

## Firmament 41

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#### Chapter 41: Nobody Wants It? I Will Take It!

Editor note: Hey guys, Our main editor needs to take a break due to some personal stuff. We'll do our best to work towards 1chap/day, however, we can't promise this. So if you don't see an update for a couple of days, worry not! We're working hard on it!

Also, If any of our beloved readers is confident in his/her editing skills, then please don't hesitate and apply!

Guan Wan-Shan said, "I believe all of you know something about this item, so I don't want to say anything redundant. This item has been in our storage for hundreds of years already. We have failed countless times to discover its value and uses... If any of you want it, just bid for it. There will be no starting price for this item. Lets begin with it now."

He had just finished his words, and the crowd turned silent at once.

Everyone recognized the infamous Cosmic Hades.

It was truly a mysterious stone. No one would deny that it was quite a valuable thing. It would be an understatement to say that this was an ordinary treasure. Its mysteriousness alone would make it worth a lot.

However, three thousand years had passed and not one person had figured out its functions!

It couldn't be cut, crushed or melted.

People basically couldn't figure out anything about this extremely cold stone.

Well, some people had thought about using it as a cooling tool to maybe cool down the air and preserve some food and drinks in the summer. It might be a waste of its potential to use it for such a tiny job, but at least it would become somewhat useful!

However, the problem was... the cold qi that it produced was not something ordinary. It was extremely frigid and aggressive. Even an expert at the Grade of Tianyuan would fail to bear the daily effects of this kind of qi. It might not only give people a setback in cultivation, but it might even permanently damage their bodies!

Everyone knew that if it was successfully developed, it could become an extremely powerful weapon!

However, they all had the same question in their minds...

Who would be able to develop it? And more importantly, How?

Anyway, in the previous three thousand years, everyone that had tried to do so, had eventually failed. No progress had been seen and the question about its uses remained unanswered.

Some of these people had actually died because of its extreme coldness. As time passed, people had become wary of its coldness and no one dared to solve the mystery of the Cosmic Hades. People didn't even want to get close to it.

That was why, when it showed up, all of the people turned silent.

The whole room turned silent, causing the atmosphere to become rather awkward.

To Guan Wan-Shan's credit, he didn't show any nervousness. He just stood still on the stage.

He had been nervous when the auctioning of the Jade Ruyi had brought silence, but it was a different situation this time. People would see it as a regular result if the Cosmic Hades was abortive. He wouldn't feel disgraced at all.

In fact, the Ling-Bao Hall was just showing this item to go through the motions.

Of course, it would be great if someone bid and took it, but if no one did, it could still calm the audience down.

The Ling-Bao Hall felt a headache every time they thought about this item.

It was truly something of little value or interest.

There were some people who knew more about the stone.

There was a story about Ling-Bao Hall and the Cosmic Hades, and it was the reason why they had to take it out for this auction.

When Wan Zheng-Hao, the owner of the Ling-Bao Hall, had just begun to run his auction business, he had nothing really valuable to draw people's attentions for the salesroom. He was on a downturn.

One day, this piece of Cosmic Hades suddenly showed up and it had really strange attributes. People didn't want to take a risk by keeping it, but Wan Zheng-Hao realized that it might be an opportunity for him. He was a determined guy, so he spent eighty percent of his property to obtain this stone.

After that, his salesroom suddenly became famous. The name 'Cosmic Hades' had been spread far and wide since then.

It was really something mysterious and fanciful, so as time went by, everybody got to know the Ling-Bao Hall.

However, unexpectedly... every time after the stone had been sold, it was sent back to the salesroom. The same situation had happened dozens of times.

In the last two hundred years, it had even been kept inside the storage of the salesroom and no one had ever asked about it.

The salesroom had spent a fortune to buy a stone that nobody wanted. It was a big joke in many people's mind...

However, for the Ling-Bao Hall, it was a special treasure, but also the beginning of their great success and the leading item in their collection.

So, for every grand auction, they would show the Cosmic Hades.

They called it 'seeking the man with destiny'.

In fact, people all knew that they just wanted to get lucky and sell it.

It might be of great use when the founder of the Ling-Bao Hall had just started the salesroom, so it was reasonable for him to spend such a great deal for it...

Now he had been right and had brought the salesroom the success!

However, for the salesroom nowadays, it was just useless garbage.

Besides, people saw it as a big joke. It had already become a burden.

How ironic it was, that the thing, which had helped them the most at the beginning, had now become a joke...

Anyway, they couldn't just hide it or throw it away, because the whole world knew that it belonged to them. The only proper way to deal with it was to sell it to someone in front of the public.

They bought it; they sold it. It sounded right.

But it stuck with them. There never was any man 'with destiny'!

Guan Wan-Shan had felt upset when he got the order to take the stone out again.

When he was just preparing to take it back and announce an abortive auction, he heard the voice of Master Feng sounding out from the No.17 balcony, "250 thousand!"

Guan Wan-Shan didn't feel annoyed about this voice anymore; he felt grateful and pleased instead.

He hadn't felt so grateful towards Feng Zhi-Ling, even when the latter had brought him the supreme dan beads.

He was thinking, "Oh my good lord. You really are a good man. You just solved our biggest difficulty. I hope you will not send it back, brother Feng. I appreciate it sincerely!"

Everyone was looking at the No.17 balcony with expressions like 'he's a dickhead'.

"Does he know anything about the Cosmic Hades?"

"He actually spent 250 thousand on it?"

"I think Guan Zheng-Hao had spent less than this amount on it in the old days."

"No one has spent this much for that stone ever!"

"He really is a stupidly rich moron..."

"I thought he was smart to play tricks to buy things at the lowest prices possible. Oh, How wrong I was! I must've seen it wrong!"

The girl in white frowned and got lost in her thoughts for a while. She nearly decided to buy the stone for a moment, but changed her mind at the last moment.

She didn't want to cause any accessorial trouble with this mysterious master Feng, especially since they had already been in a quarrel. Besides, she thought it'd be profitless to keep a gelid stone around her master, as he was extremely weak at the moment.

It was just a strange stone; she didn't want to fight for it.

...

Ye Xiao was feeling quite different from the others; he was full of a form of excitement that he had never felt before.

He had wanted to buy some valuable medicines or treasures in the auction to feed his spiritual space. In fact, he wouldn't have been interested in things like the Cosmic Hades.

However, when the stone showed up and the whole room got cold, the space inside his body suddenly shook!

And then he had a strong feeling of eagerness from deep within his spiritual space!

The feeling of eagerness was even stronger than when he had been absorbing the Pure Heavenly Crystal!

Ye Xiao was totally surprised about it!

He could even sense the howling of eagerness from his spiritual space!

What was that?

Could it be that this Cosmic Hades was something even better than the Pure Heavenly Crystal? Anyway, It was surely something that could benefit his spiritual space.

So Ye Xiao didn't hesitate and made a bid with the high price of 250 thousand!

He knew that this stone, which was useless in other people's eyes, might be a key to a massive improvement for him!

It might be a great moment in his life!

This price was surely reasonable for him; it could even be higher and it wouldn't scare him!

No one made an offer after Ye Xiao and Guan Wan-Shan had called it three times already.

Ye Xiao got the Cosmic Hades without any complications.

In the No.7 balcony, the girl in cyan was staring at the Cosmic Hades and her eyes were lit up. She turned her head and said, "Go check on the No.17 balcony. Find out who that guy is, where he's from and what background he has."

A middle-aged woman who was standing behind the girl said yes to her and stood up preparing to leave. The girl in cyan suddenly said, "Wait!"

At the same time, something was happening in the No.2 balcony.

It was the Ling-Yun Sect that stayed in the No.2 balcony.

Xiao Mo-Yan, a sage-like man with three long wisps of moustache, who was the hierarch of the Ling-Yun Sect, spoke peacefully, "This man... is not a fool at all. But why is he so confident? Does he know how to use that stone?"

The other guy who was also sitting inside the No.2 balcony, the prime dan-maker of the Ling-Yun Sect spoke, "This guy is extraordinary. He has been controlling the whole situation in the auction today. He's playing tough when everybody is saving money for the supreme dan beads. He has already seized most of the valuable items. I would say that he has already become the winner of this auction..."

Xiao Mo-Yan's eyes were lit up. He spoke peacefully, "The only thing I care about, is that... this guy... seems to have no interests in the supreme dan beads..."

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#### **Chapter 42: The Girl In White And The Girl In Cyan**

The dan-maker, Shi Yue, came back to his senses, "That's true! Otherwise he won't spend lavishly like this. Anyway, the supreme dan beads are the main items in this auction. If he can't even get a single bead, then, even though he's obtained so many precious items, he'll still have lost at this auction. With the total amount he has spent so far for the previous items, if he was to bid for the supreme dan beads, there won't be anybody that can compete. It could've been quite easy for him to win the supreme dan beads, but he has spent a huge amount of money without reservation... It is truly unreasonable for him to do so."

Xiao Mo-Yan frowned and spoke with a lower voice, "It is unreasonable indeed... In fact, could he be the guy who supplied the supreme dan beads? If so, it is reasonable, right?"

Shi Yue's eyes immediately lit up. He looked at Xiao Mo-Yan and couldn't speak a word.

They both turned silent at once.

After a while Xiao Mo-Yan surprisingly stood up and walked out of the balcony, and then he spoke to the balcony No.17, "My friend in No.17, may I have your name please? Would you mind if I invite you to come and join me please?"

If he was just a normal person, he'd obviously get no answers in such circumstance.

However, he was the hierarch of the Ling-Yun Sect – one of the top-3 sects in the Land of Han-Yang!

His words were obviously important.

The whole room suddenly turned silent.

Some people turned their heads and looked at Xiao Mo-Yan.

They were all curious, as to why Hierarch Xiao would show such kindness to this rich newcomer.

Ye Xiao smiled and replied peacefully, "Hierarch Xiao, you and me, we are both guests. I don't think it's appropriate to usurp the host's role."

Xiao Mo-Yan laughed and said, "Right. It was my impudence. You are an outstanding man. Please come to my Ling-Yun Sect sometime. You're always welcome."

Ye Xiao smiled, "For your cordiality, I will come and visit you someday for sure."

Everyone was shocked.

"Did Xiao Mo-Yan just invite that mysterious guy?"

"Why did he do so?"

"Outstanding? I see nothing outstanding about that rich newcomer to be honest."

"I say he is just a mean rich newcomer! That's all."

Anyway, there were also some people from the other sects who were lost in thought.

At the moment, everyone had a strange feeling. They suddenly realized that everything in this auction had been related to this guy since the auction started!

He hadn't even shown his face, but had already become the focus of this auction!

Now, even the hierarch of a top-3 martial sect had given him an invitation in front of the public.

They wondered if he really was only a rich newcomer?

In the balcony No.7, the girl in cyan suddenly stood up and gracefully walked towards the door of balcony No.17. She slightly bowed and said, "Thank you for being lenient just now. It is your liberality that has allowed me to get the medicine for my father. May I ask your name please? I won't forget your great kindness."

Ye Xiao stayed silent for a while and then replied, "I am Feng. I was trying to get that item you won. I just don't have enough money. I was not giving way to you. So it deserves no mentioning. Go back to your balcony, please."

"Nonetheless, you've done me a great favor. I won't forget your help." The girl in cyan took out a jade pendant and suddenly threw it out. – Shoot! – It flew into the balcony. She smiled and said, "If brother Feng comes to the Kingdom of Lan-Feng someday, the whole kingdom will welcome you sincerely!"

Ye Xiao noticed a cyan light flashing in front of his eyes and then suddenly a warm jade pendant fell in his hands.

