

## Gourmet 171

### Chapter 171: This Fish... Is Suitable for Grilling

Since the tribe was situated in the Illusory Spirit Swamp, the serpent-men frequently consumed this type of fish. They were also extremely familiar with its cooking method and the dish could be considered a local cuisine.

That scrunched up expression on Bu Fang's face, as if he had just eaten *Coptis Chinensis*[1], was simply baffling to them.

The freshness and sweetness of the fish was perfectly expressed in the fish soup. The culinary skills of the serpent-woman chef who made the fish soup were pretty good as well. The dish was perhaps not as meticulous as dishes made by humans but the taste was still passable in the eyes of Wu Yunbai and the others.

As a result, everyone's attention was focused on Bu Fang. Many of the serpent-men were angrily glaring at him. The head elder and the others were frowning as well.

On the contrary, a faint smile was on her lips as Wu Yunbai watched Bu Fang with great interest. This young man... Was he really not here to make jokes? This was the serpent-men's tribe after all. Even if their fish soup really tasted that horrible, there would be no need for him to say that out loud. Furthermore... the taste of the fish soup was still pretty good.

"Human, what are you saying?! My mother's fish soup is the most delicious in the entire tribe, what do you even know? Besides, do you know how to cook in the first place?!" A young serpent-girl angrily glared at Bu Fang and let out a snort while waving around her exquisite tail in frustration.

The serpent-men around her all nodded in agreement. Elder sister Mu's culinary skill might not be number one in the entire serpent-men race, but she was unparalleled within the tribe. Even though the fish soup was not the dish that she was most proficient in, no one was tired of drinking it.

The alluring serpent-woman called elder sister Mu, who was also the mother of that young serpent-girl, was looking at Bu Fang with a dissatisfied expression while holding a ladle in her hand.

Bu Fang was surprised for a moment. He did not expect his words to trigger such a reaction from the people around him. He was merely stating a fact. From his point of view, the taste of the fish soup was indeed horrible.

As a chef, Bu Fang's taste was already accustomed to the level of his own culinary skill. If a horrible-tasting dish entered his mouth, he would lose his appetite and his expression would turn ugly. Spitting out the fish soup was just a subconscious action...

In simpler terms, his taste buds became even more sensitive after frequently eating dishes filled with true energy. As his sense of taste dramatically improved, even the tiniest bit of flavor in a dish was noticeable. Therefore, he was even more particular about the flaws in the dishes.

This sort of improvement in one's sense of taste was a tremendous help for chefs. It raised their precision in judging the taste of ingredients and their preparation as well.

Bu Fang did not have any intention of humiliating her. It was really just a subconscious action...

The people around him were dumbfounded from the blank expression on Bu Fang's face. Even elder sister Mu was amused.

In the first place, she was not someone who was easily angered. Perhaps her dish really did not suit Bu Fang's tastes, everyone had their own preference after all. Unexpectedly, elder sister Mu did not feel the blame was on Bu Fang.

After Bu Fang recovered from his surprise, he heard the young serpent-girl's words and broke into a smile. He gave her a glance and said, "Of course I know how to cook. I am a chef as well."

Bu Fang's voice was not loud but instantly caused the room to quiet down. Wu Yunbai felt as if her worldview was being renewed once more. The young man in front of her eyes was a chef? Of all things, a chef?

However, since you were a chef, what were you doing in the serpent-men tribe? I always thought you were an adventurer!

Should a chef not be preparing food in a kitchen?

"Oh? Are you a chef as well? Pleased to meet you. It seems that you're dissatisfied with the dish that I made." Elder sister Mu was surprised for a moment and then her expression became serious.

If Bu Fang was a chef, his fussiness toward food was understandable. The sense of taste of a chef was far more sensitive than ordinary people and they were more particular about the taste of their food. It was much easier to please an ordinary person with a dish than a chef.

Bu Fang nodded and slowly walked toward elder sister Mu with the steaming bowl of fish soup in his hands.

"Overall, your fish soup is still passable. Every single step was executed very well but the steps themselves could only be considered conventional. Furthermore, you do not understand the characteristics of this fish. Some fish are suitable for making soup while this particular fish isn't."

As Bu Fang solemnly walked toward elder sister Mu, he could not help but enter his venomous tongue mode. Whenever he tasted a dish, he would always lose his self control and start evaluating the dish.

"That is not to say that this fish cannot be used for cooking soup but you're lacking the required seasoning. For example, if some Spring Sun Herb was added during the cooking process, it would not only remove the fishiness but also increase the tastiness of the fish. But what I want to say is that making soup with this fish is simply a waste. Even drying this fish first and then steaming it would still be more delicious than making fish soup..."

