

## Gourmet 111

### Chapter 111: A Woman Who Is More Capable at Causing Trouble Than Owner Bu

"As expected of the Light Wind Empire's imperial city, it's really festive. It's much livelier than our lousy, far-flung sect," Ni Yan muttered as she curiously scanned her surroundings. Her feminine body was concealed under her loose robe as she slowly walked on the imperial city's Long Street.

It was an early winter morning. The sides of the streets were packed with hawking peddlers as well as small-time merchants selling various goods. It was unexpectedly lively. It seemed that even the swirling snow was unable to reduce the enthusiasm of the vendors.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao carefully followed after Ni Yan for fear of losing her in the crowd. Everything was good about their cheap master[1]. Her talent for cultivation was so strong that she reached seventh grade Battle-Saint. Her culinary skills were excellent as well. The dishes she cooked were overwhelmingly fragrant. Even her looks were peerless. However, she had one laughable weakness and that was having a poor sense of direction.

"Xiaoyinyin, you should just run a stall at our sect's plaza in the future. You might make even more money. You'll be able to provide some liveliness to our sect as well. Usually, I don't see anyone around whenever I leave my room. How embarrassing," Ni Yang said to Tang Yin, who was following behind her.

Tang Yin immediately forced a laugh. Why would a sixth grade Battle-Emperor like him set up a stall at their sect's plaza... He was not stupid.

"By the way, what's the name of the restaurant belonging to that senior of yours?" Ni Yan tilted her head, revealing part of her beautiful face hidden under the veil.

Tang Yin was about to reply but before he could say anything, he was interrupted by Ni Yan. "Oh, since he's such an arrogant fellow and his cultivation level is high as well, he should be running the most famous restaurant in the imperial city..."

Tang Yin wordlessly watched as Ni Yan went up to a middle-aged woman who was selling vegetables and directly asked which was the most famous restaurant in the imperial city.

"The most popular restaurant in the imperial city? Without a doubt, it's the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant," the middle-aged woman replied with a strong accent.

Immortal Phoenix Restaurant? Ni Yan nodded. After thanking the middle-aged woman, she continued walking forward. Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao helplessly looked each other in the eyes. In the end, Tang Yin still opened his mouth and said, "Master, the restaurant's name that the senior mentioned seems to be... Fang Fang's Little Store."

"What Fang Fang's Little Store? He might as well call it Yuan Yuan's Little Stall[2]. What a depressing name. Nevermind, we'll go to that Fang Fang's Little Store later. Let's take a look at the most famous restaurant in the imperial city first. I want to try out their dishes," Ni Yan seriously said.

Even though Ni Yan was the third elder of the Celestial Arcanum Sect, she was different from the other elders who concentrated on studying astrology and divination. She set all of her mind on culinary instead. She liked cooking using the meat of spirit beasts and researching new dishes. However, the most important thing was that she was a glutton.

She had an almost obsessional craze about food.

Tang Yin was at a loss as he watched his master swagger ahead of him. Their master would lose all of her self-control whenever food was mentioned. It looked like this Immortal Phoenix Restaurant was going to suffer.

Even though their master was fond of eating, she was even more picky because of her fondness...

The three of them soon reached the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. The beautifully furnished restaurant was still packed with people. There were frequent customers coming and going and its business was flourishing as usual.

Even though one of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's chef had lost in cutting techniques against the owner of the black-hearted store, this did not prevent the customers from eating here.

"Oh my, is this your first time honoring our restaurant with your presence? Please, come in."

The moment Ni Yan and her disciples stepped into the store, the middle-aged but still attractive elder sister Chun approached while swinging her hips.

After Ni Yan gave elder sister Chun a glance, her mesmerizing eyes turned and looked in another direction, causing elder sister Chun to feel quite embarrassed.

After Tang Yin stepped forward and exchanged a few words with Elder sister Chun, she gleefully brought the three of them toward an empty table on the first floor.

As Ni Yan moved to sit down on the stool, her long robes slightly rose up and partially revealed her slender and fair legs. Then, her elegant eyebrows knitted together as she drew a line on the table with her finger and unhappily gave her assessment, "The hygiene is inadequate and poorly affects my appetite. I give a poor rating."

Elder sister Chun's eyebrows rose as her magnificent chest trembled... Why did these words sound so familiar to her?

"Bring me all of the dishes on the first floor that you think are first-rate!" Ni Yan said to elder sister Chun after finishing her assessment of the hygiene.

The sense of familiarity that elder sister Chun was feeling became even stronger. She could not help but recall the last time when a young man spoke similar words. That handsome young man who was always expressionless...

Good heavens, could this woman be here to find fault as well?

Elder sister Chun was truly terrified by Bu Fang the other time.

However, since that was the customer's request... she could only follow them. Therefore, she arranged for someone to prepare the dishes.

While the dishes were being prepared, elder sister Chun gave Ni Yan an introduction of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's rules and layout.

"So, you're saying that this restaurant has three floors and the first floor is the worst?" Ni Yan asked. When elder sister Chun nodded, she stopped speaking after she softly replied, "Oh."

After waiting for a while, the first dish arrived. A waiter with a white towel draped over his shoulder came and placed a plate of Red Braised Lion's Head in front of Ni Yan.

Ni Yan removed her veil and her face that was so exquisite that would make one forget to breath was suddenly exposed to elder sister Chun and that waiter.

The waiter was astonished. His eyes were almost popping out of their sockets... She was simply too beautiful! Her beauty was comparable to the imperial city's number one beauty, Xiao Yanyu!

However, after taking a small bite of the Lion's Head, Ni Yan knitted her eyebrows together. She suddenly started listing out a bunch of flaws regarding the Red Braised Lion's Head in a rapid manner. The waiter and elder sister Chun were dumbfounded as they woke up from their stupor.

Ni Yan's actions reminded them of the young man who gave the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant a thrashing the previous time...

Even though some slight changes were made to the Red Braised Lion's Head according to Bu Fang's evaluation, the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant did not spend too much effort on the dish since it was a first floor dish. As a result, the dish was heavily criticized by Ni Yan.

The other dishes suffered the same fate as well. Even though Ni Yan's appearance was extremely beautiful, her mouth was extremely cruel when criticizing the dishes. She was far more ruthless than Bu Fang.

Elder sister Chun was feeling very resentful after listening to her criticisms, and Ni Yan was planning to head to the second floor after finishing the first floor's dishes.

Since Tang Yin had the money, elder sister Chun was unable to stop them. She could only hurriedly contact Qian Bao, because she felt this beautiful woman was more capable at causing trouble than Bu Fang...

When Qian Bao hurried to the second floor, Ni Yan had already finished half of the dishes.

"Hmm? This flower crab isn't too bad. Even though the quality of the meat is terrible, the chef did an okay job with controlling the oil's temperature. The crab butter was cooked just right as well... This one is still alright, when compared with the other dishes," Ni Yan gave her assessment after having a bite of the Pan-Fried Flower Crab.

Qian Bao was standing on one side with tears all over his face. This woman was truly fearsome. She mentioned the exact same things as Bu Fang and even praised the places they revised according to Bu Fang's assessment.

"Overall, the dishes on the second floor are much better than the first floor. However, flaws are still present. Let's go to the third floor now," Ni Yan said as she stood up.

After hearing these words, Qian Bao's expression immediately turned awkward. Only those with venerable identities like the emperor were allowed on the third floor. The identity of the woman standing before them was completely unknown to him. It was impossible for him to let her step onto the third floor.

"I am sorry, but the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's third floor is not open to ordinary customers for the time being," Qian Bao said.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao were shocked. Ni Yan was stunned as well. She turned her head and her devastatingly beautiful eyes locked onto Qian Bao.

Qian Bao was feeling rather scared from her stare, so he forced himself to repeat his words.

Ni Yan was unhappy with his refusal. She coldly looked at Qian Bao and said while emphasizing every single word, "Let me go up, otherwise... I'll tear down your restaurant."

Qian Bao's expression immediately went cold. Was the woman in front of him planning to cause trouble here in his restaurant? He clapped his hands and three fifth grade Battle-King experts suddenly appeared.

"Dear customer, you'll need to consider your own capabilities before trying to cause trouble at my restaurant. Otherwise..."

Thump!!

Ni Yan lifted a hand and slightly pressed down. Suddenly, before Qian Bao could finish his words, the three Battle-Kings were pressed down onto the floor. The words that Qian Bao wanted to say were also stuck in his throat...

"Otherwise, what?" Ni Yan sweetly asked with a beautiful smile as she gave Qian Bao a glance.

## Chapter 112: Deep-Fried Wandering Dragon Cow Meat Sausages

Cold sweat immediately started dripping down from Qian Bao's forehead. Forcing three Battle-Kings to lie down on the ground with just one hand... Just how powerful was this beautiful woman in front of him?

These three Battle-Kings were already the strongest defensive force within the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. The faction behind him had only allocated these three experts for him to handle any sudden situations, and in the past, they had proven to be more than capable enough. Nevertheless, on that day, they encountered someone that the three could not handle.

Tang Yin, who was standing behind Ni Yan, sympathetically looked at the three Battle-Kings lying on the floor. Battle-Kings were nothing in front of a seventh grade Battle-Saint.

Ni Yan withdrew her hand and a smile suddenly appeared on her beautiful face as she said, "Owner Qian, you'll let us go onto the third floor now, right?"

Qian Bao actually wanted to say no. However, the capability of the woman in front of him was simply too terrifying. He felt that if he really refused her request, she might really tear down the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

Qian Bao wondered why his luck had been so terrible recently. The third floor's rule was actually broken twice in a row. This was purely an affront to the dignity of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"Yes..." Qian Bao agonizingly replied as he started walking, leading the three of them toward the third floor of the restaurant.

Ni Yan immediately chuckled and raised her pretty eyebrows as she followed after Qian Bao.

Stepping onto the antiquated third floor, the pleasant smell of sandalwood incense was wafting in the air, creating a relaxing mood. The third floor was decorated with many pretty ornaments and the view was quite beautiful.

"The furnishing is unexpectedly pretty good." Ni Yan nodded as she looked around. Suddenly, her eyes focused on something in a distance. Placed next to a table, there was a white tofu flower blooming with fur-like petals inside a crystal bowl.

"This... This is the work of a chef from the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" Ni Yan walked closer and attentively admired the tofu flower. The more seriously Ni Yan observed, the more astonished she became. She saw that the tofu flower was not just simply two or three layers, but was formed by a thousand layers stacked together...

Of course, the so-called thousand layer was not literally a thousand layer. However, the scene of the tofu densely packed together still made Ni Yan suck in a breath of cold air.