The girl in cyan seemed to be the only person that Ye Xiao couldn't completely see through.

He couldn't have known that this girl was from the Kingdom of Lan-Feng.

He rubbed the pendant and then casually put it into his pocket.

The girl in cyan waited for a moment and then smiled, "I am off then." And then she went back to her balcony.

On the other side, the girl in white spoke softly, "That girl is truly unusual!"

The two fellows in black that stood behind said nothing, but showing doubtful looks and thinking, "Why?"

“She acted like she was such an innocent and nice person. She had just built up a nice image of herself in a perfect way, right after she had acted like a baleful bidder. She acts like she was weak. That is truly estimable and also horrible. Especially when she started to realize the importance of that guy, she took her action right away. Do you know how hard it is to do such a thing for a girl in front of the public? Besides, as she dared to make such an invitation, she must be someone important in the Kingdom of Lan-Feng. It is even more frightening, as she is an important person in a big kingdom.”

The girl in white was vigilant suddenly, “In all these years, I’ve never met anyone who’s as cunning and vigorous as that girl. She is even good enough to be my opponent.”

One fellow then asked doubtfully, “How come I couldn’t see how good she was. I think she was kind of disgraceful to do such a thing. She had just been bidding fiercely against that guy, and then she suddenly realized that he was some important man, so she went to talk to him with flattery. I feel disdain towards her. How could such a foolish girl be your opponent my lady?”

“The ‘disdain’ of yours exactly shows the devilishness of her!”

The girl in white humped and said, “Besides... what was to be disgraced with that? She was masked with silk. Look at her perfect body. She must be a beauty.”

“Well, she will regret if she finds out that the man is of no use at all.” The man in black sneered.

“Accept it when I call you a moron. If he is useless, the girl only loses a jade pendant. It is nothing but a keepsake. But if this Feng is really some extraordinary man, then what she just gave him will become a bridge connecting them together! Maybe it will bring her some surprising profits someday! If you still can’t understand it, after I’ve told you this much... so be it.” The girl in white looked disappointed.

She thought, “Master educates these guys. Some of them may be good fighters, but few of them are clear-sighted...”

The girl in white suddenly spoke loudly, “The lady in cyan, please, may I ask your name?”

The girl in cyan was turning to her balcony when she heard it. She answered, “How do you do, sister. Wen-Ren is my family name, but I don’t think you’re familiar with it. You are so beautiful my sister. You must have a beautiful name.”

The girl in white smiled, “Sister Wen-Ren, you can call me sister Xiu-Er.”

“Sister Xiu-Er, let’s find another place to drink some tea together later.” The girl in cyan smiled sweetly and bowed humbly, and then she entered her own balcony.

Xiu-Er smiled gently and her eyes lit up, “Wen-Ren... It’s the name of the royal family in the Kingdom of Lan-Feng...”

A meaningful smile appeared on her face.

When the girl in cyan was back to her balcony, the middle-aged woman asked nervously, “My lady, why did you give them your name? Wasn’t it too obvious?”

The girl smiled softly and answered, “I just came back to this world... I guess I need to show myself a bit to the world... The situation is not good for our kingdom at present times...”

“But I’m afraid... that the Kingdom of Chen will come and harm you.” The middle-aged woman spoke.

“If so...” The girl in cyan smiled softly and said, “Let them try, I’ll have my sword in my hand when they come... My sword has slaughtered over three million people...”

...

The salesroom finally turned silent again.

People started to turn their attentions from the mysterious Feng Zhi-Ling to the auction itself.

The last item of the auction was finally coming!

The two men of the Mu Clan were showing dark faces.

As the guy they hated and had planned to kill had actually aroused so much attention, they thought that it wouldn’t be easy to kill him now. They felt upset.

On the stage, Guan Wan-Shan finally recovered from his gloomy mood.

In fact he should be the one who had the most to complain.

This Feng Zhi-Ling had been asking to keep himself low. Now he had suddenly popped out in front of the public and drawn everyone’s attention! Guan Wan-Shan had been planning to keep the resource of the supreme dan beads to himself. But now, it was mostly assured that he had failed...

“If you want to flaunt yourself, then why did you act so mysteriously? I have been covering you for such a long time and now you just showed the entirety of your ass...” He thought.

He only managed to regain control over his emotions, when the supreme dan beads were brought onto stage and he saw how the crowd was full of tenseness and eagerness.

“The next item is the last item in today’s auction!” Guan Wan-Shan laughed. His goatee was almost tilted up, “I think you all know that it is exactly the legendary supreme dan beads with dan clouds, that you have never seen before!”

He laughed and continued, “To be honest, it is the first time for me to see such a great treasure, even though I have lived for such a long time.”

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#### **Chapter 43: The Marvelous Dan Beads**

“I have spent my entire life in the field of auctioning. I have struck the gavel thousands of times. However, it is my first time introducing such a dan in an auction. It is only a middle class dan, but it is of an unbelievably high quality.”

Upon hearing Guan Wan-Shan’s words, especially the fact that the middling dan possessed such a high quality, many people subconsciously smiled.

It was definitely the first time!

The Pei Yuan Dan.



[Editor's note: Pei Yuan, 培元 refers to the training of the chakra core.]

From the perspective of an ordinary person, this kind of dan medicine was truly marvelous. Just one piece could heal nearly all illnesses and strengthen one's physical condition. However, this was only true for ordinary people.

For cultivators, while the Pei-Yuan dan was not the lowest class of dan medicine, it was rather close to that level. Strictly speaking, by stating that it was a 'middle class' medicine, Guan Wan-Shan was actually overpraising it!

As its name suggested, Pei-Yuan Dan was merely a kind of normal dan, that the sects gave to their rookies to strengthen their bodies and train in the initial steps of their cultivation. Once they had built a solid foundation, there was no longer any need for such low-level medicine.

Basically, it was a valuable thing for ordinary people, but garbage for cultivators.

However, it was precisely this lowly medicine, that had abruptly been refined to such a level that it was even radiating the legendary dan clouds!

This was something no one had ever seen before.

"Usually, we identify items on our own, but today, for this legendary treasure, please allow me to invite the Patriarch of the Ling-Yun Sect - Xiao Mo-Yan, presbyter of the Cang-Shan Sect - Li Chang-Qing and presbyter of the Qing-Yun Sect - Meng Wu-Fei on stage to judge the item." Guan Wan-Shan bowed respectfully.

These three men, which even included the Patriarch of a major Sect, were the most powerful men in this room at the moment.

None of them hesitated, as they immediately made their way onto the stage.

When faced with such a legendary item, the chance to examine it from close up, was of course, largely advantageous.

A purple jade bottle, that had a soft glow, was placed on an intricate platform.

Under the watchful gazes of the spectators, Guan Wan-Shan cautiously opened the bottle. Immediately a white mist rushed out from inside the bottle.

Although the purple jade bottle itself was opaque, the moment it was opened, it glittered with a mesmerising bright light. The next moment, the entire bottle had turned almost transparent. Everyone in the auction hall could clearly see the single bead of dan medicine contained within the bottle.

It was precisely the dan medicine that was radiating the warm and bright light, that pierced even the walls of the opaque bottle. This scene had captured the attention of everyone in the audience.

Even though light was supposed to be blocked from exiting or entering this bottle, this supreme dan bead's mystical glow had actually managed to penetrate through the walls of this bottle.

The white mist, that had gushed out from the bottle, coalesced above the bottle, forming a thin layer of fog. Unexpectedly, instead of dissipating, this fog was actually accumulating, both in size and in density. Gradually, a cloud about two meters in diameter was formed over the bottle

As the mist continued to rush out of the bottle, the cloud continued to expand. It didn't seem to have even the slightest intention of scattering.

The next moment, a delicate and light fragrance started to spread throughout the room. Although the fragrance was subtle, it had instantly permeated the entire auction hall. Anyone who inhaled it, felt their spirits being lifted, as the smell refreshed and relaxed them.

Within moments of its appearance, the delicate fragrance had already entranced the entire audience.

"This smell... This is absolutely from a supreme dan from the heavens!"

The prime dan-maker of the Ling-Yun Sect, Shi Yue, trembled, as he gazed at the bottle that contained the dan bead, on the platform. An extreme obsession could be seen in his eyes, while his face had already turned into a deep red color.

He looked like he wanted to immediately rush onto stage, hug the bottle to his chest and never let go!

A dan bead with a dan cloud like this, was something he had dreamed of his entire life.

To refine a dan bead to this extent, it truly represented the peak of the field of dan-making! No one could surpass that!

Li Chang-Qing, Xiao Mo-Yan and Meng Wu-Fei, who were standing the closest to the dan bead, were also shocked!

The mystical dan cloud, that no one had seen for almost ten thousand years, actually existed in the real world?

And it was right here in front of their eyes!

In front of the greed-filled gazes of the three men, Guan Wan-Shan capped the bottle. Only after the bottle was sealed did the cloud above began to waver. It slowly dissipated, scattering into white mist that travelled in all directions.

When the dan cloud finally disappeared, Guan Wan-Shan unexpectedly opened the bottle again. As pristine dan energy surged out from the bottle once more, a dan cloud began to form.

This action greatly angered people that worked in the field of dan-making, as they stared at him like they were about to rip him apart.

Wasn't this bastard purposely destroying the dan bead?

"Ladies and gentlemen, please calm down. I am not intentionally damaging the supreme dan bead. I just wanted to double check the dan cloud. This dan bead is truly a wonder! Normally, the effectiveness of dan beads will disappear bit by bit when they're exposed to light, but this dan bead here, can actually absorb natural energy from its surroundings. As long as it hasn't been consumed, the efficiency will stay

full anytime, anywhere! In other words, this supreme dan bead has created its own small circulation system within the world.”

Guan Wan-Shan sighed, “Before this, I believe that nobody would have expected the dan medicine to have such an ability. It has never even been recorded in the dan-making recipes. This is truly the first time, that it has been seen entering this world. The first mystical dan with dan clouds!”

As people exclaimed in wonder, the auction room instantly turned as noisy as a marketplace.

So it was actually such a marvelous item!

The eagerness of the people to get their hands on that bead had multiplied several times.

Guan Wan-Shan was truly a seasoned expert in holding auctions.

With just a few sentences, he had successfully driven the ambiance of the room through the roof!

But what he had said was entirely true - Indeed, this function of the dan bead was something nobody had known about. In fact, people couldn’t even begin to imagine its existence!

The three men on stage slowly nodded.

The eyes of the dan-makers in the room lit up with intense greedy light. They were akin to old perverts, who had been starved of sex for three hundred years, before suddenly seeing a gorgeous beauty lying naked on their beds...

“If someone could extract this special refining technique and apply it to some higher-level dan...” Guan Wan-Shan rubbed his mustache and said, “That would be a grand achievement. That will not only bring us more chances to avoid death, it will also greatly increase our profits...”

Guan Wan-Shan’s continued musings made some people so angry they felt like cursing.

The people who were permitted entrance to this auction hall, none of them were fools. How could they not understand what Guan Wan-Shan was actually trying to do?

This bastard, was he trying to raise the price of the dan bead to the heavens?

But among the audience, the dan-makers were all breathing heavily, their eyes bloodshot! Indeed, this was certainly a peerless treasure they would spend their whole lives chasing after!

After sealing the bottle again, Guan Wan-Shan lips curved into a reserved smile, “Thank you, our three valued guests. Please exit the stage and return to your seats. Our auction for the supreme dan beads will begin right away.”