As Bu Fang continued prattling on, everyone else in the room was starting to drift into drowsiness. After all, none of them were chefs and their understanding of food had not reached such a profound level. Whether the Spring Sun Herb or control over the heat or the characteristics of the fish... None of them understood anything.

On the contrary, elder sister Mu's eyes grew brighter and brighter while listening to Bu Fang's appraisal because she realized his words were all true.

The taste of the fish when first dried and then steamed was indeed much more delicious compared to the fish soup. As for the Spring Sun Herb... she did not fully understand either.

After Bu Fang was done talking, he became expressionless once more. He was someone with few words in the first place. It was just that he became extremely talkative when evaluating dishes...

"You... You... After saying so much, why don't you make something tastier than my mother's fish soup if you're so capable! If you're just going to criticize my mother's dish like this, then you're all talk and no action! You're a bad person!" The young serpent-girl was filled with grievance. Bu Fang was not holding back when he evaluated the dish. After witnessing the dish made by her mother whom she revered getting belittled in such a manner, her eyes welled up with tears.

Noticing that her daughter was about to burst into tears, elder sister Mu hurriedly consoled her.

"This young man's words are correct, there's still room for improvement in my cooking. After hearing his appraisal today, I've learnt a lot. What are you crying for? We should be thanking him instead," elder sister Mu softly said while caressing the bridge of her daughter's nose with a finger.

The young serpent-girl immediately stopped sobbing and fiddled with her hands while pursing her lips together. With her eyes reddened, she softly sniffled while looking at her mother.

The corners of Bu Fang's lips were twitching. There was basically no difference between this young serpent-girl and a human child. She immediately resorted to crying when a disagreement occurred... Nonetheless, he was in the wrong for making a young girl cry.

Bu Fang pondered for a moment and then said, "How about this, since it's still early, I'll cook a dish using fish and let everyone have a taste. Hopefully, everyone will enjoy it. It's also a compensation from me for taking the liberty to evaluate the dish."

Bu Fang's words caused the people around him to exclaim in astonishment once more. This human... was really a chef? And he was actually going to personally prepare a meal?

Wu Yunbai's eyes widened with incredulity... Was this fellow serious? If his dish turned out to be terrible... he would become a laughingstock!

Even though there were some similarities between humans and serpent-men, no one could guarantee that their tastes were the same.

Elder sister Mu looked at Bu Fang in surprise. Her eyes slightly narrowed as she saw the confident look on Bu Fang's face. She straightened her back and said, "It would be our pleasure. Here is the cooking stove, I'll tidy it up first for you to use."

Elder sister Mu swiftly cleaned up the cooking stove and then looked toward Bu Fang.

Bu Fang did not immediately start cooking. First, he pinched the fish prepared for him by the serpent-men. It was an extremely plump first grade spirit beast fish.

After tasting the fish earlier on, Bu Fang already had an idea about the best method to prepare it.

This type of fish was not suitable for making soup but it was extremely suitable for another cooking method.

And that was... grilling.

#### Chapter 172: Aromatic Grilled Fish (1)

While everyone was watching him, Bu Fang reached out his hand and suddenly pulled the fish out of the basin of water. He effortlessly picked the fish up with two fingers skillfully clamping onto its sides.

The fish was struggling in Bu Fang's fingers but could not break free as if it was caught in a vise grip.

Bu Fang was expressionless as he inspected the fish. Honestly speaking, the fish was indeed very plump. Its body was entirely made up of meat. His eyes slightly lit up and his satisfaction toward the ingredient rose.

It was not an easy matter for chefs to find ingredients that satisfied them.

Bu Fang did not choose to use the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. Instead, he picked up the kitchen knife that elder sister Mu left on the cooking stove. As he twirled the kitchen knife in his hand, the dazzling technique immediately caused many of the people present to exclaim in astonishment.

Twirling his kitchen knife had already become a habit for Bu Fang. After countless hours of practicing the Meteor Knife Technique, he would now subconsciously twirl the kitchen knife. It was not for the sake of showing off.

Bu Fang was expressionless as he swiped the kitchen knife across the belly of the fish. The sharp edge of the knife directly ripped open its fair and tender belly as if it was paper.

Bu Fang then began the steps of removing the fish's innards.

Bu Fang's movements were fluid as if he was drawing a painting. The process that should originally appear bloody and violent became strangely beautiful.