The cutting technique used to create this work had already reached an uncanny level. At the very least, Ni Yan conceded that her own cutting techniques were incapable of performing such a feat.

"No... This is the work of Owner Bu." Qian Bao sighed with emotion as he gazed at the thousand layer tofu flower. This piece of work was brought back by Qian Bao after the match with Bu Fang ended. He perfectly preserved the tofu flower and sealed it within a crystal bowl, making the tofu flower seem as if it was an exquisite piece of artwork and giving it an ornamental value. This was an idea that Qian Bao had suddenly come up with.

"Owner Bu?" Ni Yan puzzledly looked at Qian Bao.

Qian Bao raised his eyebrows. The woman in front of him who was so obsessed with food was actually... unaware of Owner Bu? Did they come from outside of the imperial city?

"Owner Bu is the owner of Fang Fang's Little Store," Qian Bao earnestly explained.

Tang Yin obviously knew who Bu Fang was and immediately became somewhat excited. As expected... the senior he knew was not someone who would be unknown within the imperial city.

Fang Fang's Little Store... Ni Yan narrowed her eyes. From the preciseness of the cutting technique, she could tell that the chef from Fang Fang's Little Store was definitely not an ordinary person. Involuntarily, Ni Yan's interest toward Fang Fang's Little Store became even stronger.

On the third floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, it was hard even for Bu Fang to find too many flaws in the three dishes. After improvements were made according to Bu Fang's assessment,

the dishes were one step closer to perfection. Therefore, Ni Yan quietly finished the three dishes of delicious food that somewhat uplifted their mood.

"They're very delicious. As expected of the third floor, your chefs possess some capabilities indeed." Ni Yan put on her veil once more, concealing her peerless facial features. With a wave of her hand, she took out some gold coins and handed them to Qian Bao.

Qian Bao was quite surprised that he could still receive the money... With the woman's strength, Qian Bao would not be able to defy her even if she tried to dine and dash...

"Have someone bring us to that Fang Fang's Little Store. I am very curious about the sort of food the chef who could perform such a cutting technique would make," Ni Yan said.

"Owner Bu's dishes are definitely delicious. It's just that the price is rather expensive, that's all..."

"Money? Money is not an issue. You just have to bring us there." Lu Xiaoxiao, who remained quiet all this time, finally spoke up. They were not lacking in wealth at all.

Since the other party expressed their indifference, Qian Bao personally led them toward that small restaurant situated in an alleyway.

...

White snow swirled around in the skies, scattering snowflakes here and there and covering the entire imperial city with a layer of silver frost.

As Bu Fang removed the door boards, the cold air mixed with a few pieces of snowflakes instantly rushed into the store, causing him to slightly shiver for a moment.

After preparing the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs for Blacky, Bu Fang returned to the kitchen once more. There was an especially important matter he had to settle that morning.

Bu Fang was very serious as he stopped in front of the cupboard where the Wandering Dragon Cow sausages were being dry-cured. As he carefully opened the cupboard, a burst of meaty aroma accompanied with a medicinal fragrance gushed out.



Bu Fang reached his hand out and pinched one of the sausages. He could feel a slight springiness coming from the sausage. This indicated that the sausage had finally been dry-cured to a degree he desired. The sausage coating was rather hard and there was a slight springiness when pinched. This proved that the sausage had already been dry-cured.

Suppressing the agitation in his heart, Bu Fang took out the twenty one sausages from the cupboard. Cutting off one of the sausages, he stored the rest of them inside the refrigerator.

Bu Fang could not wait to cook this sausage that he had been looking forward to for some time. However, he still needed to make some preparations before doing that.

He first poured some oil into the wok and waited until the heat coming from the oil's surface was slightly hot before putting the sausage into the oil.

Once the sausage entered the oil, a sizzling sound immediately sounded out from the wok. White waves of oil enveloped the sausage and continuously bubbled, appearing like somewhat cloudy snowflakes.

The fragrance of the oil and the meaty aroma of the sausage instantly spread out from the wok and filled the entire kitchen. The smell of the spirit herbs were blended with these aroma as well, forming a fragrance that could cause one to lose their self control just from inhaling the aroma.

The smell was simply too fragrant. Even Bu Fang couldn't help but salivate.

He did not actually include too many steps within the cooking process of the sausage because there was no need for them. He had already completed everything else that was necessary. Now, he only needed to wait for the sausage to be cooked.

Since the sausage coating was made from the submucosa of a seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow, ordinary oil was not warm enough to deep-fry the sausage. Therefore, during the cooking process, Bu Fang had to carefully send true energy into the wok of oil in order to infuse heat into the sausage.

Once the intensity of the fragrance wafting in the air reached a certain level, Bu Fang swiftly used chopsticks to remove the sausage from the wok of oil. After the oil on the sausage was filtered away, a rosy and shiny sausage was presented before Bu Fang.

A meaty aroma accompanied with a medicinal fragrance wafted out from the sausage and continuously flowed into Bu Fang's nostrils. Before Bu Fang could even taste the sausage, he was already feeling his taste buds being covered and conquered by this aroma.

A wisp of green smoke appeared for a moment and the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife was held in Bu Fang's hand. He carefully sliced the sausage into three pieces. The moment the sausage coating was cut open, the beefy aroma contained within the sausage coating billowed out as if a bomb had exploded. The smell was even stronger than before and reached almost every corner of the store.

At the entrance, Blacky was gobbling down the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs while wagging its tail when it suddenly stopped. Then, its eyes blinked as it raised its head and started sniffing the air... What smell was that? It smelled so good!

Qian Bao was leading Ni Yan and her disciples, and they had just arrived before the store. Before they could even enter the store, a surging wave of meaty aroma completely enveloped their sense of smell, causing them to be completely captivated by the fragrance.

Whether it was Qian Bao, who had the lowest cultivation level, or Ni Yan, who was a seventh grade Battle-Saint, they were all captivated by the meaty aroma of the sausage.

Just by slicing open a big sausage, the entire Long Street was wafting with fragrance.

Chapter 113: You Are Customers, but It Isn't

"This meat... smells so good! How can it be so fragrant?!"

Ni Yan's devastatingly beautiful eyes were filled with incredulity as they slightly widened. The rich smell of meat wafted toward her and flowed into her beautiful nose. Suddenly, all of the pores throughout her body seemed to have exploded.

As someone who was both a chef and a glutton, Ni Yan's pastime was sampling and researching all kinds of food. She once tried to cook a dish using a sixth grade spirit beast, but she unfortunately

failed. The meat of a sixth grade spirit beast was filled with a rich amount of spirit energy. However, once these spirit beasts perished, the spirit energy would be locked within their carcasses. If a person sliced off a piece of meat from the carcass, the spirit energy contained inside that piece of meat would rapidly dissipate.

With her experience, Ni Yan was able to instantly analyze the composition of the aroma wafting in the air. She not only detected a meaty aroma, but also a medicinal fragrance and a rich amount of spirit energy as well.

The concentration of spirit energy in the air made her feel incredulous.

Qian Bao was continuously swallowing his saliva. He thought, "This fragrance... Not even our restaurant's most delicious dish, the Roasted Flower Duck, could compare with this smell. As expected, Owner Bu's culinary skills is extraordinary. I must definitely have a taste of his cooking today."

The expressions of Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao, who were standing behind Ni Yan, were both filled with euphoria. This was not the first time that they had encountered such a rich meaty aroma. Previously, when they were in the wildlands, Bu Fang had cooked a roast meat with a strong fragrance as well. Even till that day, the flavor of the roast meat was still unforgettable for them.

Bu Fang was carrying a porcelain plate with three pieces of sliced sausages scattered on the top. A slight warmth was lingering around the surface of the sausage. There was also a wave of fragrance that was close to solidifying melding together with the spirit energy.

Bu Fang could not wait to have a taste of this overwhelmingly fragrant sausage. He had just stepped out of the kitchen when he saw the four people standing at the doorway with euphoric expressions. A trace of doubt appeared on his face as he exclaimed, "Eh? Someone's here so early today?"

Normally, there would not be any customers at such an early hour. Even Fatty Jin who always came on time would usually take a while to arrive.

"Senior! It's us!"

When Tang Yin saw that familiar appearance and that familiar smell, his eyes immediately lit up as he excitedly waved his hand toward Bu Fang.

"Hmm?" Bu Fang gave Tang Yin a glance. After thinking for a moment, he finally recognized the man who was waving to him at such an early hour. The encounter at the wildlands left quite a deep impression on him.

"Oh, it's you. It's been a while. Are you here to eat? Come in," Bu Fang expressionlessly said before placing the plate in his hands on a table.

The eyes of the four humans plus a dog all followed Bu Fang's actions and fell on the table. The sound of swallowing resounded throughout the room.

Everyone subconsciously stepped into the store. Their eyes were all focused on Bu Fang, who had already sat down at the table. He was holding onto a pair of chopsticks and was about to start eating.

Bu Fang was unconcerned about the actions of the others. The wooden chopsticks in his hand opened and Bu Fang gently clamped one of the three pieces of sausage. The moment the chopsticks squeezed together, an aromatic grease naturally seeped out of the sausage.

The fragrance wafting in the air suddenly became even stronger.

Bu Fang carefully observed the piece of sausage. The place where the cut was made was extremely smooth and the meat inside was tender and fragrant. Bu Fang's appetite was being aroused just from looking at the sausage.

As Bu Fang took a bite of the sausage, the sound of his teeth colliding together with the crispy sausage casing seemingly could be heard.

While Bu Fang was taking a bite, Qian Bao and the others slightly opened their mouths as well and subconsciously licked their lips...

The texture of the sausage was very springy, and the crispy sausage casing as well as the tender beef filling instantly enveloped Bu Fang's mouth. The fragrance lingered in his mouth like a thick fog and was impossible to dispel.

Since the sausage was slightly hot, Bu Fang tried to cool it down by opening his mouth. He exhaled a breath of hot air along with the sausage's fragrance.

Gulp...

"Bark!"

Rumbling noises sounded out from the stomachs of the four, and Blacky barked once while licking its lip.

However, at that moment, Bu Fang was completely immersed within the delicious flavor. After he began chewing, only then was he able to perfectly experience the taste of the sausage. Since a little rock sugar was mixed within the sausage, the sausage casing was not only crispy but also a little sweet. It became even more flavorful and caused the meaty aroma to burst forth like an explosion and instantly charge out from Bu Fang's nostrils.

"It's delicious!" Bu Fang exclaimed. The familiar flavor of the sausage made him feel nostalgic. The sausage made from the meat of the Wandering Dragon Cow as well as various spirit herbs tasted even more superb.