From the No. 2 balcony, Shi Yue suddenly yelled, “Pray tell, Master Guan. About this supreme dan, how many beads are to be auctioned today?”

In fact, it was the question that had been weighing heavily on everyone’s minds, so they all turned quiet and waited for the answer.

The supreme dan bead was definitely a treasure, but they still needed to know how many beads there were.

If there was only one, then... it would be immensely difficult for most people to acquire it. In that case, many of them might quit the auction before it even began.

Guan Wan-Shan laughed and answered, "Truthfully, it would already be extremely lucky for all of us to see even this one bead, as it is such a marvelous treasure..."

When the audience heard his words, they instantly became incredibly anxious. Some small sects felt like giving up immediately. Even people who belonged to powerful groups had turned pale, as it would surely be a tough fight for them, if there was only one bead.

Surprisingly, Guan Wan-Shan continued his words, "But luckily, we have more than one supreme dan bead at today's auction. You definitely won't be disappointed..."

The spectators' spirits instantly lifted. Did that mean there were more beads? If there were a large number of supreme beads auctioned today, there might be less competition and they might even spendwalk away with a much smaller hole in their purses...

But Guan Wan-Shan added, "...But still, there aren't that many supreme beads."

Immediately, everyone in the hall felt like their hearts had been trampled by ten thousand alpacas.

[Editor's note: Interesting fact - the Chinese term for alpaca is 草泥马 which sounds similar to 草你妈, or fxxk your mother, so it's often used as a slang replacement.]

They wanted to drag the old bastard down from the stage and give him a good beating.

They felt, that the way in which he kept playing with the suspense in the room, was really annoying.

"...You all want one but that is definitely not going to happen..." Guan Wan-Shan smiled slyly, "After all, everything is priced in proportion to its rarity."

Everyone tried hard to quell the itch in their hearts, the impulse to beat someone up.

This bastard, is he trying to play us to death?

"Master Guan, just how many supreme dan beads are there? Tell us the exact number." Xiao Mo-Yan frowned and spoke.

With his status as a Patriarch, he had been reluctant to ask, as he needed to present a calm exterior. However, since the Ling-Yun Sect was mainly committed to dan-making, the supreme dan was especially important to him. Moreover, since the question had come directly from a person as important as him, Guan Wan-Shan would have to answer.

Otherwise, if the number of beads remained unclear, people would fight amongst themselves for the beads, until their wallets became completely empty.

Ye Xiao leisurely crossed his legs. He sat in balcony No. 17, as still as a stone, and overlooked the whole scene.

“Of course. If it is the Patriarch Xiao that wants to know it, I will absolutely give my answer.” Guan Wan-Shan humbly said, “The supreme dan with dan clouds. This time, we have truly done everything we can, but we’ve only managed to obtain ten beads.”

The crowd burst into an uproar!

Ten supreme dan beads!

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#### **Chapter 44: I Am The Owner Of The Supreme Dan**

For treasures as precious as these supreme dan beads, ten was definitely not a small number. In fact, it had already exceeded most of the people’s expectations!

However, for the people who eagerly desired these supreme dan beads, it was never enough!

There were at least a hundred groups, who were determined to win the supreme dan beads!

But there were only ten... What could they do about that?

One by one, they started to check their wallets...

Xiao Mo-Yan breathed a sigh of relief before becoming a little nervous. Since there were ten beads, it was guaranteed that he would get a least one but... In order to attain just that one bead would require him to triumph through a bloody competition by paying a sizeable amount!

“Next, we shall begin the auction for the first supreme dan bead!” Guan Wan-Shan stood on the stage, looking energetic and high-spirited. “The starting price is 100 thousand silver bars! Each overbid requires a minimum increase of 25 thousand!”

The moment he said that, a hush fell over the audience.

For a long, long time, nobody replied.

Of course it wasn’t because the beads were unwanted but rather, people were calculating silently. To be the first Sect to bid, how much would be suitable?

Finally, Meng Wu-Fei of the Qing-Yun Sect frowned and spoke loudly, “150 thousand from OUR QING-YUN SECT!”

When he heard what Meng Wu-Fei said, Guan Wan-Shan immediately furrowed his brows. Within the No.17 balcony, Ye Xiao felt as though he was constipated with a stomach full of shit. Many people were also cursing inside their minds.

“If you wanted to bid, then just bid! What’s with the emphasis on “OUR QING-YUN SECT”?!”

What did he mean?

Well, the nuance was clear. It was definitely a threat!

The way he phrased it, if someone dared to compete against him in the bidding, then they would make enemies out of the entire Qing-Yun Sect! You could weigh the consequences yourself.

As expected, after that sentence from Meng Wu-Fei, no one dared to bid anymore. No matter what, it was just not an intelligent move to mess with the Qing-Yun Sect. Even Xiao Mo-Yan sat quietly without a word.

The high-spirited and vigorous Guan Wan-Shan felt like he had eaten a bittergourd.

As calculative as he might be, he had forgotten to account for how shameless these powerful Sects could be.

“Master Meng from the Qing-Yun Sect bids 150 thousand. Are there anymore bids? Anyone...” Guan Wan-Shan forced the words out, all while silently cursing in his heart. “150 thousand once... Anyone? 150 thousand twice... 150 thousand...”

“500 thousand!” From above, a loud voice resounded.

It was Ye Xiao.

There was no way that the Xiao Monarch could bear his supreme dan being sold at such a low price.

“Since you’ve dared to act so shamelessly in front of everyone, then I won’t hesitate to make trouble for you!”

“You’re dealing with my belongings; I won’t permit them to be taken away at such a cheap price!”

Meng Wu-Fei’s expression darkened as he swivelled around to face the direction of the voice.

Ye Xiao pushed open the door of the balcony No.17 and said blandly, “To be honest, I am not that interested in this supreme dan. I wasn’t even going to bid. But to see someone trying to snatch this supreme dan for just 150 thousand, how blasphemous! You desecrate this treasure. Moreover, this trade should be fair; I don’t care if you’re from the royal family, major Sect or noble clan. The moment you arrive here, you must follow the rules! Using your power to bully others, how despicable can you be! So, Master Meng, it won’t be that simple. If you want it, you better be prepared to pay what it deserves. Otherwise I will be the first one to challenge you!”

Narrowing his eyes, Meng Wu-Fei spoke coldly, “You’ve definitely got balls, Mr. Feng. But who the hell are you?”

The underlying message was clear: “A nobody like you, how dare you try to stop me from taking what I want?”

Ye Xiao held his head high and replied calmly, “I may be just a nobody. But, I am the original owner of these supreme dan beads!”

Everyone who heard his words were immediately stunned!

“The owner of the supreme dan beads!”

“He is the owner of the supreme dan beads!”

“No wonder he was trying so hard to collect all those valuable medicines. He is a supreme dan-maker!”

The girl in white - Xiu Er, the girl in cyan, people from the martial sects and people from the noble clans... All of them turned their gazes up towards him.

Ye Xiao narrowed his eyes as he casually glanced at the people from the Mu Clan. "Perhaps with my status as a supreme dan-maker, I can destroy those bastards from the Mu Clan?"

Meng Wu-Fei's expression instantly turned ugly as he replied, "Even if you're the owner of these supreme dan, what can you possibly do?"

"Well, I suppose the owner of these supreme dan can't really do much." Ye Xiao replied leisurely, "But for my supreme dan to have been sullied in this auction, I am truly disappointed, so I can choose to take back my supreme dan beads. Regarding other people's items, I don't have a say nor can I promise anything. But I can assure you -- From today onwards, there will be no more supreme dan in this world!"

He bared his teeth as he grinned, "Once I retrieve them, I will swallow all ten beads. If they are to be desecrated, I would rather have these beads cease existing!"

That moment, everyone stared at him with wide eyes, unable to make a sound!

This bastard was not only a supreme dan-maker, but also a supreme troublemaker.

If he was not satisfied, he would destroy everything!

"If you really want the supreme dan bead, then bid according to the rules. Ten is not a small number. If you offer a suitable price, you'll naturally be able to get one." Ye Xiao spoke calmly, "Under no circumstances are you to use your power to oppress others. If I see anyone do that again, this auction will end instantly!"

Meng Wu-Fei's face turned green.

The two men who stood beside him had their hands pressed to the hilt of their swords. Their eyes, full of killing intent, were fixed at Ye Xiao.

But all three of them knew that since this Master Feng had exposed his identity as the 'owner of the supreme dan', they couldn't do anything to him under these circumstances!

In fact, even in the future, this kind of person was definitely not to be offended!

For a supreme dan-maker as powerful as he was, just how much resources did he truly harbour?

It was just unimaginable!

Not to mention only the three of them, even the entire Qing-Yun Clan could not hope to bear his wrath!

He could turn the Qing-Yun Sect into everyone's enemy by simply saying something like 'I will make dan for the one who destroys the Qing-Yun Sect'.

Meng Wu-Fei took a few deep breaths and forced a smile, "You definitely do not mince words. How admirable. But I am afraid there has been some miscommunication between us. When I offered 150 thousand just now, I was only testing the waters. It would truly be a desecration if the supreme dan bead was sold at only 150 thousand. If anyone wishes to bid, of course they are free to do so. With my

status, how can I possibly forcibly oppress the market like this... Since Brother Feng has called for 500 thousand, then I shall follow. 750 thousand please.”

Meng Wu-Fei managed to restrain himself enough to spit out those words.

“I’ll have my revenge another day.”

Everyone spectating this scene couldn’t help but breathe a sigh of relief. By taking a step back this time, Meng Wu-Fei had brought shame to the Qing-Yun Sect. But had he not submitted, the Qing-Yun Sect would not only have ended up empty handed today, but also possibly face an even bigger disaster in the future!

Although Meng Wu-Fei had retreated, no one would really look down on him. Instead, his forbearance had gathered quite some admiration. After all, it had been the owner of the supreme dan he had been facing!

“Hmm, one million!” Li Chang-Qing from the Cang-Shan Sect spoke measuredly.

“One million and 50 thousand!” Meng Wu-Fei bidded instantly.

Ye Xiao finally stayed quiet.

The price had gone over one million now... and it was still rising.

He was not delighted in the least at the moment; instead he was bleeding in his heart. There had been 15 dan beads in total and he had actually sold 5 of them to the salesroom for 100 thousand each...

“I really want to jump off a building... How could I have miscalculated to incur such a loss...”

He had lost five million! At least!

“Oh my god... So much money! Let me die!”

While Ye Xiao was still drowning in his sorrow, Xiao Mo-Yan finally bid.

“One million and 250 thousand!”

“One million and 275 thousand!” Meng Wu-Fei gritted his teeth.

“One million and 300 thousand!”

“One million and 325 thousand!”

Meng Wu-Fei was nearly going to vomit blood.

He had to win the bid for this supreme dan bead, otherwise it would really be a huge disgrace after the scuffle between him and Ye Xiao just now.

In the end, for the price of one million and 400 thousand silver bars, Meng Wu-Fei acquired the first supreme dan bead!

After seeing just a high price, all the spectators were shocked out of their minds.



Although Meng Wu-Fei had brought this fate upon himself, this price of one million and 400 thousand silver bars was truly unreasonably high.

After that, the second supreme dan bead was sold for one million and 250 thousand to Xiao Mo-Yan.

The third was sold to Li Chang-Qing for the same price as the second one.

Till now, the top three martial sects had gotten one of the first three supreme dan beads each. One could say that they had accomplished their most important task of today.

The others bidders breathed a sigh of relief. They all understood that the first three supreme dan beads would never be theirs. No matter what, they would definitely be seized by the top three sects. Whoever encroached upon these beads would only bring enormous trouble to their own groups.