After cleaning the fish with water, he widened the incision at its belly and split it apart. The fish was laid open on the chopping board like a pancake.

Bu Fang lightly flicked the blade of the kitchen knife with his finger. He then gently carved on the fish with six strokes and patted the plump flesh of the fish.

With that, the preparation of the fish was done. However, this was just the completion of the preparatory step. Grilling a fish was not so simple.

The people around him were puzzledly watching Bu Fang. They could not figure out what sort of dish he was making. Judging from the appearance, it should not be fish soup. However, if it was braised fish... it should not be sliced in such a manner... If he was making dried fish, there was not enough time.

Therefore, it was not just the people around him but also elder sister Mu who was guessing what sort of dish Bu Fang was preparing to cook.

Suddenly, Bu Fang seemed to have recalled something. He turned toward elder sister Mu who was deep in thought and asked, "Do you have any vegetables?"

Elder sister Mu made a frown, then nodded and said, "We have vegetables but there's only a little. Not much fruits and vegetables grow within the Illusory Spirit Swamp in the first place. They're even rarer than this fish."

Bu Fang looked back at the fish that was already prepared and said, "Then forget it, I'll provide the ingredients myself."

Bu Fang then took out many fruits and vegetables from the system's storage space as well as various containers that were filled with seasoning. He prepared these things earlier on while he was waiting for the system to carry out the teleportation.

Everyone was dumbfounded as they watched Bu Fang take out the assorted items. They were at a loss on how to react.

At this point, they were almost certain that Bu Fang was indeed a chef. Furthermore, it seemed like he came here for a vacation...

What kind of an adventurer would fill his dimensional storage with seasonings, fruits, and vegetables instead of healing medicine and elixirs?

After Bu Fang washed the fruits and vegetables, he swiftly diced them into pieces and placed them onto a plate.

Once all of these were done, Bu Fang placed the fish into a basin. Then, he poured various seasonings into the basin and started marinating the fish.

During the marinating process, Bu Fang infused the fish with his true energy to speed up the process.

After approximately ten minutes, Bu Fang finished marinating the fish. He then took out two large pieces of leaves that came from a spirit herb and wrapped the marinated fish with the leaves.

Before wrapping the fish, he even coated the entire fish with a layer of sauce.

The fish was wrapped in spirit herb leaves? Just what kind of dish was this fellow making? None of them had ever seen this sort of cooking method before.

Wu Yunbai's eyes were filled with curiosity as well. As the young master of the White Cloud Villa, she had tasted plenty of delicious food before. The White Cloud Villas had also specially hired many chefs with superb culinary skills. Even so, she had never seen Bu Fang's cooking method before.

Bu Fang did not pay any heed to their gaze. Once he started cooking, he would devote all of his attention into the dish. According to his own words, only then would a chef be able to pour his feelings into the dish.

After removing the large wok, Bu Fang covered the hole of the stove with branches and then placed the fish wrapped in spirit herb leaves on top.

Earlier on, Bu Fang had already doused these branches in water to prevent the fire underneath from burning them. Furthermore, with his true energy covering the branches, it would be difficult for them to catch on fire.

Meanwhile, the fish wrapped in spirit herb leaves would receive the heat from the fire.

Bu Fang had no other choice. Originally, he should use a commercial oven to grill the fish. However, since this was not his kitchen, there was no oven at all. Therefore, he could only set up a temporary grilling pit. Even though the working condition was slightly harsher, he could still produce the grilled fish.

Everyone was completely astounded by Bu Fang's strange actions. Some of them even started snickering... After all, no one had ever seen such a strange method of preparing food before.

Not even using a wok... Was this dish edible? The fish was first wrapped in spirit herb leaves and then roasted over a fire? Was a dish made in such a manner really edible?

Many of the serpent-men were throwing questioning gazes at Bu Fang.

Meanwhile, elder sister Mu was thoughtfully watching Bu Fang's actions. From her point of view, almost every single one of his movement was smooth and uninterrupted, the result of having integrated his culinary skill into his body.



Steam started emerging from the spirit herb leaves along with a rich fragrance. At first, the scent was not that strong. Everyone was sniffing the air but they only thought the scent smelt pleasant.

However, as the fish continued to cook, the fragrance grew stronger and stronger and nearly engulfed the entire place. Everyone was sniffing the air.

The young serpent-girl was even hugging her mother's tail while continuously smacking her lips. Now and then, saliva dripped from her mouth... The scent was too aromatic.

The serpent-men had never smelled such an aromatic scent before. It was arousing all of their appetites.

