose career had reached a dead end.

The crowd greeted Jia Rong one after another, a gesture of currying favor. Meanwhile, he wore a kind smile as he returned the greetings one by one, although sneering in his heart. 'If I hadn't been helped by Young Master Yun, you people would be adding insult to my injury now!'

"Jia Rong, your progress surprised even me," Xu Han said. "I didn't expect your soul power to be so stable even though you've just been promoted not long ago. Help me bring Yunshang to receive her alchemist badge."

Jia Rong received the order with a smile and then took Yunshang through all the formalities.

"Master Jia, I have a bold request," said Yunshang, as a thought suddenly struck her in the mind.

"Oh?" Jia Rong smiled. "Tell me the request, Lord Yunshang!" As one of the five commanders of the State Guardians, Yunshang's strength and authority were superior to his, so he was very polite to her.

"I have a student who cannot practice martial arts due to his physique," Yunshang said. "But, he is very interested in alchemy, and has gained much knowledge in this field through self-learning. I wish to find him a good teacher. I wonder if Master Jia had ever thought of taking in a disciple?"

While frowning, Jia Rong said, "Take in a disciple? Lord Yunshang, you yourself are an alchemist, and your strength is not weaker than mine. So, why do you have to ask me?" Alchemists had very strict requirements when taking in disciples, and they never gave in even for the children of dignitaries. Unless the candidates were extremely talented, they would never take in any disciple.

"His identity is a little special," Yunshang sighed. "As the commander of the State Guardians, it is not appropriate for me to become his teacher. To be honest with you, he is the eldest grandson of Duke Jingguo, the natural son of General Feilong."

"I see," Jia Rong said, enlightened, "I've heard that Duke Jingguo's eldest grandson is a martial arts idiot, and because of that, he was the laughing stock in the capital a few years back. But Lord Yunshang, you should know that a martial arts idiot has a weak physical quality, and that makes it difficult for him to achieve any success in alchemy as well."

Yunshang nodded and said, "Yes, I know that. But, this student does have something special about him. Even if he can't become Lord Jia's personal disciple, I hope you can give him some simple guidance, at least to let him become an apprentice alchemist, which is the only way for us to keep our promise to Duke Jingguo."

Jia Rong's eyes darkened as he said coldly, "In this case, I'll meet this student. But, he has to go through a soul power test. If he reaches the minimum standard of an apprentice alchemist, I'll take him as my personal disciple. It's all for Lord Yunshang's sake."

Elated, Yunshang said, "Thank you, Lord Jia! I'll remember your kindness!"

Jia Rong nodded slightly and said impatiently, "When you are free, bring him to a soul power test. I'll take him as my disciple if he is qualified. But, if he doesn't meet the minimum standards, he won't have to see me."

Looking at Jia Rong's back as he left, Yunshang thought, 'He's the youngest alchemist and has a great future. By letting Yunxiao follow him is a way of me repaying the favor, and at the same time, will ease Duke Jingguo's mind. I just wonder what's the situation with that kid's soul power...I hope he doesn't disappoint me. That's all I can do."

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Three days later, it was finally time for the academy's annual assessment.

After the assessment was the annual two-month holiday. The students who passed would be promoted to intermediate class in the next semester, while those who failed would have to pack their things and leave the campus. Every year, a large number of students from powerful families were eliminated, while most of the poor students passed. After all once they failed, what awaited them was a fate of being completely reduced to mortals, so every one of them cultivated like madmen.

The assessment was held in the largest martial arts arena of the academy. It was one of the iconic buildings within the campus, and its construction was presided over by the former president of Tianshui's Alchemists Association, Lord Yang Di himself. Built with several kinds of extremely rare ores, the arena covering an area of over a thousand meters squared looked magnificent.

Not far from the arena was the most striking structure in the campus—the giant statue of Gu Feiyang.

With one hand rested on the hilt of the sword, the statue looked out into the distance with a knowing smile at the corners of his mouth. It was forged by Gu Feiyang's student, Yang Di, after he died fifteen years ago.

Yunxiao stood still in a corner, looking up at his own face. His thoughts seemed to have crossed the layers of the void and become one with his past life.

"Well, Yang Di is kind of thoughtful," Yunxiao muttered to himself with a wry smile. He looked a little dispirited though.

Just then, two students walked past him as they gave him a look, then began to discuss with one another.

"I can't believe you've condensed Primordial Qi and become a warrior after only a few months in seclusion!"

"Haha! It's all for the assessment. You should know that warriors can go straight to the elite class in the intermediate grade."

"Yeah, I know that! By the way, I'm screwed, because I've only opened two chakras. Do you think I'll be eliminated?"