But still... the prices had still been pushed so high that many of the groups had already felt depressed.

Within just a few turnovers, the numbers had already risen way beyond the levels of what they could compete with.

When the fourth dan bead was up, people subconsciously understood that the top three sects wouldn't bid again, so one by one, they started to bid!

"850 thousand."

"875 thousand!"

"900 thousand..."

"..."

Although the prices continued to rise, it had already started slowing down. It was no longer the scorching battle that accompanied the first three beads. When Mu Zi-He from the Mu Clan bid 950 thousand, no one made a sound anymore.

All of them were thinking that if the prices were able to lessen even further, that would undeniably be a good thing.

Some experts like Guan Wan-Shan had already predicted that the price would be no higher than one million this time.

But right at that moment, the clear and cold voice of a girl suddenly resounded loudly, "One million and 250 thousand!"

With this shout, she had raised the price up to the price levels of the former three dan beads straightaway!

Such a price had immediately defeated most of the bidders!

As the audience turned their heads towards the voice, they realised that it was in fact, the girl in white.

When they found out that the bidder was a girl, they were instantly angry. "Previously, we didn't want to offend the three major sects so we didn't join the bidding. A little girl like you, who do you think you are?"

Mu Zi-He, in particular, was ready to explode with rage!

“Why on earth is there always someone messing with me? Am I a pushover to them?”

“This time, there is no way I could bear such humiliation again! If I continue to tolerate this, our Mu Clan will be known as the clan of cowardly turtles...”

[TL: 缩头乌龟 literally means turtles who retreat back into their shells when facing danger. Refers to faint-hearted cowards.]

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### [Realms In The Firmament](#)

#### **Chapter 45: Master Bai And The House of the Chaotic Storm**

This price of one million and 250 thousand had surely made many bidders back off, but it had also revealed the truly wealthy ones.

Mu Zi-He’s face looked like dark water. “One million and 300 thousand!” he shouted.

He could barely hold back the rage in his heart.

“Just now, when I bid for the Crystal Lotus, it was snatched away at the last moment. And now when I bid for the supreme dan bead, somebody wants to snatch it again? Do I look that easy to bully?”

Even a clay figurine could only take so much, let alone an elder of the Mu Clan, one of the eight noble clans!

The girl in white, Xiu Er, didn’t even bat an eye as she blandly replied, “One million and 350 thousand.”

Mu Zi-He looked at her with a sullen look. His eyes were filled with a scary warning as he said, “One million and 400 thousand!”

Xiu Er was not moved in the least as she calmly said, “ One and a half million!”

The auction grounds were filled with commotion.

It had reached one and a half million already!

The number had already exceeded the final price of the first three supreme dan beads.

Even Ye Xiao who was sitting in the upper floor felt shocked when he heard the price.

He had never imagined that this girl in white was actually that wealthy...

It seemed like the Mu Clan was about to kick against another iron board.

Ye Xiao looked around him.

Faced with such a bold, disrespectful challenge, Mu Zi-He couldn’t hold back his fury. He stood up and yelled out loudly, “This woman! This challenge...! Are you purposely trying to make the Mu Clan lose face?”

He had just been thoroughly humiliated by Feng Zhi-Ling not long ago. And then his identity as the owner of the supreme dan beads was exposed and Mu Zi-He had to forcibly quash his burning desire for revenge. Just as his stomach felt like it was filled to the brim with rage, he was slapped in the face by another unreasonably high price!

All the anger that he had been barely managing to hold back, exploded towards Xiu Er.

“The Mu Clan? To struggle like this...!” Xiu Er looked at him indifferently and said softly, “This is an auction; we bid for what we want. We’re competing in a fair way. Whoever bids the highest price, gets the item. I didn’t think this had anything to do with losing face...”

As she said this, all of the people present thought that the girl was going to back off.

However as Xiu Er continued speaking, her tone suddenly changed. Coldly, she continued, “But, if this member of the Mu Clan believes that I am purposely humiliating you... Then let’s just say that that was my intention.”

The underlying meaning of her words, was that the prestige of the Mu Clan was worth nothing to her.

Her words made a huge impact on the audience, as people were immediately shocked!

That was really... unfathomable.

This girl in white, just who was she?

Was she just bragging, or was she purposely trying to mystify herself? Or perhaps... Did she really come from a powerful background?

From above, Ye Xiao saw his opportunity and appealed, “Please allow me to advise the lady to be cautious. The Mu Clan is one of the eight noble clans. Before a lady does anything rash, it’d be prudent to think it over. Sometimes, it isn’t unacceptable to take a step back, since it’s the Mu Clan after all...”

What he just said seemed well-intentioned.

Moreover, it seemed that he was raising the prestige of the Mu Clan.

Although Mu Zi-He was angry with him, but at this moment, he gratefully nodded to show that he accepted the kindness.

The girl in white, Xiu Er, replied softly, “Don’t worry, brother Feng. I know what I’m doing.”

Ye Xiao worriedly continued, “But... Lady, do you really think so little of the Mu Clan? This is... The Mu Clan is truly powerful. I am afraid that you can’t afford to mess around with them...”

As he finished speaking, everyone turned their suspicious gazes towards him.

This bastard... Wasn’t it a little too obvious that he was provoking dissension?

As expected, Xiu Er smiled slightly, “Don’t worry, brother Feng. In front of me, the prestige of the Mu Clan really isn’t worth even a single penny.”

Ye Xiao rubbed his nose, sat back down and didn’t say anything more.

“That will do... If even such words can’t induce a fight and create mutual hatred, I’ll knock my head against the wall! If these fellows from the Mu Clan don’t crash and burn, it’ll really be a waste of my careful effort in stirring up this conflict...”

“Fxxking assholes. Since you, the Mu Clan, is this unreasonable and purposely messed with me, then of course, I shall create some troubles for you.”

As expected, what the girl in white said was like adding fuel to the fire. Things had already degenerated beyond repair.

“Hmm.” The girl in white thought, “This guy is obviously against the Mu Clan and wants me to pull the trigger. Anyway... Since you’re the owner of the supreme dan beads, I’ll show you some respect and go along with your schemes.”

“Besides... this Mu Zi-He dared to rebuke me in front of the public. I really should teach him a lesson.” — It had to be said, that the hearts of girls were truly difficult to decipher.

After hearing her words, Mu Zi-He was quivering in anger. His wrath had already reached its peak as he yelled, “Bitch! How dare you look down upon the Mu Clan! I swear I will...”

Guan Wan-Shan naturally knew about the status of the girl, so he couldn’t just sit back and watch anymore. Interrupting Mu Zi-He, he spoke hurriedly “Brother Mu...”

Mu Zi-He was boiling with anger and snarled, “Guan Wan-Shan, you’re just a servant in a salesroom. What makes you think you can call me brother! You’re unqualified to open your mouth at the moment!”

He was obviously lost in the flames of his anger and started to bite people like a mad dog.

He had already been pissed off multiple times during his stay in the capital. The Mu Clan had gone for revenge at the beginning, but had failed and had even lost eight of their expert cultivators. While they had been preparing for their next attempt to settle the revenge, the auction had begun. So they had struggled to restrain their anger, but their stomachs were filled with dissatisfaction which had not yet abated.

He had been in a bad mood even before the start of the auction.

And when he came to the auction with his son, his son had even embarrassingly stumbled in front of the audience, losing face in front of everyone. Then the owner of the supreme dan beads had humiliated them and snatched all of the sold medicines. Moreover, they had been oppressed by the three major sects all along... He hadn’t even dared to consider bidding for the first three dan beads...

And now, he was being scorned by a little girl. Mu Zi-He completely exploded with anger!

He was in hysterics, stomping the ground with fury!

Guan Wan-Shan’s face turned purple when he heard Mu Zi-He’s words. He had originally wanted to be kind in advising the Mu Clan against their actions. However, he had never thought that his attempt at kindness would result in him being bitten by a mad dog. It was like he had suffered a huge warm fart right in the face!

He instantly felt his head heat up, as he didn’t know how to reply to this insult.

So he stayed silent and thought, “Mu Zi-He, you will definitely regret this. You’ve got absolutely no idea, just who the girl you are messing with truly is and who is backing her!”

As expected, Mu Zi-He’s body trembled as he shot a wide-eyed glare at the girl in white, full of killing intent. “Bitch. Who are you? Give me your name! Tell me who is your backer. Do you dare?”

“Again with the ‘bitch’.” The girl felt a sense of bewilderment spread through her, as her temper flared up straight away.

“What is wrong with you?”

“I didn’t see you make any threats when those guys competed for the beads earlier.”

“If you want the supreme dan bead, does that mean nobody else can take it? If you bid, then no one is allowed to bid after you? Why did you suddenly become so angry and even started cursing at me?”

“Does this guy think that I am this easy to bully, just because I’m a girl?”

Even though she was well-cultured, she couldn’t hold back the flames of anger burning in her heart.

“Mu Zi-He, those words, are you speaking for the Mu Clan?” Xiu Er spoke with a grim tone.

People who knew about her status couldn’t help sigh silently.

“How could the Mu Clan send such a fool here?”

Mu Zi-He laughed and said, “Are you scared, bitch?! With things as they’re now, what use is there to be scared?”

Another ‘bitch’. Her expression was as cold as ice, Xiu Er drily said, “Fair enough! Since that is the case, even if you, the Mu Clan, wishes to retreat, I won’t let you. I will see you in the martial world. But right now the auction for the supreme dan bead is still ongoing. Whoever bids the highest price gets the item. If you don’t have the money, piss off! I don’t have time to quarrel with the poor!”

Following that, she glared with her almond shaped eyes and enunciated clearly, “I am from the House of the Chaotic Storm, backed by Master Bai! I am Xiu Of The Heavens! Mu Clan, I await your challenge!”

[Editor’s Note: Xiu of the Heavens, 天上之秀, literally refers to someone worthy of being born in the Heavens.]

To have been disgraced in such a way, Mu Zi-He had felt his temper rise to maximum. Just as he was about to curse back at the girl, he suddenly heard what she said.

When he had finally processed her words, his jaw dropped. He was totally stunned!

While his face remained purple, all the anger within him had instantly vanished!

The entire auction hall shot him gloating looks, as they took great pleasure in his distress.

In their eyes, he was a massive fool! -- “Now, you finally realise who you have just offended, right?”

At this moment, Mu Zi-He could only think of one thing, which was... ‘I am fxxked’!

“Who... did I just piss off?”

“What... did I just do?”

Mu Zi-He’s mind was buzzing with confusion!

He felt a bit dizzy as he stood there blankly, unsure of how to proceed.

‘The House of the Chaotic Storm’!

‘Backed by Master Bai’!

‘Xiu Of The Heavens’!

These few words were like a string of bombshells, continuously blowing up in Mu Zi-He’s mind.

At a complete loss, he looked around the room blankly with helpless eyes, hoping he could get some help from the people around him. However, everyone, who made eye-contact with him, would immediately turn their eyes away. No one wanted to have anything to do with him!

They were avoiding him like he was a poisonous snake!

The House of the Chaotic Storm. Across the entire Han-Yang continent, it was the legendary power! Backed by the legendary man! They were gods, who stood high above this simple world, looking down upon all beings.

It received complete respect from all countries.

The seas bowed deeply, showing utter reverence.

In front of them, empires were but mere child's play.

This, is the House of the Chaotic Storm.

There was another saying: Even if an ultimate expert would stand up and conquer all lands, demanding everything under the sky to kowtow in front of him. Even he wouldn’t be a match from this world’s true number one.