Even the head elder's cheeks trembled for a moment as he looked toward Bu Fang in incredulity. He never expected Bu Fang to possess such a high level of culinary skill.

An euphoric expression appeared on Wu Yunbai's face as well. Her astonishment was not any lesser than anyone else present. She understood more than them about the difficulty and innovativeness of Bu Fang's cooking method.

The difficulty of preparing food by wrapping a dish in leaves and then roasting it over a fire... was extremely high. Not only did this test Bu Fang's control over the heat but also demanded a high level of control at manipulating true energy.

"This person..." Wu Yunbai muttered to herself.

Meanwhile, Bu Fang was placing his hand on the spirit herb leaves. After feeling the temperature, a smile suddenly appeared on his lips.

After twirling the kitchen knife in his hand, he sliced open the bundle of spirit herb leaves.

During the instant when the spirit herb leaves fell apart, a thick sauce splattered everywhere and spread a rich aroma into the surroundings.

The aroma, accompanied by a puff of steam, rose into the air.

## Chapter 173: Aromatic Grilled Fish (2)

As the aroma enveloped the entire place, everyone could not help but be mesmerized.

It never crossed their mind that the smell of fish could reach such an enchanting level. The moment when Bu Fang sliced open the spirit herb leaves, the fragrance instantly took hold of their senses and they fell into an euphoric state.

Wu Yunbai swallowed her saliva. Her eyes were staring straight at the bundle of steaming leaves. Even though the tantalizing fish inside was not visible because of the rising steam, she felt an incredible urge to immediately taste this delicious dish just from smelling the aroma.

Both elder sister Mu's body and mind trembled in incredulity. The aroma of the dish... had simply exceeded her understanding. She cooked this type of fish on a daily basis but the aroma of her dishes never reached such a level even when she braised the fish. Bu Fang's method of preparing the fish had completely brought out its smell.

This young man... was definitely a super incredible chef!

As the young serpent-girl breathed in the aroma, she was filled with craving for the dish. She slithered toward the cooking stove with her small body and tried peeking over the counter to catch a glimpse of the fish inside the spirit herb leaves.

However, because of her height, she could only see the steam rising from the leaves and not the tantalizing fish inside.

How frustrating! After watching for a while and still not seeing anything, the young serpent-girl gave up and turned toward Bu Fang. With her childish voice, she asked, "Human big brother, this fish... can we start eating?"

This was not just the young serpent-girl's thoughts but also the thoughts of everyone present.

They also wanted to know whether they could start eating. With such an enticing aroma, everyone wanted to have a taste.

Bu Fang gave the young serpent-girl a glance. She was no longer about to burst into tears like before. It seemed that the attraction of food was powerful enough to distract her.

A smile appeared on his lips as Bu Fang replied, "Of course... not."

Uhh... Everyone's face stiffened for a moment. They could not understand the reason for his reply. Why were they not allowed to start eating? The fish was so aromatic, what was the reason for not allowing them to have a taste?

The eyes of the young serpent-girl widened and she angrily puffed up her cheeks...

Elder sister Mu was also looking toward Bu Fang in puzzlement. The dish was already finished... Why couldn't they have a taste? He could not even accede... to the simple request of a little girl?

Bu Fang did not pay any attention to their expressions and instead started the fire of another cooking stove. Once the temperature of the wok was hot enough, he added some oil and poured in the julienned vegetables before he started stir-frying.

Bu Fang threw in the seasoning in a skillful manner. After a short while, the stir-frying of the side dish was finished.

The expression on everyone's face was slightly awkward. As it turned out, the dish was not finished yet. No wonder he refused to let the young serpent-girl have a taste. A chef would naturally refuse to let the customer have a taste if the dish was not complete. This was a basic principle of a chef.

Using a spatula, he directly poured the slightly viscous side dish over the fish on the leaves. The overwhelming fragrance of the side dish mixed together with the aroma of the fish produced an indescribably euphoric aroma.

After Bu Fang sliced the fruits and placed them on the leaves, this colorful dish of Spirit Swamp Grilled Fish was completed.

While Bu Fang was making the side dish, he stir-fried the vegetables over high heat in a short duration. Therefore, the appearance of the ingredients were still as glossy and alluring as ever.

The meat of the fish lying in gravy was slightly trembling. The incisions made on its body had opened up because of the grilling process. Its white and tender flesh was covered in grease as well as the sauce.

Bu Fang twirled the kitchen knife in his hand before placing it back down on the cutting board. He calmly gave the crowd a glance and said, "The dish is completed, please have a taste."