"Don't worry! As long as you have opened one chakra, you can be promoted to the next grade. Look at that guy, the legendary young master of the Li Family, the typical loser! He's the one who will be eliminated."

"Are you sure the young master of the Li Family will be eliminated?"

"Of course! What do you think this place is? This is the Jialan Academy! Even His Majesty has to obey the rules if he's here!"

"Damnit!" Yunxiao cursed, but he would naturally not argue with these lesser people. He walked quickly to the arena, where he found a large number of students gathered, many of whom were here to watch. They were pointing at the students who were about to be assessed and talking with one another.

"Young Master Yun, why are you so late?" Han Bai walked over to him.

Yunxiao frowned and asked, "Why are there so many people?"

Han Bai snorted coldly as he glanced at the onlookers. "They are here to watch us. As you know, our class has always been called the trash-stricken class, and these students from the poverty-stricken class are all here to witness how many of us would leave. More than a dozen people have given up this assessment and packed their things to go home."

Yunxiao looked around him. Sure enough, there were a lot fewer people.

All those who could join their privileged class had great backgrounds in the empire. Even if they could not become warriors, they were still well provided for and had bright futures.

So, the students in their class, although few in the academy dared to provoke, were quite unlikable. Many people loved to see them make fools of themselves.

Chapter 18: A Letter of Challenge

"Don't squeeze over to my place! I came here first!"

"Aye, don't be so stingy! Let's share the place together. It's rare to have a chance to watch them make fools of themselves. How many students of the trash-stricken class do you think will remain after the assessment?"

"Maybe one in five? There are sixty students in that class, but only some thirty have come. I think half of them will be eliminated."

"Do you guys want to bet? Each of us will give a number, and the closest one wins."

"Sure, twelve."

"So optimistic? I say nine."

" "

Just as the arena rang with the clamor of the onlooker's excited voices, Wang Feng's voice suddenly echoed out, "Almost all the examinees are here. I'll not wait for those who haven't, they are disqualified! Teacher Luo is in secluded cultivation, so I will be the one who will preside over your assessment."

He glanced coldly at the crowd, then suddenly smiled wickedly and said, "I'm going to slightly change the rules this time. In the past, those who had opened their chakras or could throw out a punch with a force of over a thousand catties were considered to have passed. But this year, you need to be able to do both in order to pass. Otherwise, you are disgualified!"

His cold gaze casually swept across Yunxiao. He knew the latter must already have the strength of over a thousand catties, because he had beaten Lan Fei.

A glimmer of coldness flashed through Yunxiao's eyes as he stood still. Although the new rule had aroused much discussion, there was no objection. This was because all the students in the class were the children of dignitaries, who had either opened their chakras and had the strength of over a thousand catties, or could not open any chakras and lacked the strength to even truss up a chicken. None of them would cultivate the technique of strongmen and become the kind of existences who had great strength but could not open a single chakra.

"Who wants to be the first?" Wang Feng glanced coldly across the crowd, and his eyes finally fell on Yunxiao.

Even Shangguan Qing, Du Feng, and a few others were staring coldly at him. Since Lan Fei was expelled, this group of students had lost their leader, and were now led by Shangguan Qing. But, the strength Yunxiao had shown that day was too amazing, such that none of them dared to provoke him anymore.

"Hmph! What are you looking at? Do you want me to blind you with my finger?" Yunxiao glared back at them and then walked out of the crowd.

Frightened by his threat, Shangguan Qing and the gang bowed their heads immediately, but their eyes were filled with a venomous look as they cursed in their hearts.

Looking at Wang Feng contemptuously, Yunxiao sneered, "You will only pass us if we have opened chakras and show a strength of over a thousand catties? Open your eyes and watch carefully!"

A green light bloomed from his heart chakra as he walked forward with a cold grin.

With every step he took, another chakra opened, emitting bright like colorful clouds.

Root chakra, sacral chakra, crown chakra...

66 99

Rays of light burst forth from his body, covering him in a myriad of colors and making him look like a god!

"Seven...I can't believe he has opened all seven chakras!"

"How is that possible! I thought he was a piece of trash! You are telling me that a famous loser is now only one step away from the Origin realm!"

Wang Feng was completely dumbfounded. He had originally thought that Yunxiao had relied on some pills or the technique of strongmen to defeat Lan Fei. After all, it was known to the world that he could never cultivate due to damaged meridians.

"How could he have unclogged his meridians? I remember the Li Family had once invited a fourth-tier alchemist to cure him, but to no avail!"

"Now look carefully! A punch with a strength of over one thousand catties is nothing!"