It was the meat of a seventh grade spirit beast after all. As expected, it was not something that ordinary meat could compare with.

After swallowing the mouthful of sausage, Bu Fang licked his lips while feeling unsatisfied. His eyes seemed somewhat blurry...

"Hmm? Why are you guys looking at me like that?" When Bu Fang woke from his daze, he puzzledly looked at the others. The drooling appearance of the four humans plus a dog made it impossible for Bu Fang to not feel amused.

"Are you the one who cooked this sausage?" Ni Yan asked as her beautiful eyes stared straight at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang nodded as he shoved the rest of the bitten sausage into his mouth.

"I... Can I have a taste?" Ni Yan hesitated for a moment before asking.

The others were also looking at Bu Fang with expressions filled with expectation. The smell of the sausage was simply too enticing. It was so fragrant that they were not themselves.

Bu Fang gave her a glance and indifferently said, "No."

Ni Yan was stunned. Tang Yin was stunned. Everyone was stunned... Oh, Blacky was not stunned. It was still licking its lips and looking at Bu Fang with eyes that were filled with expectation.

Someone actually refused her? Ni Yan was somewhat bewildered. How many years had it been since she faced such a situation?

Ni Yan took off her veil and revealed her devastatingly beautiful and peerless appearance. Her delicate, red lips slightly curled up and her pretty eyes stared straight at Bu Fang as she asked, "Now... Can I have a taste of the sausage?"

Ni Yan was more confident about her appearance than her strength. She was certain that no one would be able to remain composed after witnessing her appearance.

However, she was wrong this time. When Bu Fang gave her another glance, astonishment flashed across his eyes and then he still indifferently replied, "No."

"You..." Ni Yan was exasperated. How could he speak like that to a beauty like her?!

"Then, why don't you tell me, what do I have to do in order to taste the sausage..." Ni Yan was really itching to slap this fellow in front of her to death. However, when she thought about how such a delicious sausage could only be made by this despicable fellow, she was unable to do it.

"Are you stupid? Look at the menu." Bu Fang pursed his lips and picked up another sausage. He delightfully shove the sausage into his mouth and chewed it with relish.

When Ni Yan saw Bu Fang's infuriating expression while enjoying the sausage, she was really tempted to kick his face in. While enduring the enticing fragrance of the sausage, she raised her head and looked toward the menu hung on the store's wall. The moment she looked, her beautiful eyes widened once more.

"Bark!!"

Blacky was furious! It thought, "How dare this rascal ignore this lord dog! How could you not offer up such a delicious sausage to your lord dog?!"

Bu Fang went into a daze for a moment. He rubbed the lord dog's head and softly said, "Stop messing around."

"Who's messing around with who!" Blacky thought as it roared out once more. This roar was filled with his tremendous anger as well as his yearning toward the sausage. "Bark!"

Bu Fang sighed in his heart. He knew he would not be able to eat this last piece of sausage. He grudgingly patted Blacky's head and handed over the sausage to it.

Blacky's eyes were gleaming and its tongue was hanging out as it excitedly swallowed the sausage with one bite. Thereafter, it narrowed its eyes and had an expression filled with satisfaction.

Ni Yan had just turned back. She wanted to question Bu Fang about the unreasonable pricing. However, before she could say anything, she witnessed a scene where Bu Fang was feeding the sausage to a dog...

Bu Fang was feeding the sausage that was so delicious that they were unable to control themselves to a big black dog... A black dog... A dog!

"What do you mean by that... What's your basis for letting the dog eat when I couldn't?" Ni Yan asked with a cold expression.

Bu Fang had stood up and was picking up the plate and chopsticks when he heard Ni Yan's question. He immediately gave her a puzzled glance and said, "There's no particular reason. You're customers, but it isn't."

After he finished speaking, he headed toward the kitchen. When he reached the doorway, he suddenly remembered something and turned his head toward the others.

"Here's a reminder, only three servings of Wandering Dragon Cow Sausage are provided each day. If you want to eat them, you should quickly order."

## Chapter 114: This Is a Secret

Bu Fang watched as the three Wandering Dragon Cow Meat Sausages rolled about inside of the wok filled with oil. Even though he had already eaten a sausage, he couldn't help but crave for more after smelling the fragrance exuding from the sausages. A dish made from the meat of a seventh grade spirit beast simply possessed too much allure.

"He might as well rob someone... Selling a single sausage for two hundred fifty crystals, he's practically demented!" Ni Yan could not help but silently curse as she sat down in a huff.

Sitting next to her, Tang Yin could not refrain from feeling somewhat dumbfounded. Even though the price was two hundred fifty crystals per sausage, they still bought them in the end... The ones who bought the sausages, weren't they even more demented?

Next to them, Qian Bao sucked in a breath of cold air. As expected of the store well-known as black-hearted within the imperial city, a single sausage... was actually being sold for two hundred fifty crystals. That was almost equivalent to an entire week of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's earnings. He actually could not even afford to eat a single sausage.

Glancing at the big black dog that was delightfully lying at the entrance, Ni Yan became infuriated. Such a delicious sausage was eaten by a big black dog just like that. It was simply a waste of good food.

However, there was nothing else she could do. Like Bu Fang had said, she came to the store as a customer. If she wanted to taste the dishes, she would naturally need to make an order and pay for them with crystals. That big black dog was not a customer, so Bu Fang could just feed it with the sausage.

Simply put, this was an issue with their identities. Even though Ni Yan was angry, she could still reluctantly accept this reason.

After Ni Yan looked through the menu, she was frankly shocked internally. Every single dish on the menu was ridiculously expensive. However, contrary to her expectations, there really were customers who patronised the store.



Looking at the obese men wrapped within their overcoats in the next table, Ni Yan was slightly speechless.

By Fang soon walked out of the kitchen while holding two white porcelain plates in his hands. The sliced pieces of two of the Wandering Dragon Cow Meat Sausages were scattered on the plates. A rich fragrance that was close to solidifying wafted out from the porcelain bowls.

How fragrant! Everyone within the store was attracted by the smell. They could not help but sniff the air, hoping to smell even more of the fragrance.

"This is the Wandering Dragon Cow Meat Sausage that you ordered, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang said to Ni Yan and then placed the other plate in front of Tang Yin. He turned around and went back into the kitchen and then came back with the last plate, placing it before Lu Xiaoxiao.

The three of them eagerly started eating. Tang Yin swallowed a piece of sausage with a single bite. His eyes almost popped out as he vigorously chewed the food in his mouth, seemingly intending to even swallow his own tongue.

Lu Xiaoxiao's appearance while eating was pretty similar to Tang Yin. She was completely immersed within the delicious flavor and was unable to control herself.

On the other hand, Ni Yan was more rational. She was solemnly sizing up the sausage and evaluating the dish by carefully observing its color, smell, appearance, and various other aspects.

After understanding the situation, Ni Yan picked up a piece of sausage and began slowly savoring its flavor in her mouth... The rich meaty flavor was like a stream as it gradually blossomed in her mouth, causing both of her body and mind to be captivated by the deliciousness.

"How fragrant! How delicious! Is this really a sausage? This is the most delicious sausage I've ever had!" Ni Yan was extremely astonished. She had completely fallen.

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile as he watched the three of them eating with relish. He turned around and headed back into the kitchen to start preparing the dishes of Fatty Jin and the others.

When Bu Fang had fulfilled all the orders, Ni Yan and her disciples had also recovered from the deliciousness of the Wandering Dragon Cow Meat Sausages. They were looking at Bu Fang with strange gazes.

Ni Yan's eyes were staring straight at Bu Fang. Her gaze was seemingly intending to swallow Bu Fang in a single bite. "Tell me, how did you prevent the spirit energy within the meat of the spirit beasts from dissipating! I've been researching this sort of technique for a long time, but I've still been unable to control the spirit energy residing within the meat of the spirit beasts!"

Immediately after taking the first bite, Ni Yan understood why Bu Fang was selling the sausages at such an expensive price. The effects of eating one of his sausages were more potent than swallowing a sixth grade elixir. The spirit energy contained within the sausage was beyond her imagination.

The meat used to produce this sausage was definitely not from an ordinary spirit beast... Wandering Dragon Cow, could it be that Wandering Dragon Cow?!

Bu Fang wiped off the water droplets on his hands and gave Ni Yan a glance. The eyes of this peerless beauty were filled with the thirst for knowledge. Her large eyes, which seemed to contain circulating water ripples, were filled with expectation as she stared at Bu Fang. Even Bu Fang was nearly moved by her.

"This is a secret," Bu Fang said.

Ni Yan was exasperated... She nearly forgot that beauty was useless in front of this blockheaded fellow.

"Once the meat of a spirit beast was damaged, the spirit energy contained inside would dissipate. The higher the grade of the spirit beast, the faster the rate of dissipation... From the looks of this meat, the grade of the spirit beast it came from is definitely not low. How did you do it?"

"This is a secret," Bu Fang replied.

Ni Yan's complexion darkened. At that moment, she had an impulse to turn this infuriating fellow into minced meat with a single slap...

"Then, you should at least be able to tell me the grade of the spirit beast that this meat came from, right?" Ni Yan asked in a huff. The incredible concentration of spirit energy within the meat gave Ni Yan some suspicions of her own. However, she was still unsure... If her suspicions really were true, it would be really terrifying.

"This is a sec... Oh, I can tell you this." Bu Fang was going to give the same answer out of habit, but he paused for a moment and quickly changed his reply.

The true energy within Ni Yan's body started moving erratically as she endured the urge to throw out a punch. You even got into a habit of saying it was a secret?

"Why do you think a sausage could be sold for such an expensive price?" Bu Fang asked as he looked Ni Yan. "That's because the meat itself is expensive. This meat is from a seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow..."

...

Ten miles away from the imperial city's gate, the third prince's army had set up camp on an empty plain. They did not choose to enter the imperial city.

The third prince took off his military attire and changed into a refined white robe. He elegantly stood in front of the troops with two people following behind him. One of them was wearing a bamboo hat with a black veil, while the other was a vigorous person who was both tall and burly.

"Your Highness, entering the imperial city would definitely be perilous. Your subordinate must accompany you at all times, in order to ensure Your Highness' safety!" The tall and burly man opened his mouth and said.

Ji Chengxue helplessly glanced at the man, but he did not refuse him. He slowly headed toward the towering imperial city underneath the morning sun with his hands held behind his back.

As he stepped through the city gate, the winter wind was blowing but he still felt a familiar feeling rushing into his face.