The person the proverb described was Master Bai!

And the House of the Chaotic Storm, was backed by no other than Master Bai!

No one knew who Master Bai really was. Neither did anyone know where the House of the Chaotic Storm was really located. These names were full of indescribable mystery, but at the same time, they brought extreme fear to everyone under this sky!

Master Bai!

The mysterious man who existed in Heaven, but came down to Earth.

In the myths, at his side, there always stood two people!

On the left stood Wan Of The Clouds; On the right stood Xiu Of The Heavens. With a wave of his hand, he could summon winds and clouds. By extending his arms, he could even grasp the universe!

And right now, the girl that Mu Zi-He had offended, was actually one of the two legendary girls, Xiu Of The Heavens!

## [Realms In The Firmament](#)

### **Chapter 46: Crazy For The Dan**

Mu Zi-He's mind was filled with fear. He wanted to say something, anything, to try and explain himself, but he was stunned to the point of being unable to speak.

In the blink of an eye, the flames of rage that had filled his chest turned into complete and utter terror!

His body was flooded with sweat that couldn't stop flowing, immediately thoroughly soaking his clothes. Even after he had intensely cultivated for so many years, having a far better instinct than most, Mu Zi-He somehow didn't actually notice his perspiration.

At that moment, in his mind, there remained only one thought-- If the House of the Chaotic Storm truly decided to take action against the Mu Clan... Then, only complete annihilation awaited the Mu Clan.

In fact, there wasn't even any need for the House of the Chaotic Storm to directly take action. As long as they just hinted their desire for the destruction of the Mu Clan, many people would naturally be happy to help them. The so-called eight noble clans might be one of the the major forces in this mortal world, but in the world of martial cultivation, it would be generous to say that they were useless. To destroy them with a mere flick of the finger, wasn't difficult at all!

Mu Zi-He's son stood up hurriedly and nervously spoke out, "Lady Xiu Er, please..."

Xiu Er sneered and said, "Who has given you permission to call me Xiu Er?"

The two black-clad men standing beside her had pressed their hands on the hilt of their swords, while their eyes were filled with a blade-like killing intent. They only needed a word from Xiu Er, before they'd instantly draw their swords and split the two Mu Clan members into four pieces!

Mu Zi-He's son's face was filled with terror. "Yes, I understand. I shouldn't speak your honorable name so unadvisedly. But these few days, the Mu Clan has undergone many tribulations. My father is tired, so he was a bit short-tempered just now. He was muddle-headed and spoke impertinent words..."

Lady Xiu Er humphed and blandly spoke, "Has the Mu Clan... not become extinct yet?"

She turned and sat down, without saying another word.

The father and son from the Mu Clan were standing there, completely stunned. They felt like the way ahead of them, was filled with endless darkness. Their bodies couldn't stop trembling, like they were going to collapse at any moment.

One of the black-clad men affixed his razor-sharp gaze at Mu Zi-He and spoke clearly, "The Shadow Blades await your instructions at any time!"

And then he walked away with vigorous strides.

The supreme dan bead in this round of the auction was most certainly won by Xiu Er.

But now, people were no longer concerned with who the supreme dan bead belonged to. When Xiu Er revealed her identity, the supreme dan bead was already destined to be hers. If anyone dared to bid again, then he was obviously messing with the House of the Chaotic Storm. Which was equal to courting death.

They started to feel sorry for the Mu Clan: “They really are unlucky. Look at what kind of men they sent for this auction. The youth doesn’t have a calm personality and stumbled several times, bringing disgrace to their clan in front of everybody. The elder is even worse; he not only has a brash personality, but also lacks foresight. He actually made a world-class killing force into an enemy of their clan!”

“When they return to their clan, the clan elders will probably strip them of their skins, right?” Everyone was gloating in their hearts.

Guan Wan-Shan called out ‘one and a half million’ for the third time before slamming the gavel down with a bang. “Sold!”

Mu Zi-He’s body trembled heavily.

This ridiculous price of one and a half million was because he had stubbornly pushed it up.

He had not only raised the price and cost Master Bai a lot of money, but he had also badly offended Xiu Of The Heavens!

He couldn’t help looking at Guan Wan-Shan. Only now did he understand, that when Guan Wan-Shan had tried to stop him, he was actually looking out for him. What a pity. He had treated this kindness as the viscera of a donkey...

[TL: viscera of a donkey - 驴肝肺 literally means the livers and lungs of donkeys. It means to mistake kindness for malicious intent.]

He looked at Guan Wan-Shan with imploring eyes and murmured, “Brother Guan...”

Guan Wan-Shan was blank-faced as he waved his hand, “I’m but a servant of the salesroom, a slave of the people who will drop dead at any time. How can I accept a man from the glorious Mu Clan calling me Brother? I am not qualified to bear such a title...”

Mu Zi-He said bitterly, “Brother Guan, what are you talking about. Just now, I was too impulsive. I apologize to you... Please allow me to ask Brother Guan to put in some good words for me...”

Since Mu Zi-He had thoroughly lost his face in front of the entire audience, being humble was his best option. He was grasping for a last straw -- Guan Wan-Shan, who stood before him, was truly the last chance he had to save his life now.

Mu Zi-He hadn’t even finished his sentence when Xiu Er spoke up coldly, “Why is this auction not continuing? What are you waiting for? Don’t you want to keep running the Ling-Bao Hall Salesroom anymore?!”

Guan Wan-Shan shut his mouth immediately, not daring to utter another word.

Apparently, Xiu Of The Heavens was rather angry...



Under these circumstances, who would dare to extend a hand towards Mu Zi-He? To offer any kind of help would be seen as a direct challenge against the House of the Chaotic Storm. No sensible man, who valued his life, would do something as foolish as that!

When Mu Zi-He looked around at the audience again, they all turned their heads and averted their gazes. They didn't even dare to make eye contact with him. They were treating him like he carried a fatal plague...

After looking around him, Mu Zi-He completely gave in to his despair.

He stood there in a daze, looking like he had aged several years.

His son walked over quietly and whispered, "Father?"

Only then did Mu Zi-He sober up as he sighed sadly. He waved his hand feebly and said, "There's no need to say anymore..."

He stood up shakily and staggered out of the salesroom. The Mu Zi-He at that moment was akin to a walking corpse.

His son quietly followed behind him.

No one stopped them; no one said goodbye to them, not even the staff of the salesroom.

Everyone knew, that since they had offended Xiu Of The Heavens, they should leave as soon as they could. Otherwise, once the auction ended, even that opportunity would be lost to them.

People watched the two men walk out. It was like they were looking at two dead bodies, filled with the smell of death.

Xiu Er looked at the backs of them and sneered. She then paid no more attention to them.

People all understood: If Xiu Of The Heavens wants you dead, even if you ran to the edge of the world, it would still not be a difficult thing for her to get you! Let alone a group as huge as the Mu Clan; it was impossible for them to hide well.

"The fifth supreme dan bead..."

Guan Wan-Shan's voice sounded again and it drew everyone's attention back to the stage.

But then--

"One million!" Xiu Er's clear voice sounded out. There was no sign of emotion in her voice.

People all stayed silent; no one dared to snatch it.

Guan Wan-Shan sighed slightly, "Sold!"

BANG!

The gavel descended. He didn't even count to three.

Everyone gave a sigh of relief.

“The sixth supreme dan bead...”

“One million!” Xiu Er bid again.

The crowd suddenly erupted into a small commotion.

It seemed a little bit excessive that Lady Xiu Er would bid once again.

“Damn! We know you’re in a bad mood. It’s fine that we give in for you once. But don’t you know when to stop? Do you want to snatch all the supreme dan beads? The House of the Chaotic Storm is mysterious and powerful, but you can’t suppress us all!”

Xiu Er stood up and said peacefully, “Please forgive me. I allowed myself to get upset at two nobodies just now; it has nothing to do with all of you. However, I am under strict orders from my master to secure three dan beads during this auction. Since I have been tasked to do so, I have to bid. I appreciate it if you can do me this favor. I promise that your patience will be rewarded another day.”

After Xiu Er’s explanation, people instantly felt more comfortable, as the atmosphere in the room calmed down. Someone even replied amiably, “What are you talking about, Lady Xiu Er. If Master Bai has given you orders, of course you can get as many as you wish. Even if I won a bead, I would send it to Master Bai myself...”

People were all going along with his words, but in their minds, they were all cursing at that guy. How could he be so shameless?

But at the same time, everyone had the same feeling of regret: “Why wasn’t I the first one to stand up and say that? It was a convenient path to build a good relationship with Master Bai. What does it matter if it was shameless; why wasn’t I more shameless...”

No one knew that Ye Xiao was gnashing his teeth with hatred.

He could clearly sense that Xiu Er wasn’t really angry with what had just happened, or rather, the Mu Clan was simply not significant enough to concern her. However, she used that facade of fury to snatch two supreme dan beads.

She had spent the lowest price to get the supreme dan beads. And then, she had used such gentle words to appease the audience, and relax the atmosphere once again. This kind of calculative scheming, it was truly startling.

What annoyed Ye Xiao even more, was that, despite the displeasure in his heart, he couldn’t do anything about it.

She paid for the dan beads after all, and the price was fair...

As he thought about that, he became even more cautious of her: “She has such a status, even though she’s but a mere maid. Just who is this Master Bai? And... This House of the Chaotic Storm, what kind of place is it? How can it frighten everyone to this extent?”

After that, from the seventh supreme dan bead onwards, the competition got fiercer and fiercer. In fact, the scale of the battle could even be described as horrifying!

Everybody understood clearly that six of the ten supreme dan beads were already gone!

The four that remained were targeted by dozens of groups. They would never give up, as long as they still had a penny to spend!

The final price of the seventh dan bead reached one million and 450 thousand!

For the eighth dan bead, the price beat the previous highest price, one and a half million, and reached one million and 600 thousand!

Even crazier was the price of the ninth dan bead which reached one million and 750 thousand!

Ye Xiao's anger had finally been relieved; he was smiling and gleefully laughing. He seemed to see a huge amount of money flowing into his wallet, as endless as the Chang-Jiang River...

"The last supreme dan bead!"

Guan Wan-Shan turned excitedly and shouted, "This is the last supreme dan bead of this auction! The starting price is the same, as are the bidding rules..."

He hadn't finished when the first offer was given, "One million and 750 thousand!"

The next moment, several people shouted at the same time.

"One million and 800 thousand!"

"One million and 850 thousand!"

"Two million!"

When the record-breaking price of two million came out, the crowd turned silent for a short while. And then suddenly a faint voice was heard, "Two million and 250 thousand..."

The prime dan-maker of the Ling-Yun Sect, Shi Yue, sat restlessly. In the end, the way he looked at Xiao Mo-Yan was akin to begging!

...

## [Realms In The Firmament](#)

### **Chapter 47: The Weird Master Feng!**

This might be the only chance Shi Yue could possibly seize in his entire life, to finally improve his cultivation level!

One dan bead might give him some hope, but it's far from a guarantee.

If there were two, the success rate could at least be doubled.

Xiao Mo-Yan Sighed.

Considering the practical value of the Pei-Yuan Dan, 50 thousand silver bars would be the maximum price for one dan bead. However, the Pei-Yuan Dan with dan clouds could actually make people go crazy. As for now, the price had already reached an unbelievable number of 2 million and 250 thousand; and that was just for a single dan bead!

Even a top-grade dan bead wouldn't be worth such a high price!

However, this dan bead could give rise to unimaginable future achievements for any dan-maker.

It even concerned the future of a sect!