Yunxiao suddenly stepped out, and the ground paved with diamond rocks shattered with a boom into lines that looked like cobwebs. He leaned back slowly, then threw his fist out as fast as lightning, landing it straight on the strength measuring rock!

## Boom!

A loud explosive noise rang out in the center of the arena as the force burst toward the strength measuring rock. Amidst the shocked, dull glances of the crowd, Yunxiao slowly withdrew his fist. A deep dent about the size of a watermelon was clearly marked on the rock's surface.

"Impossible!"

"He left a mark on the ground with his foot, and another on the rock with his fist! I thought this was something that only a warrior could achieve!"

"Look at that mark! Even a warrior who has just made a breakthrough cannot do that! He must have used some kind of martial technique!"

Many students found it hard to believe, especially those from the distinguished class. Their eyes all grew wide, as if this was the first time they met Yunxiao.

Although mentally prepared, Han Bai and Chen Zhen were still deeply shocked when they witnessed Yunxiao's body emit the light of the seven chakras before throwing out a punch with a strength of over a thousand catties. Meanwhile, the faces of Shangguan Qing and the gang were deathly pale. In the face of such powerful strength, how could they have the courage to stir up trouble again?

"I can't believe you've hidden your strength so deeply, Li Yunxiao!" Ruxue cried out excitedly.

The person with the most unsightly expression in the arena was none other than Wang Feng. He was cursing Lan Fei in his heart for being unable to perceive Yunxiao's real strength.

"Is everyone satisfied now?" Yunxiao glanced around coldly, and everyone he looked at lowered their heads. Finally, he rested his gaze on Wang Feng and sneered, "Teacher Wang, I'm very busy and will be leaving first."

It was like a slap in the face!

Wang Feng flew into a rage, but there was nothing he could do, so he said mockingly, "Don't think you've achieved something great after opening the chakras. Let me tell you, this is just the rudiment of martial arts!"

Yunxiao gave him a contemptuous look as he laughed and strode away. It made Wang Feng so mad that his Primordial Qi was boiling within him, but he could not do anything to Yunxiao. Instead, he forced the Primordial Qi into his feet, causing the ground to shatter!

Yunxiao's laughter came to an abrupt stop when he reached the arena's edge. Ahead of him stood a man in white clothes, who was looking at him with a smile.

"Let me introduce myself. I'm Lan Xuan, a graduating student and the leader of the Xuan Gang."

As soon as he mentioned his name, all the students in the surroundings had shocked looks on their faces. An air of superiority that could not be concealed played about his face.

He was curious to see how amusing that look of dismay and panic would be when Yunxiao heard his name. But, he was soon disappointed.

Yunxiao had seen all kinds of posturers, so he pointed out his index finger and said in disdain, "Hmph! Good dogs don't block the way!"

## "YOU!"

Lan Xuan flew into a rage and almost coughed out a mouthful of blood. No student in the academy had ever dared to talk to him like this, let alone in front of so many people!

His anger shot out of his eyes, but it was quickly suppressed as he managed to regain his composure. However, his body was getting more and more stiff and unnatural. "Well, I won't fuss about that with you. I came here today for my good-for-nothing brother."

"Oh? A big dog has come after I've beaten the small dog."

"You! Are all the members of the Li Family as uncultured as you?"

"Uncultured my a\*s! After all these years of fighting between our families and the deaths of so many people, as well as me even crippling your little brother, you come to reason with me? If you're not an idiot, what are you?"

"I've had enough of your nonsense, little b\*stard! I'll make you regret coming to this world!" Lan Xuan could no longer maintain his cool and cursed in rage!

"Hehe! That's more like it. A ruffian will always be a ruffian, so why posture?"

"You! I'm not arguing with you. I'm here to give you a letter of challenge."

His face was livid with anger as he pulled out a letter, on the surface of which was written a character of 'Challenge' with golden ink, and flung it over to Yunxiao.

Their confrontation soon drew the attention of everyone present at Wang Feng's assessment. Their eyes lit up as soon as they heard that there was a letter of challenge, and they all pricked up their ears, listening attentively.

Lan Xuan held up his head and sneered, "It wasn't a big deal when my brother and you were fighting. It was nothing but a game between kids. However, my good-for-nothing brother had done something that caused an uproar. Well, he deserved to be expelled for that. But, as his eldest brother, I can't just turn a blind eye to him. I have to teach you a lesson."

In the distance, Wang Feng almost coughed out a mouthful of blood when he heard that, his face flushed red with anger and eyes spewing fire!