Ji Chengxue felt nostalgic as he looked at the streets of the imperial city. There was not much difference from before he left, but he could still feel a bit of change.

From a distance, two groups of people were slowly approaching to receive Ji Chengxue.

"We welcome the third prince's return to the imperial city. Would Your Highness please enter King Yu's manor for a chat," an elderly official said to Ji Chengxue. His tone was actually not considered respectful.

Ji Chengxue recognized this person. He was a high-ranking official within the imperial courts. From the looks of it, he chose to side with King Yu.

Nevertheless, this was not a good enough reason for his arrogant attitude. Ji Chengxue expressionlessly gave the man a cold glance and the corners of his mouth curled up as he said, "Your Excellency, how arrogant you are. No matter how much of a dire straits I am in, I am still a prince. While I was fighting and killing our enemies outside of the border, I wonder which brothel Your Excellency was staying in. What's your basis for talking to me in such a manner?"

That court official was immediately startled. His pupils constricted and his entire back was dripping with cold sweat.

The burly man standing behind Ji Chengxue immediately gave an angry snort as he stepped forward and ferociously glared at the court official. The court official was so frightened that he took several steps backward and fell on his buttocks. This court official was only a scholar. How could he withstand the angry glare from a man who was like a vicious beast.

From a distance, another group of people slowly approached. The person leading them was a young eunuch. They were evidently the crown Prince's subordinates.

"This humble servants greets Your Highness. The crown prince found out that Your Highness has returned to the imperial city today, so he specially ordered this humble servant to receive and invite Your Highness to enter the imperial palace for a chat with him." The young eunuch was a good talker and his attitude was reverential and respectful.

Ji Chengxue's expression slightly improved and he nodded.

However, even though he nodded, he did not show any intentions of moving. He swept his gaze over the two group of people and started chuckling.

A gentle voice sounded out from his mouth.

"Go back and tell my dearest elder brothers, tell them that I am exhausted after a long trip and I don't want to see them. If they have anything to say, we'll talk... during father's funeral."

## Chapter 115: Master, Don't Just Focus on Eating

King Yu's manor, in the middle of the pavilions next to a pond.

King Yu was calm and composed as he slowly walked along a covered walkway with his hands held behind his back. He was wearing a long robe with a feather cloak draped over his shoulders.

Behind him, the high-ranking official who went to receive the third prince had a trace of fear on his face as he followed King Yu without making a single sound.

"You're saying that my third brother rejected the invitations from both me and the crown prince?" King Yu's indifferent voice sounded out, startling the high-ranking official. That high-ranking official hurriedly nodded in response.

King Yu suddenly started to chuckle with a laughter that contained a trace of amusement. The corners of his mouth curled up as he stared at the pure white snow that covered the courtyard.

"What's this supposed to be? Now that your wings have grown tough, you have come to participate in this mess? The situation within the imperial city is already chaotic enough... do you think it's not chaotic enough?" King Yu muttered to himself. He seemed to be questioning something and then a trace of disdain appeared on his face.

"You're just a prince that was almost abandoned... What right do you have to compete with me?"

...

Next to the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, in the crown prince palace.

Two figures were standing straight, looking into the distance from the crown prince palace. They could nearly see the entire plaza of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery from where they stood.

"Regarding my third brother's return, does elder Zhao have any questions or suggestions?" The crown prince looked toward the elderly man standing next to him. Calling him elderly was not actually correct. Even though Zhao Musheng's hair had already turned white, his facial features were not considered old.

Zhao Musheng's gaze was both cloudy and everchanging, as if he could see through the fickleness of the world. He indifferently said, "There's no need for the crown prince to be worried. Even though the third prince is a noble prince, he was still disregarded by the former emperor after all. After spending long periods of time on expeditions outside the border, he has the air of a soldier ingrained upon him. He's destined to have no connection with the throne."

The crown prince was immediately pleased when he heard those words. Even though he was not really concerned about his third brother, the interference of a prince—while the imperial city was in such a chaotic situation—was enough to create some disturbances.

Zhao Musheng gave the crown prince a glance and put up a faint smile. "With the support of the Ouyang family and Yang family, as well as the Zhao family, what other worries does the crown prince have? So what if His Majesty's will has not been announced? With your subjects' support, Your Highness only needs to wait for your enthronement."

There seemed to be some kind of magic in Zhao Musheng's words. The anxiety in the crown prince's mind could not help but be soothed, making him feel at ease. Even though the crown prince kept feeling something was strange, he was unable to find the source of the strangeness.

"Your Highness, this Gate of Heavenly Mystery was built by the Light Wind Empire's founding emperor. According to legends, a spirit array was engraved into this place. Is there any truth to this?" Zhao Musheng asked as he pointed toward the vast plaza of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery in a distance.

The crown prince was startled for a moment. He looked toward the plaza of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery that had long since been covered by a layer of pure white snow.

"There are indeed mentions of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery's oddness within the records left by our forefathers. However, the earliest record is already dating back to a few hundred years ago. Now, we have no way of verifying the truth. At least, father has never made any mentions about the

Gate of Heavenly Mystery having a spirit array. Perhaps... this is just a legend," the crown prince said.

Zhao Musheng seriously sized up the crown prince for a moment. When he saw that the crown prince did not seem to be lying, he knitted his eyebrows together.

"Is it really only a legend?"

...

"Here's your Golden Shumai, please enjoy your meal."

Bu Fang said as he placed a bamboo steamer filled with piping hot Golden Shumai in front of Ni Yan. When he subconsciously glanced toward the porcelain plates on the table, he realized this woman had actually ordered every single dish in his store.

Ni Yan's pretty eyes immediately lit up when she saw the glittering Golden Shumai. She hurriedly nodded and swallowed the last piece of Red Braised Meat in her mouth.

"Burp... It's been a long time since I've tasted such delicious food!"

After letting out a burp, Ni Yan stretched her rosy tongue out and licked her petal-like, tender, red lips. Her pearly white teeth were partly visible. Her dazed expression was filled with charm.

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth curled up as he glanced at her actions. He wiped off the water droplets on his hands before pulling over a chair and sat down opposite to Ni Yan.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao had ordered some dishes as well, but they were already full from eating. However, even though she was a woman and a beautiful one at that, Ni Yan was unexpectedly eating without a care in the world. Her appearance while eating was completely like that of a veteran glutton.

As she picked up a Golden Shumai with her chopsticks, the slight squeeze immediately caused the oil within the shumai to shake and almost spill out. Ni Yan carefully held her hand below the chopsticks as she ate the shumai with a single bite. She looked really adorable with her cheeks bulging from the food in her mouth.

"Senior... I didn't expect that you really were an authentic chef," Tang Yin exclaimed as he looked at Bu Fang. He always thought that was just an excuse for Bu Fang to conceal his identity.

"I am as real as real can get. I am a professional chef, the chef of a small restaurant located in the imperial city," Bu Fang said with a nod.

Lu Xiaoxiao's large eyes blinked as she looked at Bu Fang. She was feeling slightly suspicious about how Bu Fang's current behavior was completely different from how he was in the Wildlands...

However, when she saw her own master wolfing down her food in an unladylike manner, her suspicions toward Bu Fang were immediately dispelled... Compared to her own gluttonous master, this senior was simply far more exemplary.

"Senior, may I ask whether the Phoenix Blood Herb from the Fallen Phoenix Valley is in your possession?" Lu Xiaoxiao seriously asked.

Bu Fang was slightly surprised when he heard this question. He expressionlessly gave her a glance and nodded without concealing the truth.

At that time, the two of them probably went back to the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix after getting into safety. When they discovered the Phoenix Blood Herb was already harvested, they naturally suspected Bu Fang...

Seeing that Bu Fang did not deny, a trace of delight immediately appeared on Lu Xiaoxiao's face. She hurriedly turned toward her master, only to discover that Ni Yan had once more picked up another two Golden Shumai and was shoving them into her mouth with a face filled with happiness.

"Master... Don't forget our purpose for coming to the imperial city!" Lu Xiaoxiao thought, while not knowing whether to laugh or cry. This gluttonous master of hers immediately forgot about everything else once she found something delicious.

"Junior sister, there's no need to hurry. Senior is right here. We can discuss the matter of the Phoenix Blood Herb after master has finished eating," Tang Yin slightly frowned as he gave Lu Xiaoxiao a glance.



Bu Fang leaned on his chair as he glanced toward the three of them. He looked pensive as he thought, "So, the objective of these three for coming to the store is the Phoenix Blood Herb..."

"Haha! Owner Bu, it's been a long time."

Just when Bu Fang was contemplating, a gallant laughter suddenly came from outside. This laughter was somewhat familiar and interrupted Bu Fang's contemplation.

Bu Fang puzzledly looked toward the entrance and saw two figures stepping into the store together.

That person who was laughing, was he not Ji Chengxue, the third prince who had just returned after an expedition outside the border?

There was also a man wearing a bamboo hat with a face veil standing next to Ji Chengxue. His figure was rather familiar as well.

"Hmm? It's you? Did you just come back from your business trip?" Bu Fang asked with a smile.

Ji Chengxue was startled, seemingly unable to understand Bu Fang's words. However, that did not matter. With a smile, he sat down at a table and urgently said, "Owner Bu, it's been a while since I've drank the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine. I am really craving for a jar right now. Hurry and give me a serving."

Bu Fang nodded. As he stood up, he looked toward the man wearing a bamboo hat with a face veil and asked, "What about you?"

"I'll have the same." A hoarse voice sounded out as the man took off his bamboo hat, revealing a handsome face that was familiar to Bu Fang. Xiao Yue chuckled as he nodded toward Bu Fang.

It was the two of them as Bu Fang had expected, but he was still somewhat puzzled. Why would the two of them be hanging out together?

"Are you not going to order any side dishes to go with the wine?" Bu Fang asked as he turned around after reaching the entrance to the kitchen.

"No, I just want the wine. I am here today to sate my craving for wine," Ji Chengxue said with a smile as he shook his head. Xiao Yue responded the same way as well. Bu Fang immediately felt a tinge of disappointment as he entered the kitchen.

Xiao Yue was sitting opposite to Ji Chengxue. When his gaze landed on the face of the peerless beauty that was gobbling down her food, he stared blankly at her for a moment.

Thereafter, Xiao Yue's pupils constricted as he suddenly sucked in a breath of cold air.

"This woman... Why would she be here?"

## Chapter 116: Fine Wine, Dragon's Breath

Xiao Yue recognized this woman. Or, to put it differently, there were very few people within the top experts of the ten great sects that could not recognize this outrageously beautiful woman.