The competitors who were still bidding for the last supreme dan bead, were all comparable to the Ling-Yun Sect. Even though there were differences among them, it wasn't a huge gap. If this dan bead was snatched by any of the other sects and they managed to gain something valuable from it, the Ling-Yun Sect could very well be surpassed in the future.

That would be a devastating result for the Ling-Yun Sect. Xiao Mo-Yan had to consider it.

He thought for a while, before he turned his head to look at balcony No.17.

"The problem now is this Feng Zhi-Ling... Can he take out any more of these supreme dan beads?

Were these supreme dan beads made by himself... or did he just stumble upon them by coincidence?"

"Patriarch... We can't take any risks on this..." Shi Yue was burning with anxiety.

Xiao Mo-Yan eventually sighed and spoke with a deep voice, "3 million and 150 thousand!"

That was over half of the sect's available funds. If he couldn't win the supreme dan bead with this price, he could only give up.

If he used any more of the sect's money and an accident happened, the daily operations of the sect would be badly affected.

Xiao Mo-Yan secretly made a decision in mind: "The more money we have in this mortal world, the better..."

When people heard the unreasonably high price of 3 million and 150 thousand, they couldn't believe their ears.

"Only one dan bead!"

"Three million and 150 thousand!"

"This is totally insane!"

Many people lowered their heads in disappointment. It was possible to run out of strength sometimes and the same could also be applied to wealth.

The sects, who were still competing for the last dan bead, saw Xiao Mo-Yan stand up and raise the price of 2 million and 250 thousand by 900 thousand. Once this stage was reached, they could only give up.

They all knew, that if any of them bid again, they would be offending the Ling-Yun Sect in public - even challenging it!

That was like kicking a huge hornet's nest. Nobody could afford to mess with them.

"Lunatics like Mu Zi-He... Really are rare in this world after all." Meng Wu-Fei smiled bitterly and sighed.

As the Qing-Yun Sect was the major competitor of the Ling-Yun Sect, it signaled the end of the auction as soon as Meng Wu-Fei quit.

The drastic bidding had finally come to an end. At this point, when everyone tried to contact Feng Zhi-Ling, they realised that this mysterious man had already left.

He had already left, leaving absolutely no traces behind.

The girl in cyan - Wen-Ren, the girl in white - Xiu-Er and Xiao Mo-Yan, were all surprised.

“This guy has been maintaining a high-profile, acting as if other people didn’t even exist, like he was the only one who mattered. Why did he disappear so quickly?”

...

Ye Xiao was sitting comfortably in the private VIP reception room, while drinking a fragrant tea.

The auction has concluded. Now, it was time for him to get the cut he deserved.

“I’m interested to see, just what kind of trouble the Mu Clan could possibly make for me this time. Humph...” Ye Xiao was thinking, “They must be busy dealing with their own problems right now.”

“Anyway, this House of the Chaotic Storm sounds really powerful...” Ye Xiao frowned, “The other night, they had put in a lot of effort to frame me. They seem to have been plotting against me so far...”

While he was thinking about what to do next, Guan Wan-Shan walked in with an accountant.

They felt like they were seeing a plutus [Editor note: God of wealth] when they saw Ye Xiao. They nearly bowed in worship!

The ten Pei-Yuan Dan beads from Ye Xiao had actually brought them a revenue totaling 15 million and 300 thousand!

This much money couldn’t even be described by simple phrases like ‘turning a stone into gold by touching it’ or ‘a pie falling from the sky’!

It was actually equivalent to a mountain of gold falling from the sky!

“Brother Feng...” Guan Wan-Shan ran to Ye Xiao fervently and shook his hands, “Never has an auction in my lifetime created such a profit. It has also created a miracle in this land! 15 million! 15 MILLION!”

Ye Xiao watched him with a faint smile and said, “Uh-huh?”

He drew back his hands from Guan Wan-Shan and said blandly, “Is it really that much?”

Guan Wan-Shan was rubbing his hands and said, “Yes. Yes. Absolutely. This time, we’ll take 20 percent of it as our profit, according to the agreement. However, there will still be 12 million left for you, Brother Feng!”

Ye Xiao nodded with a faint smile, “Uh-huh? 12 million. That is a lot.”

Guan Wan-Shan noticed that something felt off, so he cautiously asked, “Brother Feng, is there anything you aren’t satisfied with?”

“No, it’s nothing.” Ye Xiao smiled blandly and said, “Master Guan, those things that I got in the auction, please send them to me. As for the money... Hehe. Just deduct it from my cut.”

Guan Wan-Shan repeatedly promised, “Yes. Yes. No problem.”

Although Ye Xiao had taken a lot of items in the auction, the money which he had spent had only amounted to 2 million and 500 thousand.

Under normal circumstances, this would have been an enormous amount of money.

However, compared to the 12 million he was going to get, it was not a huge amount.

By now, the experienced Guan Wan-Shan had noticed that something was definitely wrong.

“Master Feng’s smile looks... Complex somehow... No, it’s weird...”

Ordinary people would definitely faint from excitement when getting such a large amount of money. Why is he acting so nonchalantly?”

Guan Wan-Shan couldn’t understand it.

Ye Xiao remained ambivalent . He didn’t say anything, but only urged them to complete the remaining tasks. Guan Wan-Shan felt confused, but he could only murmur in confusion while wrapping up the formalities, wondering what could be wrong.

Ye Xiao kept a rigid and faint smile on his face, while he sat cross-legged, as he was watching the accountant.

The abacus was making a noise.

Guan Wan-Shan was really tense and his mind was running at full speed.

“What on earth... made this guy unhappy?”

That was not a middling issue, the guy was truly their plutus. If they couldn’t satisfy him, it would definitely be a huge loss for the salesroom!

“All right. After deducting the cost of the purchased items, Master Feng’s earnings will amount to 7 million and 550 thousand.” The accountant finally finished counting while drops of sweat were rolling down his forehead, “As for the tax that should be paid to the treasury, we will cover it. That’s an order from Master Guan.”

“No need. There’s no need to bother the salesroom with such a small amount of money.” Ye Xiao spoke in an odd tone, “I have so much money, that it really isn’t an issue. Besides, the supreme dan beads are nothing special to me anyway... I don’t think you should be the one who pays that tax. You’ve worked hard for this auction and only earned a little.”

“The supreme dan beads!”

Guan Wan-Shan was enlightened. He finally realised what it was that displeased Master Feng.

“I see.

I guess what makes this guy unhappy, is that... The ten supreme dan beads were sold for 15 million and it's really a huge price, but he only got 500 thousand for the five that were sold to the salesroom.

According to the average price in the auction, those five dan beads could be sold for at least 7 million and 500 thousand silver bars.

500 thousand, when compared to 7 million and 500 thousand, was absolutely nothing!

That's a huge loss that one could even figure it out with his toes.

It'd be weird if this guy felt happy about it."

However, the problem now, was that the price of the five dan beads were previously agreed upon. And at the end of the day, business was business. Ye Xiao couldn't say anything about it, let alone go back on his word.

However, it didn't mean that the Xiao Monarch would be happy with a loss of over 7 million!

And to make things worse, it was given to the man who made money off of him.

The Ling-Bao Hall Salesroom was not doing this auction for free; they got 20 percent of the total sales price. That amounted to almost 3 million!

"Hold on. Stop for a second." Although Guan Wan-Shan had finally realised the problem, it wasn't something he could solve with his authority.

Guan Wan-Shan understood one other thing: If they failed to satisfy this Master Feng... He would definitely say nothing about it, but he wouldn't come back to the Ling-Bao Hall when he got anything valuable in the future!

He might've earned a lot this time - it was of course, no loss, but he didn't feel satisfied; it wasn't enough.

Time passed. Ye Xiao had already finished two pots of tea by the time Guan Wan-Shan returned, wiping sweat from his forehead. He walked over to Ye Xiao and smiled, "You see, Brother Feng, I just asked our boss for instructions... and we've come to a decision..."

Ye Xiao replied blandly, "Really? What decision?"

"Yes. Since we bought five of the supreme dan beads from you the other day for a really low price, we have taken advantage of you after all. Brother Feng is a generous gentleman and hasn't voiced his displeasure about this, but we can't just accept such kindness for nothing." Guan Wan-Shan looked at Ye Xiao's face while he was speaking.

"Hmmm....." Ye Xiao drawled.

"How about this... those items that you won in the auction, we'll give them to you as gifts. We won't charge anything for them. They are just some small things. Please don't refuse." Guan Wan-Shan said.

Ye Xiao was thinking: "That was well said. You give me things worth approximately 3 million and actually called them small gifts. And you actually asked me not to refuse... You really are speaking louder than others because of wealth."

A joyful expression was covering his face, however, his mouth was saying hesitantly, “Well that... That isn’t appropriate. It was an agreement which had been made in advance. I feel that I should refuse your offer... Hahahahaha...”

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## [Realms In The Firmament](#)

### **Chapter 48: Mutation Of The Sphere’s Space**

Guan Wan-Shan and the accountant thought with disdain: “Screw you. Look at your mouth. The grin on your face has reached your ears and you actually said that it was improper and that you couldn’t accept?”

Is there even a single damn thing that you’d feel embarrassed for?”

But on the surface, Guan Wan-Shan was acting fervidly, “No No No. Please. We’re pleased that you don’t dislike them.”

“Of course I like them. Even if you give small gifts like these ten times a day, I will never dislike any of them!”

Ye Xiao answered in his mind, but the expression on his face implied ‘it’s impolite to refuse, but shameful to accept’. He rubbed his hands and said with a smile, “You deserve those dan beads, but now you’re... Gosh. I am really... Hahahaha... You’re so generous and so enthusiastic. Master Guan, you and me, we’re friends!”

He tapped Guan Wan-Shan’s shoulder while he was talking with an enthusiastic look.

Guan Wan-Shan’s cheek muscle couldn’t help but twitch...

“I knew it. I understand you... If I don’t give up and give this money to you, you’d definitely not make friends with me...”

Ye Xiao left the salesroom, laden with bags filled with treasures, in front of the staff of the salesroom. He left through the back door and got on the private sedan-chair owned by the salesroom, heading back home with his fruitful results.

It wasn’t exaggerated to say ‘fruitful results’. He had obtained about seven medical materials, one piece of the Cosmic Hades, and a bag of Sky Crystal Sand; this was quite the harvest!

As for the notes of silver and gold, they were actually kind of a burden to Ye Xiao.

The sphere’s space wasn’t able to absorb these notes.

When the amount of money one possessed had expanded beyond a certain amount, it really had the ability to smother them to death. Even though they were just very thin notes, it was still frightening when there were too many of them.

Therefore, Ye Xiao only took 500 notes, which were all worth the maximum value of 5 thousand silver bars. As for the rest of the money, he decided to leave it in the salesroom for the time being.



Of course, Guan Wan-Shan consented at once to the request of Ye Xiao. In fact he felt happy about it: "Now that you've left such a large amount of money in the salesroom, how could you possibly abandon us?"

The sedan-chair had travelled for a long distance when the two carriers suddenly realised something was wrong.

What could be wrong?

The sedan-chair was too light!

There is a huge difference between an empty sedan-chair and an occupied sedan-chair!

They stopped the sedan-chair and looked inside. Only to find the man who had been sitting inside the sedan-chair to have already disappeared. The two carriers looked at each other and nearly thought that they had seen a ghost.

...

Ye Xiao took the notes, which were worth a huge amount of money, with him and walked through the streets like his sleeves were filled with gold. He was overcome with joy, not only because he had earned his first giant pot of gold in this second life, but also because the medical materials that he got in the auction had surprised him. He had thought that no more than two of them could be absorbed into the space, but in fact, four of the seven materials were absorbed and had taken root.