To offset the negative impact of Lan Fei's incident, he had been secretly spreading word that Lan Fei was wronged and framed by Yunxiao. But, just as many people began to believe it, Lan Xuan actually came forward and confessed that his brother had indeed done it.

It made all his efforts go to waste, and Lan Fei's chances of coming back to the academy were completely gone! Moreover, his reputation in the capital was ruined, and he could never lift his head again!

Lan Xuan, on the other hand, had earned himself a good reputation by standing up for his brother. Not only would this make his lackeys more loyal and submissive to him, but the members of the Lan Family would also think higher of him. He had killed two birds with one stone!

"So, it was Lan Fei who did it. I thought he was wronged."

"I thought so too at the beginning, but now even his eldest brother has admitted it. Aye, I was taking a shower in the bathhouse with him last time. It makes me shudder to think about it now!"

"I think you better be careful. You are a member of the Xuan Gang."

"Xuan Gang? What's wrong with Xuan Gang? Why should I be careful?"

"Hehe, nothing! I just heard that such a quirk seems to be hereditary."

The voices of all sorts of comments spread out in the air. Wang Feng was so angry that his chest was about to burst. "Lan Xuan, you're so ruthless!"

Lan Xuan's face was covered in a triumphant smile, and his heart was filled with so much joy that it seemed as if a flower was blooming. Pointing a finger at Yunxiao, he cried out loudly, "You have two choices now—kneel down here and swear you will never touch my family members again, and bow and give way whenever you see my family members in the future. Alternatively, fight me and let me completely cripple you, and then you will kneel down and beg me for forgiveness. Think it over...I suggest you choose the first one, because it was not easy for you to cultivate to your current level."

"Wow! This is so savage! If he chooses the first one, can he still hold his head high and stand tall in the future?"

"That's right! But, if he doesn't choose that, he will be dead meat fighting Lan Xuan."

"Whether face or life is more important, it all depends on Yunxiao's choice."

Ruxue rushed over while fuming. "Lan Xuan, you've gone too far! You're a graduating student, and I heard you've become a nine-star warrior, just one step away from becoming a martial master and joining the State Guardians! And yet, you're challenging an apprentice warrior who is not even a warrior? Do you have no shame?"

Yunxiao sneered, "When the younger brother is gay and has a quirk of stealing girls' underwear, the elder brother is not far from that. The apple never falls far from the tree. And, since when did the Lan Family have any shame?"

Chapter 19: Pill Refinement

Lan Xuan blushed, but he immediately roared with laughter. "If you lack the courage to make a choice, say it. Why do you have to hide under a woman's skirt? So, this is the eldest grandson of Duke Jingguo, the firstborn of General Feilong? Haha!"

"Ha my a\*s! Pooh!" Yunxiao spat a lump of phlegm straight toward Lan Xuan's face, which flew with such a great force that it even whistled through the air.

Lan Xuan was furious, but since he could not block the phlegm with his hand, he was forced to dodge it by stepping aside. In the eyes of the onlookers, he was making way for Yunxiao.

With a sardonic look on his face, Yunxiao walked over, then raised his middle finger and said, "Although you have no shame, I accept your challenge! Three days later, I'll beat you to your knees in this martial arts arena and make you lick my shoes!"

All the students present were struck dumb, while Han Bai and Chen Zhen were so frightened that their faces turned deathly pale. They ran over hurriedly and stood behind Yunxiao to show their support, urging him not to be impulsive.

Ruxue also said hurriedly, "No, Yunxiao, you can't blow off in a fit of pique..."

Yunxiao felt warm in his heart. Although he had been in a muddle for fifteen years and achieved nothing, he had found himself a few true friends. In his previous life, he had stood at the pinnacle of the continent, but he was all alone.

He smiled at the three of them. That sunny smile on his face immediately influenced Chen Zhen, Han Bai, and Ruxue, soothing their anxiety in a flash and making them believe one hundred percent that he would win the fight.

They were stunned, frozen in place, and could not figure out why they had such a strange, impossible feeling...

Lan Xuan froze as well, and his face was livid with rage. He never expected Yunxiao would take up the challenge so readily. Fearing that the latter might go back on his words, he hurriedly said, "Remember what you've just said. If you don't show up in three days later, there will be no more place for you in Jialan Academy!"

Yunxiao strode away without looking back, his faint laughter filling the air. "Don't worry, I won't wash my feet for three days."

"You!" Lan Xuan gritted his teeth as he watched Yunxiao walk away. "You can only talk! If I don't cripple you completely three days later, I'll eat my hat!"

The smile on Yunxiao's face melted away and a murderous look flashed through his eyes.