"The Celestial Arcanum Sect's... third elder!" Xiao Yue's eyes narrowed as he stared at the scene of Ni Yan gorging herself with food and took a deep breath.

Leaving aside Ni Yan's cultivation level, her identity as the elder of the Celestial Arcanum Sect alone was enough to attract Xiao Yue's attention. Even though the Celestial Arcanum Sect was considered part of the ten great sects, strictly speaking, they had already transcended the level of the group.

The Celestial Arcanum Sect focused on divination and Astrology. Each and every one of their disciples were extremely mysterious and the ones roaming about in the world were all at least fifth grade Battle-Kings. Furthermore, their combat capabilities were strong and they were experts at setting up magic arrays to battle their enemies. They were an existence that every sect was wary about.

The Celestial Arcanum Sect's legacy dated back a long time ago. Furthermore, they rarely involved themselves with worldly matters and did not have any form of interaction with the imperial power. Even though Emperor Changfeng was aiming to destroy the ten great sects, he had never made any bold claims about eradicating the Celestial Arcanum Sect.

The sect was like a taboo that elicited reverence from many people.

Furthermore, as the third elder of the Celestial Arcanum Sect, Ni Yan's cultivation level had reached the level of seventh grade Battle-Saint. She was not any weaker than the Light Wind Empire's number one guardian, Xiao Meng.

"This woman... Why would she appear here in the imperial city at such a sensitive time?" Xiao Yue was truly feeling somewhat puzzled. According to the Celestial Arcanum Sect's usual way of doing things, they should have no interest in worldly affairs or matters related to the imperial power...

"What are you looking at! Have you never seen a beauty before?!" Lu Xiaoxiao said in dissatisfaction as she widened her eyes and gave Xiao Yue a glare.

She knew this gluttonous master of hers was outrageously beautiful, but this rather good-looking man was actually staring at her in such an open manner. What a shameless fellow!

When Tang Yin gave Xiao Yue a glance as well, his dashing eyebrows knitted together and he became on guard.

This was the ability of experts to sense each other. Xiao Yue's cultivation level had already reached the pinnacle of Battle-Emperor and Tang Yin was a Battle-Emperor as well. Their combat capabilities were evenly matched and the both of them could naturally sense a dangerous aura from each other.

"Hmm? What's going on?" Ji Chengxue puzzledly asked when he felt the destructive aura exuding from Xiao Yue. Thereafter, he turned his head and looked toward Ni Yan and her disciples.

"These three people... are not simple," Xiao Yue serenely said as the aura exuding from his body suddenly dissipated. Within Bu Fang's store, he neither wanted—nor dared—to cause trouble. He still remembered the terrifying combat capability of that puppet as well as that thing lying at the entrance, that... supreme beast.

Tang Yin dispelled his aura as well and looked away. The two of them seemed to have reached a tacit understanding and resolved the situation in silence.

Bu Fang soon walked out of the kitchen, grabbing two jars of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine in his hands.

This gluttonous woman, Ni Yan, seemed to be only interested in food and unexpectedly did not order the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

"Here's your wine, please enjoy," Bu Fang said as he placed the jars onto the table.

Xiao Yue and Ji Chengxue were already close to reaching their limits. They each grabbed a jar of wine and removed the cloth covers.

When the rich aroma of the wine instantly pervaded the air, Xiao Yue and Ji Chengxue were immediately intoxicated by this enchanting aroma and they were unable to control themselves.

This wine aroma... Ni Yan and her disciples were attracted by the aroma of the wine as well. Their eyes suddenly widened as they looked toward the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

Ni Yan shoved the last piece of Golden Shumai into her mouth and finally finished eating every single dish in Bu Fang's store. She had an enjoyable time eating the food. At least, she subconsciously felt delighted when looking at the entire table filled with porcelain plates.

"The aroma of this wine is pretty good," Ni Yan stood up and lazily stretched her body. She fondled her belly before walking over to Xiao Yue and Ji Chengxue's table.

"Owner Bu's Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine is the best wine that I've ever drunk. Would the young lady like to have a taste?" Ji Chengxue gently said with a smile.

Ni Yan blinked for a moment and naturally took up the offer. She requested a porcelain cup from Bu Fang, placed it in front of Ji Chengxue and said, "Fill it to the brim."

"The best wine that you've ever tasted, hehe, is this better than the 'Dragon's Breath' brewed by the old drunkard?" Ni Yan murmured with a smile.

A clear liquid like spring water was poured into the porcelain cup, filling it to the brim. Ni Yan lifted the porcelain cup and took a small sip. The bitterness immediately spread in her mouth.

"Hmm? The taste is unexpectedly pretty good." Ni Yan smacked her lips and said with a nod, "However, compared to the 'Dragon's Breath' brewed by the old drunkard, it's still lacking by a little bit."

Bu Fang was somewhat surprised. This was the first time someone said that his wine was inferior to another wine. This made him very curious.

"Is 'Dragon's Breath' a type of wine?" Bu Fang asked.

Ni Yan looked toward Bu Fang and raised her eyebrows as she thought, "Even a rascal like you has moments where you have questions to ask me." She nodded in a tsundere-like manner and said with a snort, "I admit that the taste of the dishes in your store are pretty good, but... I've eaten dishes that are far more delicious than your food. Since the Hidden Dragon Continent is so vast, there's naturally a lot of delicious flavors. There are artificial flavors as well as natural flavors... It's only natural for there to be food that are more delicious than yours," Ni Yan said.

Bu Fang agreed with what she said. Even though he was confident, he was not arrogant. He nodded with a somewhat serious and solemn expression on his face.

"Let's take 'Dragon's Breath' for instance. The old drunkard's Dragon's Breath use several hundred types of valuable spirit herbs. In order to brew this wine, it needs to be placed at the bottom of the crater lake at Mount Tiandang and allow it to ferment for three years. The color of the liquid is like a burning flame and is exceptionally beautiful. It tastes bitter with a tinge of mellowness. After drinking a mouthful, you'll feel as if you're standing under a dragon's fire breath and both your body and mind will feel renewed."

"Even though this wine is pretty good as well, it's still lacking a little compared to the 'Dragon's Breath'," Ni Yan truthfully said.

The old drunkard was a mysterious expert from the Celestial Arcanum Sect and his cultivation level was unfathomable. At the very least, Ni Yan was unable to see through his cultivation level. Moreover, she was fortunate enough to have drunk a small cup of that 'Dragon's Breath'. The wine left her with an extremely deep impression, and therefore she gave such a speech.

"System, our wine seems to have lost," Bu Fang said to the system.

The system did not reply immediately and was silent for a long time. It was so long that Bu Fang nearly assumed the system did not feel like replying him.

Abrupt mission: Would the host please research and create your own wine that can surpass the 'Dragon's Breath' and subdue the old drunkard.

(Young man, there will be many obstacles on the path to maturity! Destroy the obstacles! Spread your wings and soar!)

System reward: Dragon Blood Rice and ten percent of true energy cultivation progression.

The system's serious and very solemn voice suddenly rang out next to Bu Fang's ears, causing him to jump in surprise. Thereafter, Bu Fang was feeling somewhat dumbfounded... The system just issued an abrupt mission at the slightest disagreement.

Furthermore, the abrupt mission this time was rather interesting. He had to create a better wine than the 'Dragon's Breath' that Ni Yan introduced. The difficulty was... higher than usual.

While Bu Fang was lost in thought, Ni Yan had already finished the cup of wine. Looking at her, she was indeed uninterested in the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

"Burp..." Ni Yan let out another burp and a cloud of spirit energy gushed out from between her tender, petal-like, red lips.

Her pretty face was slightly reddened, making her beautiful beyond comparison. After eating so much delicious food that was brimming with spirit energy, there seemed to be signs of a breakthrough for Ni Yan's cultivation that had not shown any signs of activity for a long time.

To be able to trigger signs of a seventh grade Battle-Saint's breakthrough, it clearly showed how much spirit energy Ni Yan had ingested just now, especially the seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow Meat Sausage which contained the highest amount of spirit energy.

Even though Ni Yan was a glutton, she was extremely meticulous about her cultivation. When she perceived that she was about to reach a breakthrough, she paid her bill and swiftly dashed out of the alleyway while pulling along Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao. Within an instant, she was gone.

While Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao were being dragged away by Ni Yan, they were in a state of confusion as they thought, "Master... What about our purpose for coming to the imperial city! You seemed to have forgotten again!"

## Chapter 117: The Arrival in Force of Experts from the Sects

Bu Fang was dumbfounded as he watched Ni Yan disappear in a hurry. The corners of his mouth widened into a grin. He was originally planning to discuss things with her so that she could be the appraiser of the fine wine he was going to brew... After all, Ni Yan was the only person he knew who had tasted 'Dragon's Breath' before.

"No matter what, Owner Bu's wine is already the best wine I've ever tasted," Ji Chengxue said with a smile as he raised his cup toward Bu Fang. After giving his heartfelt praise, he drained the cup in one gulp.

Xiao Yue performed the same actions as well. They had never drank 'Dragon's Breath' or whatever before, so they were not clear which wine was superior between the two. However, compared to the Bejewelled Nectar Wine that they had before, Bu Fang's Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was the best and nothing else was comparable. The two of them believed that seeing was believing.

Bu Fang nodded his head toward them in appreciation and said, "I know that there's always someone better out there, so I won't let myself be blinded by arrogance. I'll work hard to research a new kind of fine wine. When the time comes, the two of you can come over to taste the wine. I believe it'll definitely surpass that 'Dragon's Breath' or whatever."

Bu Fang's voice was very calm, like his usual way of speaking. It was a reserved confidence that did not needlessly reveal itself.

The eyes of Ji Chengxue and Xiaoyue immediately lit up and they nodded, one after another. The two of them were naturally overjoyed that they could become Bu Fang's wine tasters. After all, with the quality of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine as an example, any wine that was meticulously created by Bu Fang would definitely be good.

Afterward, the two of them drank their wine as they chatted with Bu Fang. Even though Bu Fang's replies were still indifferent and terse as usual, they still had a good time since they had already gotten used to Bu Fang's mannerism.

After their wine was finished, the two stood up and paid their bill before bidding farewell with Bu Fang. With their hands held behind their backs, the two satisfiedly stepped out of the store and into the snowy world outside.

The winter wind blew past and caused the sleeves of their robes to flutter.

Bu Fang cleaned up the blue and white porcelain jars as well as the pile of plates that were cluttering Ni Yan's table. The corners of his mouth involuntarily widened into a grin. Even though that woman looked so beautiful and had a great figure as well, her appetite was frighteningly large. She was unexpectedly a genuine glutton.

"However... to be able to eat is a blessing," Bu Fang thought.