As for the other three, they were naturally drained and thrown away like dried turnips by Ye Xiao. Ye Xiao was quite proficient in this process; as a matter of fact, he was extremely skilled with it.

In fact, there was another thing that had surprised him. The Sky Crystal Sand had also been entirely absorbed by the space. Although he didn't know what it was used for at the moment, he was sure that the sand was valuable as it had been accepted by the space.

The Cosmic Hades, which had been re-auctioned many times before, had been waiting for its rightful owner, and it had finally met him this time - or more specifically, the right 'space', because it was automatically absorbed by the space, just like the Pure Heavenly Crystal!

It was equal in strength to the Pure Heavenly Crystal.

No. The Cosmic Hades was even more powerful than the Pure Heavenly Crystal - a lot more.

After the Cosmic Hades entered the space, it kept producing the gelid qi as usual. The Pure Heavenly Crystal was also producing scorching qi at the same time.

These two energies, with opposing attributes, were actually blending.

However, the energy from the Pure Heavenly Crystal was obviously weaker than the other. The only way it was coping with the gelid qi was through combining with the energy that originated from the other consumed medicines. But even with the help of the other medical materials, it couldn't fully withstand the gelid qi.

Therefore, the temperature of the space decreased gradually...

The whole space seemed to come to a standstill, except for the transforming energies.

The energy of the medical materials kept flowing under the egg and most of it had even been absorbed by the egg. On the jade plate at the end of the tunnel, there appeared several new dan beads.

Ye Xiao walked over and had a closer look at it.

He was instantly overjoyed!

The dan beads that had shown up this time were also top-quality supreme dan beads with dan clouds. Among the ten supreme dan beads, there were eight Pei-Yuan Dan; the other two were purple dan beads with a shiny metallic lustre.

Bone Ablutionary Dan!

It was one level higher than the Pei-Yuan Dan!

As an expert of cultivation, Ye Xiao recognized it with a single glance.

Bone Ablutionary Dan was literally used for ablution of muscles and bones to expel the filth of the body.

Cultivators who were lucky enough to use it could have a brighter future.

A 'brighter future' wasn't just a saying. A cultivator who used 10 Bone Ablutionary Dan beads could steeply increase the quality of their Jing and Mai. No matter what kind of martial arts he cultivated in afterwards, he could get twice the result with half the effort. How could this not be a brighter future?

Therefore, the Bone Ablutionary Dan was what a cultivator, who hadn't built his foundation yet, most wanted and most needed.

The Bone Ablutionary Dan was quite normal in the Qing-Yun Realm, but since the Land of Han-Yang was a rather low-level realm, it was an extremely valuable dan. Even the major sects didn't have many. Basically, only the disciples who were the crème de la crème, could have a chance to use it.

Ordinary disciples would never stand a chance to touch it, much less use it.

"My sphere has started to produce the Bone Ablutionary Dan..." Ye Xiao was pleased with these qualitative improvements.

And then he started to pay attention to the weird egg.

The way it absorbed the energies was really horrible.

Ye Xiao frowned and stared at the egg for a while and he had finally found something new. It seemed that more mysterious veins had appeared on the egg. The size of the egg had also gotten larger. However, Ye Xiao suspected that he was seeing an illusion...

If it wasn't an illusion, then why is it that the color of the egg seemed brighter than before?!

There were no other changes, except for those mentioned above. It still had no traces of life.

Ye Xiao looked at the egg, and then gnashed his teeth in hatred... "Wicked egg. When will you hatch? How many more cultivation resources do you need to absorb..."

He then turned to the side, where the planting was going on and all the gloom in his chest had instantly vanished.

In the middle of the planting area, the Heaven's Cyan was already tall and straight. It was as thick as a bowl and had already reached 16 meters in height. Its crown was almost 10 meters wide!

Every soft green leaf was like a flashing light.

The green was even more delicate than one could imagine.

It was no longer a Heaven's Cyan; it had become an early stage Tree of Cultivating Tea!

Naturally, Ye Xiao was smiling from ear to ear.

The four medical materials he had just gained had rooted themselves in the north, south, east and west corners of this area. He could clearly feel that they were much more animated now that they were inside the sphere.

Ye Xiao did some maths and was shocked by the outcome!

When he had first acquired the Heaven's Cyan, it was already over nine thousand years old. However, it still needed hundreds of years to upgrade into the Tree of Cultivating Tea. But how long was it since it first entered the sphere's space?

Five or six days?!

It had actually already become a Tree of Cultivating Tea? And since it was already in the early stages; it had even completely skipped the baby stage.

So, how much faster was the growth rate inside... compared to outside?

This question wasn't easy to answer. It required scientific research. Regardless, it was definitely a lot faster!

While Ye Xiao was overjoyed and thinking about the fast growth rate of the medical materials in the space, he clearly felt the space quiver. It brought a horrible feeling, like this place was about to collapse.

The horrible pressures came from all directions.

The pressure was crazily pushing towards the center of the space!

Ye Xiao didn't even have the time to react, before he felt himself ejected from the space.

This was not the first time that he had been ejected from the space, but this time, the feeling was countless of times stronger than before!

He totally lost control, like he was dangling inside the furious billows of the ocean. He felt nauseous and dizzy; he felt as if the world was spinning and he couldn't do a single thing to help himself!

"What the... What's going on?" Ye Xiao closed his eyes to try and relieve the feeling of nausea, but failed. He then tried to move to a nearby street corner to find something to lean on, but he couldn't. He had to crouch down and put his hands on the ground, like he was crawling.

Such an afflictive feeling was something that he had never been through before - not in his previous life, nor in his second!

His thoughts were flying about in his head. He could clearly feel that his spiritual power was being absorbed. He had fallen into an idiot-like condition, as he turned completely muddle headed...

When his spiritual power was drained completely, Ye Xiao could no longer hold on; he collapsed on the ground and passed out.

Before he passed out, he only had one thought in mind: "For goodness' sake, don't be seen by others. I am still Feng Zhi-Ling at the moment..."

...

However, things always went contrary to one's wishes.

Right after Ye Xiao passed out, several people were walking toward him slowly.

The one walking in front was the girl in cyan. Behind her, there were two other persons - one was a middle-aged man while the other was a middle-aged woman.

"My lady, shall we just go back... or shall we...?" The middle-aged woman stopped talking, as she frowned.

The girl in cyan had her face covered with silk. That's right. She was the girl in cyan who had been bidding for the Regeneration Ink Lotus against Ye Xiao at the auction.

...

## [Realms In The Firmament](#)

### **Chapter 49: Captured?**

The girl in cyan smiled softly, "No need to hurry. We came to the Kingdom of Chen to study the local customs and to observe the political scenario of this country. Of course, the most important thing is to see how the battle between the princes progresses."

"That is what we are here for."

"We are from the Kingdom of Lan-Feng. If we want to become the supremacy in this land, we need to be concerned about these important aspects."

The girl in cyan spoke blandly and turned around the corner.

As she rounded the corner, an 'oh' sound leaked out from her mouth out of surprise. The three of them had run into the unconscious body of Ye Xiao.

"This guy..." The girl in cyan's expression changed and a serious glint appeared in her eyes, "This guy... Isn't he the guy from the auction, the owner of the supreme dan beads?"

The middle-aged woman walked over and identified Ye Xiao, "Yes. This average-size, strong body and that square jaw. He is definitely that guy named Feng!"

The girl in cyan was agitated. She looked around and spoke anxiously, "He must have been assaulted..." She then reached her hand out to touch Ye Xiao's neck and said, "He is still alive. He is breathing..."

She stood up and immediately started issuing orders, "Aunt Hua, go get a carriage. Don't be discovered. Bring this guy to our house in the Kingdom of Chen. This guy... If I am right, he will be very useful in the future."

The middle-aged woman quickly left to find a carriage.

Meanwhile, the girl in cyan lifted her foot and kicked Ye Xiao's body thrice. -Pah Pah Pah!- She had sealed Ye Xiao's three major acupoints. Now, regardless of whether Ye Xiao wakes up or not, he would be unable to perform any martial arts in the near future.

She then reached out her hand and put a dan bead into his mouth before taking a black napkin from her bag and covering his head with it. She said, "Mr. Zhao, please carry him on your back. And be careful. Don't let anyone see his face."

"Yes, my lady." That Mr. Zhao obeyed and bent down before lifting Ye Xiao and placing him on his back.

The girl in cyan reached out her hand once again to quickly search Ye Xiao's body. Leaving her hand inside Ye Xiao's clothes, she stood there, shocked and confused.

She said, "Apart from some notes, there is nothing left on him... It seems that this supreme dan bead owner was robbed... In spite of carrying a bunch of precious items, he still flaunted his wealth, so it is reasonable that someone would rob him. But why didn't the ones who robbed him take these notes which are worth a small fortune? Do they not like money... Why?!"

"Or maybe... are the robbers not from the mortal world?"

"If so, who could it be?"

"Could there be an unknown force behind this?"

"This is really surprising and beyond comprehension..."

As she was collecting her thoughts, she felt her palm heat up. She realized that it was the heat coming from Ye Xiao's body.

The girl in cyan suddenly drew her hand back like she had suddenly received an electric shock. Her face was veiled and hence, her expression could not be seen; but her neck had visibly turned red.

Realizing what she did, she cursed herself: "What is wrong with me? Why was I so absent-minded? I actually kept my hand inside a man's clothes for such a long time..."

While she was lost in thought, she realized, "Hmmm. This guy's smell is not the kind that I dislike. It smells like a purified body, which has divorced the filth of the mortal world..."

"Since he has a purified body, he must be a supreme cultivator... So the one who robbed him must be at a much higher level to take this guy down without leaving a single mark on his body..."

“Therefore, the robber must at least have the strength of level six of the Grade of Diyuán... To find out an accurate estimate, we will have to wait for this guy to wake up and then confirm his cultivation level...”

By now, Mr. Zhao had walked out of the alley carrying Ye Xiao, whose head was still covered by the black napkin.

Not far from them, a carriage came into sight.

The middle-aged woman was walking besides the carriage.

The girl in cyan grabbed Ye Xiao and got in the carriage without any hesitation and the middle-aged woman followed her in after her.

Mr. Zhao didn't follow after them. Instead, he threw a piece of gold to the coachman and said, “I will take the carriage.”

He jumped on the coach without saying another word and picked up the whip. He yelled and lashed the horse and the carriage steadily moved ahead .

He sat on the front, dangling his legs with a dim light in his eyes. He looked exactly like a coachman with years of experience driving a carriage.

He could truly look like a dragon or a tiger if he wanted to be one.

Such skill was truly amazing.

Even when the carriage had gone far away, the coachman had still remained standing on that spot with a dreamy look on his face.

“Is there really someone who wishes to exchange an old carriage for a big piece of shiny gold? This piece of gold must be worth at least thirty carriages like mine! I really have made my fortune today. Pies are falling from the sky today!”

The coachman finally awoke from his stupor once the carriage went out of his sight. He put the gold into his pocket joyfully and headed home.

“Right. I should go buy another carriage. There is still a lot more I can do with this money. I can buy some new clothes for my wife. It is so sad that she has been with me for so many years and has never experienced any good days... I can also buy some decent food for my son and daughter. Oh, and new clothes for each of them. Oh, it is time to let the kids go to school...”

The rest of the money, I shall not use it rashly. And I need to earn more money as soon as possible... I should give the kids bright futures, not like mine - working as a coachman...”