'The enmity between the Li Family and the Lan Family has been going on for decades. I will start from you little b\*stards, and then uproot the whole Lan Family when the time comes!'

Just like that, he left the campus, heading straight to the Alchemist Association.

The lobby on the first floor was still bustling with activity. Yunxiao glanced around and saw an apprentice alchemist concentrating on concocting some potion. A faint medicinal smell drifted over and he knew it was a powerful potion, one that could temporarily increase a warrior's strength.

It was the annual assessment of the academy now, and these things sold like hotcakes.

The apprentice was fusing his soul power into the vessel to balance the conflicts between various medicinal properties, while adding other things into it from time to time.

Yunxiao smiled, and he could not help but warn the apprentice, "You've added too much cross-refining grass. You need to add a dust flower to neutralize the medicinal properties. Otherwise, it will explode in five breaths."

The apprentice looked up, and when he found that he did not know this guy, he said grumpily, "What do you know? Don't disturb me!"

"Three breaths."

"Two breaths."

Yunxiao counted in a faint voice. Finally, when he said 'one breath', the apprentice's face fell as the calm potion in the vessel suddenly boiled and exploded with a boom.

"This..." The apprentice was utterly struck dumb.

It was not a huge explosion, and he merely got splashed all over with the potion. An incident like this happened dozens of times a day in the lobby, so no one paid him any attention.

"You...How did you know I've added too much cross-refining grass?" The apprentice asked in surprise.

"I smelled it. I am looking for Jia Rong. Can you inform him for me?"

"You smelled it?" The apprentice had an obvious look of disbelief on his face. "Master Jia Rong seems to be in seclusion all the time, and I have no right to go to him."

Just then, a beautiful figure walked over and asked with great concern, "You've failed again, brother? Are you hurt?"

The apprentice shook his head and said, "I'm fine, just wet. It's just that I've wasted these ingredients. Ah...I'm such a failure!"

Looking at the beautiful girl, Yunxiao smiled and said, "Miss Lu Yao."

Lu Yao turned and said in surprise, "Ah! It's you!"

Yunxiao assumed a gentleman's look and said, "It's my pleasure to have a beautiful girl remembering me."

Lu Yao chuckled. "Master Liang spoke highly of you after he read your prescription."

"Master Liang spoke highly of him?" Lu Yao's brother, Lu Yu, exclaimed, "Are you an alchemist?"

"I used to be, but not at the moment. I wish to see Jia Rong, so can you please inform him for me, pretty lady?"

Lu Yao was a little shocked. "Master Jia Rong? He's just come out of seclusion. Come with me." Then she turned to Lu Yu and said, "Don't give up, brother! Try a few more times, and you will have succeed eventually."

"Perhaps I don't have the gift to become an alchemist," Lu Yu said bitterly. "It is only a simple strengthening potion, and yet I can't make it even after I've tried more than a dozen times. The ingredients are very expensive, and we have no more money to waste like this. Besides, I'm not young anymore...I plan to find a family and join them in the next few days."

That startled Lu Yao. "Don't do that, brother! You have to believe in yourself. In my heart, you are the best!"

Lu Yu's eyes lit up, but soon dimmed again. "You've been working hard to earn the money for my studies all these years, and I don't want to be a burden on you anymore. When all these ingredients are exhausted and I still can't produce the strengthening potion, I'll give up."

Suddenly, Yunxiao laughed and said, "Add three less cross-refining grasses, and if the potion's color is too light, add a crossing cloud mushroom. Believe me, you can do it!"

"You...Are you an alchemist?"

"Haven't I told you just now? I used to be, but not at the moment."

" "

Lu Yao said encouragingly, "Brother, just try what he said. Even Master Liang praised him for the prescription he brought here the last time."

After pondering for a brief moment, Lu Yu said, "Fine, I'll give it a try!"

Yunxiao smiled and then followed Lu Yao to the second floor.

This was the first time Yunxiao came to the second floor, but as all the Alchemist Towers in the continent had the exact layout, he did not find the place strange.

Soon, they came in front of a door, and Lu Yao carefully knocked on it. Jia Rong's impatient voice immediately rang out, as if his cultivation was distracted.

Lu Yao's heart skipped a beat as she said in apprehension, "There's a young man who calls himself Young Master Yun looking for you."

"Young Master Yun!"

A shocked voice echoed out, followed by a series of clanging noises as if many things were being knocked over. In the next instant, the door flung open.

"Young Master Yun!" With a look of reverence on his face, Jia Rong hurriedly stepped aside and made way for Yunxiao.