After tidying up everything, he curled up on a chair near the entrance and watched the monotonous snowy scenery outside of the store. While waiting for the customers to arrive, he pondered over how he was going to develop a fine wine that could surpass 'Dragon's Breath'.

...

A group of beautiful figures were walking on the streets of the imperial city with their hips swaying. The white snow falling from the skies seemed to have turned into pink petals and a melodious and heart-titillating sound of bells seemed to be resounding in the ears of the pedestrians.

As their fair and delicate feet trode on the street covered by pure white snow, the layer of snow sunk a little but their delicate feet remained fair and sparkling clean. Red-string bracelets attached with bells were worn around their ankles and produced tinkling sounds as they walked.

"Clink, clink."

In this cold winter with snow covering the entire sky, these five women all had pink gauze outfits. Their facial features were beautiful, and they were seductive and charming. As they swayed their bodies from side to side, their arousing figures were vividly displayed.

The eyes of the pedestrians in the area were almost popping out from their heads. The five beauties with voluptuous figures parading themselves were a feast for the eyes of many men. There were



even some with lesser composure that had two streams of blood trickling from their nostrils, triggering coquettish giggling from the five beauties.

Xiao Yue and Ji Chengxue were standing with frowns on their faces within the crowd, watching the five enchanting back figures.

"The Joyous Union Sect is here as well, and they're even prancing about in the imperial city. If father was still around, he would've already executed these demonesses." Ji Chengxue shook his head and softly sighed.

Once Emperor Changfeng passed away, these sects and factions were immediately buzzing with activity. Now, they were even brazenly swaggering around the imperial city. However, with the unstable situation within the imperial city, there was no one who had the time to deal with them.

"What is the group of women from the Joyous Union Sect doing here in the imperial city? Are they planning to participate in the fight over the throne as well?" Xiao Yue puzzledly asked with a cold expression.

Ji Chengxue chuckled while slowly moving forward and said, "That second elder brother of mine has even accepted the Soul Sect, so what if he accepts another Joyous Union Sect? Perhaps, the White Bone Palace and Death Soul Palace would send their members here as well... He's ready to risk everything for the sake of the throne and has already stopped caring about the risk of asking a tiger for its hide."

...

King Yu's manor.

With a stern expression, King Yu was sitting high above the hall and solemnly looking down at the sect's experts with powerful auras.

With his back hunched over, Hun Qianyun, who was wrapped within a black robe, said, "King Yu, the experts from both the Joyous Union Sect and White Bone Palace have already arrived. As the Death Soul Palace had suffered huge losses because of Emperor Changfeng, they will temporarily be unable to send anyone. However, within the experts that came, the Joyous Union Sect dispatched two Battle-Emperors, three Battle-Kings, and several dozens of Battle-Maniacs. The White Bone Palace has sent two Battle-Emperors, two Battle-Kings and a hundred Battle-Maniacs. With the addition of my Soul Sect's forces, we'll definitely help King Yu ascend the throne."

King Yu indifferently listened to Hun Qianyun, but the more he listened the more alarmed he became. As expected of sects with a thousand years of legacy. Despite the constant expeditions conducted by Emperor Changfeng, they could still dispatch so many experts. There were even quite a number of sixth grade Battle-Emperors.

The thing was, Battle-Emperors were already considered the top combat force within the imperial city.

"Hmm, very good. Then, I shall rely on everyone here. Your rooms have already been prepared. I am sure that all of you must be tired after a long journey, you may go ahead and rest," King Yu said.

Among the five erotic beauties of the Joyous Union Sect, a beautiful woman with a curvaceous figure—who was wearing a pink gauze outfit that revealed her fair and slender arms and legs—gave King Yu a coquettish glance and said, "I've often heard that King Yu is dignified and imposing. After witnessing your splendor today, this lowly woman has really been awed by King Yu's air of sovereignty."

As the woman spoke, a hint of redness appeared on her face. She appeared bashful and timid as she continued, "I wonder if it's possible for King Yu to have a chat with this lowly woman tonight."

"Kekeke! Wei Xiangsi, you flirtatious hussy. Even though you're in the presence of King Yu, you're still behaving in such a lewd manner. How could someone like King Yu be interested in you? Why don't I accompany you instead?"

A high-pitched laughter rang out as the man leading the White Bone Palace's side started laughing and his gaze greedily ran over Wei Xiangsi's shapely figure.

Wei Xiangsi's expression immediately turned cold. She gave the man from the White Bones Palace a glance and said with a sneer, "Bone King might be in the mood, but this lowly woman isn't. With your thin and weak body, this lowly woman is afraid you won't be able to get it up."

Once those words were spoken, coquettish laughter immediately burst out from the Joyous Union Sect's side. That Bone King was so angry that he was staring daggers. True energy suddenly gushed out from his body, as if a fight was about to occur from the slightest disagreement.

Hun Qianyun did not say anything. The spirit fire hidden underneath the black robe was slightly pulsating.

King Yu indifferently swept his gaze toward the two of them. The corners of his mouth curled up as he leaned on one side and used his left hand to support his head. He coldly observed the two.

Behind King Yu, a figure had appeared without anyone noticing. That figure seemed to be assimilated into the empty air. With a snap of King Yu's fingers, that figure instantly appeared in front of the two.

Two daggers that sent chill down their spines were each pressed against the neck area of Wei Xiangsi and the Bone King.

"I'll naturally reward those who aid me, but if you... mess around in front of me, there's nothing stopping me from slaughtering all of you. Remember, I am King Yu. You all are just... dregs from the sects."

As an eerily cold voice rang out, a dreadful presence and aura burst forth from King Yu's body and true energy vigorously circulated around him.

The experts from the sects standing below suddenly sucked in a breath of cold air as their pupils constricted. King Yu... had already become a sixth grade Battle-Emperor!

...

The front entrance of the Xiao manor was tightly shut. A cold winter wind blew past, swirling up the spotlessly white snowflakes.

A figure wearing a bamboo hat with a black veil was quietly standing from a distance, calmly looking at the Xiao manor with eyes filled with nostalgia.

"What? Are you homesick?" Ji Chengxue's mild voice rang out from behind him as he stood next to Xiao Yue.

With a hoarse voice, Xiao Yue replied, "Mother said before, she once asked father, if the emperor were to pass away one day, which prince would he support."

Ji Chengxue's pupils slightly moved as he asked, "Oh? And, the result was?"

Xiao Yue did not immediately reply him, but started to chuckle instead. He took off his bamboo hat and his bright eyes looked straight at Ji Chengxue as he said, "The result was... mother is still sleeping, while I am standing in front of you."

## Chapter 118: Amethyst Heart Orchid and Sky Spirit Abalone

On Xiao Yue's handsome face, those pitch-black pupils resembled twinkling stars in the night. They were blooming with dazzling splendor while staring straight at Ji Chengxue.

Ji Chengxue was stunned when he heard Xiao Yue's words. His dashing eyebrows furrowed together and almost touched each other as they continued to approach. He sucked in a deep breath of cold air and then exhaled a white cloud of hot breath, dispersing the falling snowflakes.

"What's the meaning of your words?" Ji Chengxue asked with a tone that was slightly colder than before.

He had always been unable to understand why Xiao Yue would harm his own mother, Ji Ru'Er. Even though Xiao Yue was deeply immersed in the art of the sword before the incident occurred, he did not display any signs of going too far...

The incident three years ago when Xiao Yue stabbed his mother and shattered her heart with a sword strike was even more bizarre and difficult to understand than Xiao Yue's desertion and later admission into the Void Sword Pavilion.

There was a time when Ji Chengxue was enraged because Ji Ru'Er was his biological sister and his closest relative within the imperial palace. She was someone he had always depended on, a haven where he could receive comfort whenever he suffered a grievance.

During that time, when Ji Ru'Er was getting married, he even held a sword against Xiao Meng's chest and had him swear an oath. Even though this was an action that appeared childish, it clearly showed the importance of his elder sister in his heart.

After his mother passed away, Ji Ru'Er became Ji Chengxue's most important loved one.

Three years ago, when Ji Chengxue found out that Ji Ru'Er had fallen into a coma after Xiao Yue struck her down, he chased after Xiao Yue with a sword throughout the night with the intention of killing him. Even though he did not succeed in the end, this was a clear display of his feelings for his elder sister.

On the last expedition against the sects outside of the border, Xiao Yue was the one who took the initiative to pay Ji Chengxue a visit. During a dangerous moment, he rescued Ji Chengxue and saved his life.

This was the reason why Ji Chengxue was puzzled and needed Xiao Yue's explanation.

"My dear uncle, you might not believe my explanation. However, what if I told you that mother did everything for your sake as well as the sake of the Xiao family?" Xiao Yue let out a soft sigh. His eyes slightly lowered and revealed a faint sadness.

"Father's cultivation level is unrivalled. A seventh grade Battle-Saint is already unequalled within the imperial city. If he really wanted to kill me, I wouldn't be able to resist at all... However, I am still alive and well. Do you know why?" Xiao Yue said. At that time, when he fought with Xiao Meng from Fang Fang's Little Store to the imperial city. There were several opportunities for Xiao Meng to directly slay him, but he still stayed his hand in the end.

Xiao Yue understood that his profoundly powerful father must have discovered something.

Ji Chengxue's eyes slightly narrowed as he beckoned Xiao Yue to continue. Perhaps, this might be the moment his doubts would be completely dispelled.

However, Xiao Yue did not say much and did not give Ji Chengxue any detailed explanations either. He turned his head toward Ji Chengxue and said, "Mother had always hoped that father would support you. After His Majesty passed away, she hoped you would become the next emperor."

"Unfortunately, father refused. He refused to support any prince because he only wanted to serve the true emperor. Mother said father was being too honest... that he might cause a calamity to befall the Xiao family."

Ji Chengxue's eyes narrowed as he meaningfully looked at Xiao Yue and discovered the latter's expression remained the same.

"What does all these have to do with you stabbing your mother's heart? After saying all of this, what are you trying to tell me?" Ji Chengxue's gaze was sharp as a sword as he pressed Xiao Yue to continue.

Xiao Yue turned his head and said, "She just wanted to fulfill you as well as protect the Xiao family... You should understand the meaning of having meritorious deeds that eclipse one's master[1]. If the reigning emperor was still Emperor Changfeng who inspired awe throughout the empire, the Xiao family would naturally be safe. However, once Emperor Changfeng has passed on, the new emperor would never let leave Xiao family be. Whether it's the crown prince or King Yu, the Xiao family would be a thorn in their side once they ascended the throne. You're the only one who might refrain from destroying the Xiao family because of mother's sake."