He had seen a wonderful vision in his mind while he was thinking about it... He just couldn't help smiling...

...

Ye Xiao's body was twitching. Although he was unconscious at the moment, his body still twitched. It seemed like his Jing and Mai would explode at any moment...

His mind and his spiritual consciousness seemed to explode. His entire body was experiencing an excruciating pain.

His face showed a frown but his mouth remained tightly shut and he made no sounds at all.

The girl in cyan laid him on the seat in the carriage and saw his Jing and Mai sticking out and sinking back, weirdly pulsating. It looked like earthworms were wriggling within his body. She knew that he was suffering from an unimaginable amount of pain every passing moment. She couldn't help but sigh.

"What malicious thing did the robber do to him? Such an inhumane method... He has been unconscious for such a long time and the pain is still bothering him... I have tried several methods, but I still can't find any solution for this... And I can't find any clue about such a technique."

"What kind of martial arts could make people suffer like this?"

"The robber is really unscrupulous. He not only robbed him, but also attacked him in such a vicious fashion. It would be better to just kill him now than make him go through such horrible pain. It really makes people bristle with anger!" The middle-aged woman was also filled with indignation.

They had seen a lot of murders and they too had a lot of blood on their hands.

However, it was the first time in their lives that they had witnessed such a malicious technique.

It was apparently making him beg for death...

What kind of deep hatred could drive people to do such a malicious thing!

"However, no wonder this guy is the owner of the supreme dan. He really has some tough bones." The girl in cyan smiled and said, "Forget ordinary people, even an expert cultivator, when suffering from such extreme pain while unconscious, would at least scream out in agony. But this guy has never made a single sound. That is especially commendable."

There was a sense of appreciation in her tone. She sighed, "A man with such will... Is there anything in the world he can't accomplish? He wouldn't have been able to make the legendary supreme dan beads if he didn't have such strong will. I believe, now more than ever, that the supreme dan of the auction is from this guy!"

The carriage was moving steadily along the road. They were nearing the southern gate of Chen-Xing City. After a tiring journey, they arrived at the gate of a big house and the carriage finally stopped.

Mr. Zhao made a gesture causing the door to open. - 'Tik Tak Tik Tak' -The entire carriage passed through the door.

The door was closed again immediately.

...

Ye Xiao was still insensible to the changing environment. He felt like he was drifting on the choppy sea and the rogue waves were hitting him one after another. He could have sunk and died at any moment.

Ye Xiao knew that he could do nothing more but hold onto his sense of self with all his effort. He gnashed his teeth and endured the pain to the best of his capabilities. He ignored everything that was happening outside of his subconsciousness.

He didn't even know that he had already been captured by someone else like a meat on the chopping block.

When the strong quivering was finally over, Ye Xiao's body had undergone over 70 bouts of intense sweating. If not for the girl in cyan taking care of him because of his status as 'owner of the supreme dan', he would have become a skeleton due to dehydration. That was no joking matter!

It was to say, that the girl in cyan had unwittingly become the savior of the mythical supreme cultivator - the Xiao Monarch!

Of course, neither the savior nor the one who was saved had any idea about it yet!

### [Realms In The Firmament](#)

#### **Chapter 50: The Nine Spaces**

When Ye Xiao had completely recovered, the first thing he did was to get back into his mind and check out the Space in order to find out what had happened!

The day when he had been forcibly ejected from the Space, he had truly felt that the Space was about to be destroyed. The worst possible outcome now would be if the Space really collapsed. That would've been an absolutely fatal strike for Ye Xiao!

At this moment, he truly didn't care about his whereabouts: He was simply glad to be alive!

He entered the Space and was instantly stunned with what he saw!

"Is this... Is this the Space which I had known?"

It was not destruction which had taken place; it was reconstruction!

Well, it might be a bit too much to describe it as reconstruction. There weren't many changes in the minor details. However, the entire place had been separated into nine parts!

The egg was placed at the core of the space!

The front, the back, the left, the right, the top... The nine parts were located in nine different locations and each of them could be identified with nine different colors: Nine different spaces!

The first space was on top with the Cosmic Hades inside, continually emitting the blue gelid qi. This space was obviously not filled - not even one percent of it had been occupied.

There was an ivory space below which contained the Pure Heavenly Crystal. Likewise, it was barely filled.

There was a space on the left containing precious plants. The plants were producing a cyan coloured-qi. Naturally, it was also far from being completely filled...



There was another space containing the Sky Crystal Sand. It was quite empty at the moment, but it was certainly not as empty as the remaining five spaces, because the other five spaces were completely barren.

'The world of nine elements'!

These words unexpectedly popped up in Ye Xiao's mind as he looked around the nine spaces.

Within each space, distinct words could be found hovering in the air.

'Sky Space'

'Earth Space'

'Gold Space'

'Wood Space'

'Flame Space'

'Water Space'

'Soul Space'

'Yang Space'

'Yin Space'

The nine Spaces!

The Cosmic Hades was in the Sky Space; the Pure Heavenly Crystal was in the Soul Space; the Tree of Cultivating Tea and the other plants were in the Wood Space; the Sky Crystal Sand was in the Gold Space!

The rest were all empty. Apparently, Ye Xiao was yet to collect anything that had attributes corresponding to those Spaces.

The next moment, sixteen words appeared from the void and spun extremely fast, flying past Ye Xiao's eyes. They turned into purple clouds and then into purple qi before finally entering into the Space.

To assemble the nine elements; to reverse the world. The nine return to their origin; the Ruler of the Firmament!

He didn't need any explanation. Ye Xiao knew exactly what it meant.

To fully utilise the Space, Ye Xiao needed to collect all the nine kinds of qi. Only then could he open and enter the gate which led to ultimate strength.

If he completely filled the nine spaces with the nine different types of elemental qi, he would become the Ruler of the Firmament!

Looking at the items in the Space, he felt like they were just a drop in the ocean. Ye Xiao felt like weeping, but had no tears, "This is Space is going to play me till death. Where the hell can I acquire this

amount of treasures? I am afraid that even filling the Space with the entire Qing-Yun Realm may not be enough to make 'the nine return to their origin'..."

Meanwhile, he heard faint voices from his surroundings.

Ye Xiao felt like crying and drew back his mind from the Space... "That is quite a strike. So many Spaces and every one of them is massive... What am I going to do with them. How long will it take for me to fill it?"

And then he heard a voice of a girl sounding outside, "He must have made it through the pain successfully... This guy is really tough. For a whole day... he hasn't been broken down... He actually got through it..."

"Such power of will is truly worth admiring..."

"I wonder who on earth did this..."

"Yes. Such a method is really unscrupulous and cruel..."

"Hmm. Bring some water and feed him. We can't let him die. If he really dies of dehydration, that is going to be a big joke."

"Yes."

And then he heard a girl stand up and leave to fetch some water.

Ye Xiao understood a lot from this short conversation.

"First of all, I am not in my own house; second, the two women think that I was attacked... Third, my true status hasn't been revealed yet; fourth, this girl may have saved me, but she may not have good intentions as my Jing and Mai are blocked... Therefore, I can only conclude that I am a captive here?"

He felt relieved at the same time. The mutation before was really scary and he was totally defenseless at that time. Let alone martial cultivators, even an ordinary person could have easily killed him. No matter what the girl's intention was, she had saved his life after all. He would have to repay this debt anyway.

He had disguised himself and turned into Feng Zhi-Ling. Now, if he wanted to take off the disguise, he needed to perform his martial arts again.

In fact, if no one had paid attention to him or done anything to him while he was in coma, his body would have automatically performed the arts in order to regain his true appearance.

If so, his secret and status would have been exposed.

However, someone had shown up and blocked his Jing and Mai and this caused his secret disguise to be maintained.

Unfortunately, this resulted in the pain that Ye Xiao suffered to become several times stronger. However, compared to his body exploding, his status and secret...

It didn't matter at all.

Ye Xiao groaned and woke up 'slowly'. He opened his eyes with 'difficulty' and looked around.

He saw a girl in cyan walkover and ask him in a soothing tone, "Are you awake?"

Ye Xiao looked at her and found that his savior was actually the girl who had bid against him for the Regeneration Ink Lotus, so he felt relaxed. He spoke 'faintly', "Lady... It is you... Where... Where am I? Did you save me?"

The girl in cyan smiled softly and said, "A simple gesture. Nothing to speak of. Brother Feng, you don't need to take it to heart."

Ye Xiao acted like he was extremely thrilled, he blushed and reached out his hands to hold the hands of the girl in cyan. He said gratefully, "Lady... You saved my life. What you have done is equivalent to giving me a rebirth. I will always remember your kindness..."

Things happened so quickly that the girl didn't have time to react. She didn't expect a dying patient could reach out his hands so fast. She only felt that her hands had fallen into his warm palms.

The pretty hands of hers that had never been touched by any man, were actually held firmly by this guy!

A blush immediately appeared on her face and feelings of anger surged in her heart. She wanted to draw her hands back. She spoke with a constrained smile, "Brother Feng, you are too kind. It really means nothing..."

Ye Xiao kept holding her soft hands and didn't let go. He spoke with a sigh, "Lady, you are kind-hearted and have saved me from danger. And yet you don't claim the credit. You really have a strong sense of integrity. But I am not the kind of person to treat such kindness with ingratitude, am I?"

He held her hands even more strongly and said, "You are such a kind person. You are ladylike and soft, brave and gentle. You are noble and you spread joy to the whole world..."

The girl tried to withdraw her hands again, but failed. She was hearing every complimentary word from his mouth. She couldn't be mad, and she didn't dare to act too recklessly. She was afraid that she would hurt him again as he had just recovered from a serious condition. If so, her efforts to save him would be in vain...

She found it both funny and annoying as she said, "Brother Feng, could you please let go of my hands first? I... I am not used to..."

"Oh Oh Oh..." Ye Xiao instantly let go of her hands, "Oh. I am being rude... Sorry. Sorry..."

He rubbed his fingers and he could still feel the lingering presence of her soft hands in his palms. What a wonderful feeling...

However, there was something wrong - seriously wrong.

Ye Xiao had obviously felt that this girl was a cultivator, and her strength was powerful. He felt that she was making a showy display of her ability.

She had been disguising herself in order to show people that she was weak.

In fact, in the Land of Han-Yang, there were not many people that could see through her disguise. However, Ye Xiao could. How could a simple trick like this escape his attention. He had once been the Xiao Monarch who had ruled the Qing-Yun Realm!

The sense of her strength was faint, but it was real. Even if she had covered it very well, Ye Xiao could still feel it.

Such strength wouldn't exist if she wasn't a cultivator who focused on swords.

However, Ye Xiao had pretended to be a lecher so as to hold and touch her hands, but he didn't find any trace of sword play!

There wasn't even any trace of martial arts!

That was weird. It was totally against common sense.

No matter how much she took care of her skin, or how many times her body was ablated, it wouldn't change the fact that whoever cultivated with swords, or any martial arts for that matter, would have traces of this martial art on his or her hands. These traces were not noticeable to ordinary people, but they were quite obvious to cultivators, especially to expert cultivators.

But this girl didn't have any trace of cultivation at all!

At that moment, although he hadn't touched her hands for long, the girl had asked him to let go, so he had to let go.

When Ye Xiao withdrew his hands, he felt embarrassed.

He was the Xiao Monarch, not some lecherous guy. After being admonished by a girl, even if he had a thick hide, he couldn't stop the blush creeping up his neck. He felt really awkward.

After all, the hands of a young lady... were not something a man should casually hold, so he apologized in a low voice, "Well, uh... Sorry... that I touched your... um... your hands... for that long..."