Lu Yao was stunned, and her face was covered in a look of disbelief. What happened to Master Jia Rong, who was always so proud and lofty? Why was he so polite to a young man? No, this was not politeness, but reverence! His expression was even more reverent than when he met the president!

Yunxiao smiled and told the frozen Lu Yao, "You may leave us now."

After Lu Yao left in a hurry, Yunxiao strode into the room. It was spacious and packed with all kinds of refining equipment and arrays. There was only a small resting area in a corner, where a few fine leather couches and a small bed were placed.

The alchemist's glorious status was acquired through their day-and-night cultivation. Although there was luck behind every alchemist, perseverance and hard work were a must as well.

"Young Master Yun, not only has my soul power fully recovered, but I've also made a breakthrough! A real breakthrough!" Jia Rong said excitedly. Since he made the breakthrough, he had no one to talk to. And now, he had finally found someone who could listen.

"Why are you getting so excited over such a little thing?" Yunxiao glared at him. "I've no time to listen to these trifles. Come talk to me when you've broken through into a sixth-tier alchemist."

It was a piece of great news for the entire state when someone became a real alchemist, and yet it was only a trifle in Yunxiao's eyes. Jia Rong's face turned blue when he heard that, but when he heard the last sentence, his eyeballs almost popped out. "Sixth...sixth-tier? A Grandmaster!" He cried out in astonishment. "How's that possible? I'm not so gifted!"

Yunxiao said indifferently, "Of course you are not so gifted, but with the soul cultivation technique I've taught you, you can still achieve that."

Jia Rong was completely crazy this time as he muttered to himself, "Sixth tier...Sixth tier...I can get to the sixth tier? You didn't lie to me, did you?"

Yunxiao frowned and said coldly, "Don't forget who you are. What makes you think you are worthy of me lying to you? The sixth tier is just a rudiment in my eyes. Anyhow, I need you to help me refine a few pills."

"Yes! Yes!" Beads of cold sweat broke out of Jia Rong's forehead. The sixth tier was just a rudiment? Although this Young Master Yun was mysterious, he must be boasting.

Yunxiao nodded and said, "One is an origin impacting pill, and the other is an origin blasting pill."

"An origin impacting pill and an origin blasting pill!" Shocked, Jia Rong said, "These two pills are infinitely close to the second-tier. I've just been promoted to the first-tier. I am afraid I can't refine them."

Yunxiao sneered, "With me here, what are you afraid of? Prepare the ingredients...I have no time to waste."

Jia Rong froze. 'Is Young Master Yun going to guide me in pill refining? Could he also be an alchemist? But, how's that possible?'

Although he was grumbling in his heart, he did as Yunxiao bid. Soon, he got someone to bring him three sets of ingredients for both pills.

"I only need one for each pill, so why did you prepare three sets of ingredients?" Yunxiao asked.

Jia Rong smiled wryly. 'This Young Master Yun is indeed not an alchemist, for he doesn't know about the success rate of pill refinement.' He explained, "A first-tier alchemist can refine a first-tier pill with a success rate of over sixty percent, and not one hundred percent. The success rate of refining this kind of a pill, which is infinitely close to the second tier, is even lower. In fact, I don't think three sets of ingredients are enough either. But, there are only three sets in stock, and I've asked someone to find more for me."

Yunxiao snorted. Wordless, he went straight to the refining equipment and glanced at them as he said, "Let's begin! You will do the work as I tell you the steps."

Jia Rong found it hard to believe, but he held back the doubts in his heart and began the pill refining process under Yunxiao's guidance.

Chapter 20: Purification

The process of refining pills was to blend the properties of various herbs with soul power, and the most important and difficult step was to balance the medicinal strength.

"Purify the herbs first." Jia Rong sent out his soul power. A set of ingredients were sorted immediately, and then placed into different vessels according to Yunxiao's request. With that, the purification process began.

As time went by, Yunxiao scolded with uncountable uses of the terms 'fool' and 'idiot', and Jia Rong lumped them with clenched jaws. He was in a complete muddle throughout the entire refining process. At first, he was memorizing the steps and methods, but at the later stage, all he could do was follow the instructions mechanically, almost completely exhausted.

"That's enough...Retrieve the pills!" Yunxiao's order was like an amnesty granted to Jia Rong, because he could not hold on any longer. Hurriedly, he withdrew his soul power and shot out a stream of Primordial Qi from his hand. With that, two pills spun a few times in the air before falling into his grip.

"An origin impacting pill and an origin blasting pill...I did it? I really did it!" Jia Rong was trembling all over, and he did not feel tired at all even though his soul power was exhausted. "And I refined both at the same time! Oh heavens! What have I done just now? How's this even possible?" he exclaimed excitedly.