"As expected of my elder sister, she has always been exceptionally intelligent. She thoroughly understood the situation. So, she made you shatter her heart in order to understand the way of the sword, and then forced you to rebel against the empire and join the Void Sword Pavilion? What's her objective?" Ji Chengxue asked.

"She wanted me to support you as a representative of the Xiao family," Xiao Yue serenely said. His state of mind was like a well of water without a single ripple.

"Ridiculous... What would a woman like her know! Does she think that I need her to sacrifice herself? How dare she make such a decision without first discussing things with me! Did she never think about how upsetting her current situation would be for me? And you, why are you causing trouble with her?"

For the first time, Ji Chengxue lost his refined attitude and became somewhat hysterical. His eyes were red as he angrily scolded Xiao Yue while pointing at him, one sentence at a time. After a long while, he finally became tired.

"Now that father has passed away from his illness, you've come to endorse me as the next emperor? I can't compare against my elder brothers and you can't represent the entire Xiao family either... How am I supposed to compete with them? What she did, only made herself suffer." Ji Chengxue let out a sigh.

He always thought Xiao Yue's ambition caused Ji Ru'Er's coma. He had never anticipated that everything was part of his own elder sister's plan for him to become the next emperor.

As he recalled his childhood and his elder sister's gentle gaze whenever he suffered a grievance, Ji Chengxue's desire to compete against his elder brothers over the throne became even stronger. He was not doing it for any other reason, but for the sake of his elder sister's good intentions.

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The winter night arrived quickly, and the snow had stopped. In the starry night sky, two crescent moons were calling out to each other and releasing a chilly radiance.

The store's opening hours had ended and Bu Fang was starting to put the door boards back in place. Blacky, who was lying at the entrance, widely yawned and mumbled to itself for a moment before going back to sleep.

Giving Blacky a glance, Bu Fang broke into a grin. This lazy dog was still as lazy as ever.

Suddenly, a series of footsteps came from the alleyway and a figure gradually appeared from the darkness.

Bu Fang puzzledly looked at the somewhat familiar figure. He wondered why this person would come to the store at such a time.

"Owner Bu, are you closing up for today?" Xiao Yue hoarsely asked while faintly smiling at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang expressionlessly gave him a glance before he replied, "The business hours are over, so I am naturally closing up."

Xiao Yue nodded. Suddenly, with a flash of light, a sandalwood box appeared in his hand. The exterior of the box was gorgeously decorated and a rich medicinal fragrance was wafting out from within.

Xiao Yue solemnly looked at Bu Fang and gravely said, "Owner Bu, I... have a humble request. The effect of your elixir cuisine, the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup, was astonishing. Are you capable of cooking other types of elixir cuisine as well?"

"As long as the ingredients are provided, I can," Bu Fang confidently replied before he curiously looked at Xiao Yue. Could he be requesting him to cook the elixir cuisine?

"This is the sixth grade spirit herb Amethyst Heart Orchid as well as the fifth grade sea spirit beast Sky Spirit Abalone. I hope Owner Bu can use them to cook an elixir cuisine... I am willing to pay a heavy sum as remuneration," Xiao Yue earnestly said as he looked at Bu Fang with expectation.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows as he glanced at the abalone that was the size of two palms and sucked in a breath of cold air. He did not anticipate that Xiao Yue would be able to obtain such ingredients that were truly hard to come by.

Bu Fang seemed to be able to feel Xiao Yue's sincere gaze. Even though he did not know what Xiao Yue was planning to do with the elixir cuisine, he could tell from the ingredients that it was meant for saving someone.

Bu Fang did not refuse. He nodded as he accepted the ingredients. After storing them into the system's storage space, he said, "Since you only brought a single portion of ingredients, I can't guarantee success. If I fail... I won't collect remuneration."

Xiao Yue was startled for a moment and then nodded. He understood that cooking an elixir cuisine was very difficult, so he did not insist on a guarantee. However, the ingredients were truly difficult to find, so he could only prepare a single portion.

"Then I shall thank Owner Bu in advance. If you succeed, when should I come to collect the elixir cuisine?" Xiao Yue asked.

Since Bu Fang had already collected the ingredients, he did not say much. After placing the last door board in place, his voice came from behind the door board, "If there are no accidents, come back in three days."

Xiao Yue nodded, turned around and left.

There was only three days left until the emperor's funeral...

Chapter 119: An Abalone with Its Own Magic Array



After Bu Fang placed the door boards back in place, he went back into the kitchen. He originally wanted to practice his cooking, but he did not anticipate that Xiao Yue would actually present such a difficult problem to him when the store was closing.

Even though Bu Fang had only cooked a single type of elixir cuisine—the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup—before, he was very familiar with the principle behind the cooking process. The main point was the test of the chef's familiarity of the true energy culinary method, since more attention needed to be paid on the control over true energy when cooking elixir cuisines than ordinary cooking.

"System, could you give me an explanation on the origins and effects of these two ingredients?" Bu Fang directly asked the system without feeling abashed. For him, the system was an encyclopedia that basically contained information on all ingredients.

The system was silent for a moment before giving Bu Fang a reply.

"Amethyst Heart Orchid: a sixth grade spirit herb that grows on amethyst ore veins. Its maturity period is one hundred years and only three Amethyst Heart Orchid will grow on a single amethyst ore vein. Every single herb has a reddish purple color and its surface is covered with vein patterns that resemble burn marks. The herb is also filled with a rich amount of spirit energy and amethyst fire spirit energy. It is an extremely excellent medicine for treating patients with mental trauma."

"Deep Sea Sky Spirit Abalone: a fifth grade sea spirit beast that can be found at the bottom of the deep sea. It has undergone purification by the spirit energy at the bottom of the sea. Its shell possesses a naturally formed spirit array and during the cooking process, this spirit array will be able to unendingly provide water spirit energy. It has the medicinal effect of replenishing life force and alleviating mental traumas."

The system earnestly provided Bu Fang with detailed information on the two ingredients. Bu Fang took a deep breath after reading through the information. From the introduction given, he could tell how valuable these two ingredients were. Their preciousness were at least a grade higher than the Heavenly Sage Herb and Phoenix Blood Chicken.

Bu Fang suddenly felt a sense of pressure because the more valuable the ingredients, the higher the difficulty of cooking the elixir cuisine.

Furthermore, Bu Fang realized that both of the ingredients shared a common trait, possessing the effectiveness of treating mental traumas. Without a question, Xiao Yue was planning to use this elixir cuisine to treat someone suffering from a mental trauma.

Mental traumas were not easy to resolve. The fact that Xiao Yue would entrust Bu Fang to cook this elixir cuisine meant that Bu Fang might be the only person in the imperial city that could prepare a high grade elixir cuisine and also showed Xiao Yue's trust toward him.

Xiao Yue believed that Bu Fang was someone who adhered to his principles. He could tell it from the various rules that existed in the store. Furthermore, he was very reassured about the store's security.

"System, is it possible for these two ingredients to be provided for my practice?" Bu Fang quietly asked.

"It's possible. If the host wishes to use an ingredient, you can purchase them from the system." The system seriously replied, "Amethyst Heart Orchid: a thousand crystals. Sky Spirit Abalone: a thousand crystals."

Bu Fang's face immediately darkened. For the first time, he realized the system was so despicable... For the sake of supporting his grand undertaking into becoming the God of Cooking, should the system not provide these practice ingredients for free?

Bu Fang sucked in a breath of cold air and asked, "System... Can't you make it cheaper?"

"No. However, in order to increase the chances of success in cooking the elixir cuisine, the system suggests the host purchases other ingredients that are similar, as a replacement for your practice. Replacement ingredients: third grade spirit herb Fire Spirit Orchid for fifty crystals, third grade sea spirit beast Black Spirit Abalone for a hundred crystals."

Bu Fang was stunned for a moment. He was left speechless by the system's flawless logic.

"Then, give me three portions of the replacement ingredients." In order to ensure the success of the elixir cuisine, Bu Fang chose to purchase the ingredients from the system in the end. The money used to pay for the purchase was directly deducted from his sales earning.

This made Bu Fang's heart ache. Every single crystal spent came from his cultivation level...

From within the cupboard where three portions of ingredients had already appeared, Bu Fang took out a single portion.

The Black Spirit Abalone was naturally not as good as the Sky Spirit Abalone and the amount of spirit energy was not as abundant either. However, he put up with it since it was only a replacement for his practice.

After washing the Black Spirit Abalone, Bu Fang carefully observed its shell and discovered faint lines on its surface that formed an unusual magic array. This array was slowly circulating and gathering a rich amount of spirit energy.

Putting it plainly, the Black Spirit Abalone was just like an ordinary abalone. It was not as big as the Sky Spirit Abalone and was around the size of a large abalone in his previous world.

The best method to cook an elixir cuisine was simmering. After using an abalone to make soup, the soup itself contained the most medicinal value. Especially after adding spirit herbs, the value of the soup would rise even further and it could even be said to be the essence of the elixir cuisine.

Taking out a claypot, Bu Fang placed the Black Spirit Abalone inside and then poured the spring water provided by the system into the claypot. The refreshingly sweet spring water was filled with spirit energy.

After Bu Fang exchanged some other spirit herbs from the system, he sliced them up and carefully placed them into the claypot. The arrangement of these spirit herbs was carefully decided. If their positions were different, the taste and medicinal effects of the elixir cuisine would be affected.

After making some more adjustments to the arrangement of the ingredients, Bu Fang covered the claypot with the lid and began to simmer it. This was a process that must not be rushed.

Once steam started emerging from the claypot, Bu Fang removed the lid and a cloud of steam billowed out. Using the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, he made an incision on the Fire Spirit Orchid and let the highly concentrated spirit juice drip into the claypot. A rich fragrance immediately started wafting out from within.

During this phase, Bu Fang needed to infuse his true energy to control the spirit juice so that it would continuously permeate into the Black Spirit Abalone...

The second time the lid was removed, Bu Fang placed the Fire Spirit Orchid into the claypot and replaced the lid once more to let it simmer... After another half an hour, the elixir cuisine was completed.

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Inside a luxurious inn within the imperial city.

An enchanting and voluptuous figure was sitting cross-legged on top of a large bed. Ni Yan's jet black hair spilled down her back like a waterfall. Her eyes were tightly shut while her hands formed a hand seal. True energy was continuously circulating outside of her body.

After eating so much delicious food at Bu Fang's store, the abundant true energy within her body allowed Ni Yan to attempt advancing toward the next stage. Even though her current cultivation level was at the early phase of seventh grade Battle-Saint, she might be able to directly reach the later phase with this breakthrough. Even though she would not become an eighth grade, this was already considered very good.