The resentment he had from being scolded during the refining process was gone as well, and he actually wished he could be scolded 'idiot' and 'fool' by this Young Master Yun every day, as long as he could receive his guidance.

Yunxiao took the pills from him. After glancing at them, he frowned and said, "Why is the purity so low? You've refined such trash, and yet you still have the nerve to shout?"

Jia Rong's eyeballs almost popped out, and he was about to say 'You're not an alchemist, how would you know the meaning of being able to refine these two pills?' when he suddenly remembered that all his refinement was carried out under Yunxiao's instructions. He would not believe that this Young Master Yun was not an alchemist even if he were beaten to death.

Now, Yunxiao was not only an alchemist in his heart, but also an existence that went beyond his knowledge. He instantly shut his mouth at the thought, and when he recalled what Yunxiao had said previously about him advancing

to a sixth-tier alchemist, he could not help but begin to believe in it, and his body was shivering with excitement.

"By the look of you, you're almost totally exhausted. It looks like I've to purify them myself. So troublesome!" Yunxiao grumbled. "But, if it is only purification, my soul power of an advance apprentice level is more than enough."

He wrapped the pills with his soul power and moved them over the array, performing an incantation gesture with both hands. With that, tendrils of Yin flame shot out of the array and began burning at the pills.

"Pur-purification!" Jia Rong was struck dumb instantly. "Finished pills can be further purified? I thought only ingredients can be purified!"

Yunxiao was too lazy to explain to him. Instead, his hands flashed in incantation gestures as he carefully controlled the burning over the array.

Jia Rong widened his eyes and dared not blink at all. He had never seen any of Yunxiao's refining hand seals, but each of them gave him a familiar feeling as if they contained something deep. He felt that it was something very important, but he could not grasp it no matter how hard he tried, which made him scratch his head in panic!

"Done Phew..."

Yunxiao placed both purified pills in his palm and gave them a look. As if he was still not satisfied, he sighed, "This is the best I can do now...My soul power is too weak."

With the origin impacting pill, he was confident that he could break through into the Origin realm in three days, so that he could defeat Lan Xuan, who was a nine-stars warrior. And to be on the safe side, he also prepared himself an origin blasting pill for later use!

"A total of seventy-two hand seals..." Jia Rong murmured under his breath. He was working hard to memorize the hand seals when he casually glanced at the purified pills in Yunxiao's palm, and what he saw blanked his mind. "Flawless pills!" he blurted out.

In addition to the classification by grade, medicinal pills could also be classified by purity. Generally, when a pill's purity was over ninety percent, it

was called a flawless pill. However, besides the alchemist's skill, the formation of a flawless pill depended on some luck as well.

Not only could Yunxiao purify finished pills, but he could also turn them into flawless pills. The shocking fact froze Jia Rong's brain instantly, making him forget to memorize the seventy-two hand seals. He stood dumbfounded in the room. Things that surpassed his common sense had happened one after another on this day, leaving him utterly bewildered.

By the time he finally came back to his senses, he found that Yunxiao had left, leaving him extremely regretful. He hurriedly took pieces of paper and a pen, writing down all his doubts and questions.

As Yunxiao passed the lobby on the first floor, he heard Lu Yu's excited shout, "It worked! I finally did it!" Lu Yao's face bloomed into a happy smile when she saw Yunxiao, giving him a grateful look.

Yunxiao stuck out his thumb and gave her an encouraging look as he left the Alchemist Association, returning to the campus and beginning to cultivate in seclusion.

With his current strength as a peak-level apprentice warrior, he had no fear of Lan Xuan. But, if he had to defeat him, he would have to condense Primordial Qi and step into the Origin realm. Punching above one's weight was not something unusual; however, if the gap between their ranks was too large, no skill or technique could overcome that. The Primordial Qi of a nine-stars level warrior was too strong for an apprentice warrior to defend against.

Over the next few days, both Han Bai and Chen Zhen had looked for him several times, but all in vain. No one expected him to be in the gravity chamber for three days without leaving.

. . .

In the dean's office of Jialan Academy...

Zhong Lishan's old face bloomed into a smile as he listened to Yunshang's recent performance. "I can't believe you've become an alchemist. Haha! In hundreds of years, you can be considered as the strongest after Yang Di! But..."

He put on a straight face and growled, "Why didn't you inform me right away about something so important? I knew nothing about it until the invitation to His Majesty's feast arrived. Do you still take me as the dean of Jialan Academy?"

Yunshang smiled embarrassingly. "I didn't expect His Majesty's invitation to come so soon. As I've just made the breakthrough, my soul power is still not stable, so I was stabilizing it in seclusion over the past few days. I had planned to inform you once I came out."