After all, after reaching the level of Battle-Saint, every single improvement was a dramatic change in power.

Buzz.

As a sound wave spread out, mysterious symbols seemed to be circulating within Ni Yan's eyes and her crystal clear skin was overflowing with bright lights. At that moment, she was so beautiful that it was suffocating, like a celestial maiden whose beauty was unparalleled.

Suddenly, Ni Yan let out a long shout. She felt as if she had just pushed open a tightly shut door. Although only a small crack in the door was opened, a surging wave of true energy instantly flowed through her body and she could not help but cry out.

Underneath the peaceful and flourishing outward appearance of the imperial city, an earthshaking event occurred.

The long shout was accompanied with a pillar of light extending into the sky that was extremely conspicuous within the dark night.

Within the Xiao manor, Xiao Meng suddenly opened his eyes and looked toward the direction of the pillar of light that extended into the sky. With a sudden change in expression, his body moved and he exited the room. While stepping on thin air, he started heading toward the location of the pillar of light.

"A seventh grade Battle-Saint appearing within the imperial city at such a moment? I wonder if this is an enemy or an ally."

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Minister of the Left's manor.

Wearing an overcoat, Zhao Musheng indifferently looked at the pillar of light. As he narrowed his eyes, a golden light seemed to be slightly circulating in the depth of his eyes.

"This is the aura of someone from Celestial Arcanum Sect... Could it be that even the Celestial Arcanum Sect is intending to participate this time?" he muttered to himself before smiling. With slow strides, his entire body gracefully floated into the air as he leisurely headed toward the direction of that conspicuous location.

At that moment, it was not just the Minister of the Left and Xiao Meng, but all of the factions within the imperial city were startled by it. Only someone with at least the cultivation level of a seventh grade Battle-Saint could cause a phenomenon where true energy extended toward the sky... With a new Battle-Saint appearing within the imperial city at such a sensitive period, anyone would be alarmed.

If either the crown prince or King Yu could obtain the support of this Battle-Saint, their faction would be able to crush their opposition.

Chapter 120: Get Lost All of You, Don't Come and Bother Me

Outside a room in a luxurious inn within the imperial city.

Tang Yin was solemnly standing at the doorway with his arms crossed and a longsword in his embrace. His expression was extremely grim as he looked into the distance. Waves of true energy were circulating outside his body, appearing like sparkling lights in the darkness.

Behind him, the pillar of light that extended into the sky was emanating surging waves of energy. He knew that his gluttonous master was advancing to the next level. However, this was giving Tang Yin a headache as he understood the current situation within the imperial city well enough. In this sort of situation, only his master would dare to advance to the next level in such an eye-catching manner.

How was this any different from telling others that you were there to cause trouble?

Within the current imperial city, what would the appearance of a seventh grade Battle-Saint mean? The crown prince and King Yu would be completely green with envy. After all, experts were equivalent to important resources that could ensure their ascension to the throne.

As expected, Tang Yin spotted a tall and sturdy figure heading in their direction while walking in the air. He softly exhaled as he focused his attention on the figure.

"The Light Wind Empire's guardian, seventh grade Battle-Saint... Xiao Meng?" Tang Yin muttered as he watched the approaching Xiao Meng. This was his first meeting with this legendary figure as well.

Nearby, his junior sister, Lu Xiaoxiao, had unexpectedly appeared as well and timidly stood behind Tang Yin. Her surprising action made his heart feel rather warm.

"Might I ask who you are, and what is your purpose for coming to the imperial city?"

Before even arriving, Xiao Meng's imposing voice had already reached them as if an intimidating aura had landed on Tang Yin, causing his body to slightly tremble.

"We're members of the Celestial Arcanum Sect. Please be assured that our master and the two of us have come without any ill intentions," Tang Yin said with a fist and palm salute to Xiao Meng, while behaving neither servile nor haughty.

Holding his hands behind his back, Xiao Meng slowly approached step by step while his sleeves flapped behind him. With a solemn expression, he soon landed in front of Tang Yin.

"The Celestial Arcanum Sect? Right after His Majesty passed away, the Celestial Arcanum Sect dispatches a seventh grade Battle-Saint into the Light Wind Empire. And you're telling me that you have no ill intentions? Do you really expect me to believe you?" Xiao Meng mildly said as the corners of his mouth curled up, seemingly sneering at Tang Yin.

Tang Yin was really put in a difficult position. They really did not have any ill intentions. Their only purpose for coming to the imperial city was to obtain the Phoenix Blood Herb from Bu Fang's hands... Now that things had reached this stage, Tang Yin was helpless as well.

Gluttony was to blame. Tang Yin did not know whether to laugh or cry. If that gluttonous master of his did not eat every single dish in Bu Fang's store, everything would be alright.

While enduring Xiao Meng's deliberate release of his aura, Tang Yin could only once again emphasize their lack of ill intentions.

The pillar of light within the room was rapidly shrinking. Evidently, the person inside had completed their breakthrough and was concealing their aura. Soon, the pillar of light completely disappeared...

Dadada.

The sound of footsteps could be heard. Zhao Musheng slowly approached with his eyes squinting and a smile on his face.

"General Xiao, go easy on them. They're our guests after all. It's rare for experts from the Celestial Arcanum Sect to appear within the imperial city. As the host, we should show proper etiquette."

Zhao Musheng's voice was very gentle, revealing his slyness at handling matters. His jovial attitude made anyone else unable to be angry at him.

However, Xiao Meng was furious the moment he saw Zhao Musheng's face. He thought, "This wily old fox, he's unexpectedly a seventh grade Battle-Saint. Everyone was fooled by him for so long... No wonder why His Majesty would always be on guard against Zhao Musheng when he was still alive. The truth was he already realized this wily old fox was not simple."

He was a seventh grade Battle-Saint and yet he hid his cultivation level for so many years. What was his identity? What was his objective? Xiao Meng knew nothing at all.

Therefore, Xiao Meng was not happy to see Zhao Musheng in the slightest.

The pressure Tang Yin was feeling increased even further. An empire's general and Minister of the Left were both distinguished people. The aura that they were subconsciously releasing made his heart tremble.

Just as Tang Yin felt the pressure on him increase even further, the door to the room behind him suddenly opened. A wave of breeze-like true energy swept past, brushing away the pressure on Tang Yin like melting snow.

A figure wrapped within a long robe walked out from the room.

"Master," Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao hurriedly shouted.

Xiao Meng and Zhao Musheng both looked toward the direction of the door as well, and saw a woman wearing a veil.

Zhao Musheng's eyes constricted. He immediately recognized the identity of this woman at a glance and was slightly surprised... The third elder of the Celestial Arcanum Sect was an extremely distinguished identity. What was her objective for coming to the imperial city?

Xiao Meng narrowed his eyes at the woman before him. The wave of true energy that surged out had not dissipated yet and he could feel a trace of danger. This woman... was not simple.

"Zhao Musheng, it's been a while... The middle-aged man from back then has now become an elderly man," Ni Yan said with a faint smile.

The corners of Zhao Musheng's mouth curled up as he sighed with feeling. "The brat from back then has grown up into a distinguished personage. The Celestial Arcanum Sect is not simple indeed."

"What purpose does your excellency have for entering our imperial city?" Xiao Meng said with a frown. From the looks of it, the other party seemed to be rather familiar with Zhao Musheng. Could Zhao Musheng be a member of the Celestial Arcanum Sect as well?



Ni Yan's devastatingly beautiful face turned toward Xiao Meng and the smile on her face disappeared. She lifted up her hand and then pointed toward Zhao Musheng. She said, "Whatever he's doing within the imperial city, we're here... to do the same thing."

The moment Zhao Musheng heard those words, he almost vomited a mouthful of blood. After so many years, this brat was still as impish as ever. With a single sentence, he was directly dragged down with her.

Nearby, Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao were both dumbfounded. What was their master saying? Weren't their objectives for entering the imperial city purely to obtain the Phoenix Blood Herb? When did they ever have any other objectives?

"What nonsense are you talking about, this old man has been staying in the imperial city for all these years. Climbing up the ranks until the position of Minister of the Left was all for the sake of serving the empire." Zhao Musheng said with a chuckle, indicating that his purpose for staying within the imperial city was pure.

Xiao Meng let out a chuckle. Who would believe Zhao Musheng's nonsense.

"What? Old man? Am I wrong? Why don't the two of us have a fight, and whoever wins will be the one speaking the truth? How about that?" Ni Yan said with a chortle as her large eyes stared at Zhao Musheng.

Zhao Musheng pursed his lips and shook his head. He immediately turned around and began to leave without staying for too long.

"These old bones of mine wouldn't be able to take the torment."

Xiao Meng meaningfully gave Ni Yan a glance, but Ni Yan was naturally not afraid. Even though Xiao Meng was the guardian of the Light Wind Empire, she was completely unafraid. After all, Ni Yan had just reached a breakthrough and her confidence was still quite high.

Xiao Meng left as well. He did not bother Ni Yan too much.

After Xiao Meng left, an imperiousness gradually appeared in Ni Yan's large eyes. She scanned the surroundings and then her sweet-sounding voice sounded out, spreading into the surroundings of the inn.

"All of the Tom, Dick, and Harry in the surroundings, get lost! Don't come and bother me, I don't want to see anyone!"

The faces of King Yu and the crown prince who were on their way immediately turned black... The temper of this female Battle-Saint seemed a little violent.

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Bu Fang, who had climbed into bed and was about to fall asleep, was suddenly woken up by a feminine shout. He drowsily rubbed his eyes. For some reason, he found the voice strangely familiar. However, after thinking for a while, he could not point out the reason for the familiarity and went back to sleep. He was extremely tired after preparing an elixir cuisine.

Without any question, his first try of preparing the elixir cuisine failed. It failed not because it was not edible, but because it failed to meet Bu Fang's expectations. It did not completely bring out the medicinal effects of the elixir cuisine and he also made some mistakes while infusing his true energy.

Xiao Yue had only provided a single portion of ingredients, so no mistakes must be made. Therefore, Bu Fang had to review that day's mistake in order to obtain success tomorrow.

When the sun rose up on the following day, the imperial city began its busy day.

Within the imperial palace, many eunuchs and court ladies were busily making preparations inside of the majestic Main Hall. There were only two more days before the emperor's funeral and there were still things that needed to be prepared. The atmosphere within the palace was somewhat sorrowful.

Outside of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, Ji Chengxue, dressed in a white robe, was slowly walking toward the Main Hall. His eyes were filled with complicated emotions.