Zhong Lishan waved a hand and said, "Leave it at that. Among all the younger generation, you are my favorite. You are twenty-one this year, and yet, you have achieved three-stars of the Four Quadrants realm, as well as become a first-tier alchemist. You have a limitless future! I plan to inform everyone during the feast that I will promote you as the vice-dean of Jialan Academy."

"Vice-dean!" Yunshang said shockingly. "How can that be? I..."

The dean interrupted her, "If not you, I can't think of anyone else. There are indeed some old freaks in the academy whose cultivation base is higher than yours, but they are old, and you are cultivating soul alongside. Moreover, you are one of the five commanders of the State Guardians. Only when you take up this position would the others be convinced."

Yunshang was silent, fearing that Zhong Lishan would be offended if she kept on rejecting. As a result, there was a sudden hush in the office.

Suddenly, a burst of noise came through the window, and she saw many students heading toward the martial arts arena. "What's happening? Why are the students heading to the arena?" she asked in surprise.

"It's a little bit funny," Zhong Lishan said with a smile. "One of the students from your distinguished class, Li Yunxiao, has accepted the challenge of a graduating student, Lan Xuan, who is also the leader of the Xuan Gang. They will be fighting each other in the martial arts arena over Lan Fei's incident."

"Li Yunxiao has accepted Lan Xuan's challenge? Lan Fei's incident?" Yunshang cried out. "What happened during my absence?"

Zhong Lishan gave her a brief account of what happened, and once he had finished, he snorted and said, "These distinguished children are getting out of hand in the academy. It may not be a bad idea to let them fight each other."

"I can't believe Lan Fei was expelled..."

Yunshang was stumped for a moment, and then she hurriedly said, "No, I have to stop them! Li Yunxiao is a loser who couldn't even open his chakra. He can never defeat Lan Xuan. He's looking for abuse!"

Zhong Lishan's eyes flashed with surprise. "A loser who couldn't even open his chakra? Yunshang, both you and I were deceived by this Young Master Yun. Three days ago, he had opened seven chakras and thrown out a punch with a force of over one thousand catties during the assessment in the martial arts arena! Hehe! I didn't expect this brat to have such a scheming mind, hiding his strength so deep. I reckon he must have broken through into the Origin realm by now!"

"Li Yunxiao can throw out a punch with a force of over one thousand catties and may have broken through into the Origin realm?" Yunshang was utterly dumbfounded now. "How's that possible! He couldn't have hidden his strength from me. Could it be that he had made the breakthrough over the last few days? No, it can't be! That would be even more absurd!"

She turned abruptly and went for the door. "I won't allow it to happen!" she said in a deep voice. "Even if he did break through into the Origin realm, he is still no match for Lan Xuan! Lan Xuan ranks third on the Minor Power Chart, and I fear he's only one step away from becoming a martial master!"

Yunxiao's figure in class that day flashed through her mind. She always had a feeling that he was very different from the past, and his bright eyes even made her feel ill at ease. It was because of his guidance that she was able to smoothly become a first-tier alchemist, and for that, she could not let him be crippled by anyone!

Zhong Lishan was a little surprised. "I'll come with you and see what is the level of the students nowadays. Rank third on the Minor Power Chart? Hehe...Interesting!"

. . .

In the ten-fold gravity chamber, Yu Hezheng could not help saying, "Landuo, that piece of trash is going to fight Lan Xuan today. Are we really not going to watch it?"

Landuo's eyes flashed with disgust. She was getting less and less fond of Yu Hezheng. "You go then! I'm not free. Lan Xuan is only one notch below brother Lin on the Minor Power Chart, so that clown is only making a fool of himself. But, Lan Xuan is no better, for he only picks on the weak. Only brother Lin and Bai Chengfeng are the true experts in my heart!"

Yu Hezheng felt a bad taste in his mouth when he saw the beaming look on her face as she mentioned Lin Yu. "Since you're not going, I'll go myself. I've always wanted to see how that piece of sh\*t dies!"

Looking at Yu Hezheng's back as he left, Landuo said disdainfully, "He cannot defeat Li Yunxiao, so he enjoys when someone else is beating him... I can't believe this Yu Hezheng is such a wimp!"

Just as Yu Hezheng was being teleported away from the gravity chamber, her eyes caught a familiar figure who dragged his tired body into the teleportation array as well and vanished.

The figure, in addition to his weariness, gave her a sense of loneliness and pride which startled her. Unable to contain her shock, she murmured, "Li Yunxiao?"