Completed? It was finally completed! Waiting for this fish to be grilled was practically torture for them...

Looking at the steaming grilled fish, everyone was suddenly overwhelmed with indescribable emotions.

Elder sister Mu slithered toward the grilled fish and her eyes were filled with amazement. It... was simply too beautiful. The colors of the vegetables were bright and diverse. Because of the oil on their surface, they appeared to be glittering with vibrant colors. The aroma of the fish was also outstanding. Without a doubt... this dish was flawless! It was definitely going to be delicious.

"Big brother, can we start eating now?" the young serpent-girl eagerly asked once more.

Bu Fang nodded. He did not reject her request this time.

The young serpent-girl was immediately overjoyed. She grabbed her mother's hand and urgently said, "Mom, hurry and feed me the fish!"

In order to placate her daughter, elder sister Mu grabbed a pair of chopsticks. She did not choose to pick up any of the side dish. Instead, she picked up a piece of the fish and popped the meat into her daughter's mouth.

Once the piece of meat entered her mouth, everyone's gaze was focused on the young serpent-girl. They all wanted to see her reaction.

The moment when the young serpent-girl tasted the meat of the fish, her eyes widened and her face was filled with astonishment...

This fish was... compared to the fish cooked by her mother... really more delicious!

Elder sister Mu narrowed her eyes and her gaze landed on the grill fish.

Bu Fang did not serve the grilled fish on a plate. Instead, he left the fish on the grilling pit with the fire still brightly burning below. The gravy was bubbling and the meat of the fish was trembling...

This seemed like a gradual process. At the start, the taste of the fish would definitely be fresh and delicious. However, after a while, the meat of the fish would gradually harden but its taste would become more flavorful and its texture would become even firmer!

Elder sister Mu swallowed her saliva with a gulp and then used her chopsticks to tear off the meat near the gills of the fish. This was the most delicious part of the fish.

Once the meat entered her mouth, elder sister Mu could not help but narrow her eyes in ecstasy. The flavors of the fish spreading and lingering within her mouth were sending her into throes of pleasure.

By then, the rest of the people could not sit still any longer and all started coming forward. Wu Yunbai popped a piece of meat into her mouth as well and was completely taken prisoner by its flavors. This fish... was the most delicious fish she had ever tasted. Nothing could compare against its flavors.

"Hmm... There seems to be spirit energy inside the meat? How is that even possible... The meat of a first grade spirit beast shouldn't have any spirit energy left after cooking, right?" Wu Yunbai thought in slight puzzlement.

Bu Fang seemed to have sensed her confusion. A smile appeared on his lips as he said, "These leaves are actually from a third grade spirit herb. It's rich in spirit energy and has a calming effect on the mind. After my preparation and cooking, the spirit energy in the spirit herb has gathered into the meat of the fish. Furthermore, its calming effect has also migrated over. In short, this grilled fish could be considered an elixir cuisine, although it's just the most basic elixir cuisine."

The spirit energy originated from the spirit herb? He could even migrate the calming effect? Elixir cuisine?

Wu Yunbai was stunned for a moment. She suddenly discovered that her bank of knowledge might be somewhat inadequate... She never realised that there was so much knowledge involved in culinary as well!

Elixir cuisine... was a term that she had obviously heard before. However, not just any chef was capable of making elixir cuisines. Even within the White Cloud Villa, only one out of the many great chefs was capable of making elixir cuisines. Furthermore, that chef's cultivation level was extremely formidable and cooking was just his hobby!

The young chef in front of her who was only a fifth grade Battle-King... could actually make elixir cuisines? That was simply... terrifying!

When the head elder of the serpent-men tribe heard elixir cuisine, his gaze immediately landed on Bu Fang. As he closedly stared at Bu Fang, his intense gaze filled with an inexplicable agitation made Bu Fang's hair stand on end.

#### Chapter 174: The Spirit Herb Is About to Bloom

The head elder of the serpent-men tribe gave Bu Fang a meaningful glance. However, he did not rashly approach Bu Fang but instead forced himself to calm down.

Bu Fang did not notice the look on the head elder's face. He was watching the numerous serpent-men relishing in his dish with a smile on his lips. The greatest affirmation for a chef was their customers enjoying their dishes. Seeing the smiles on their faces, a chef would feel happy as well.

The amount of meat on the fish was not much. After everyone took their turns, the entire fish was picked clean. After all, there were so many people present but only a single fish available.

Everyone stared at the fish bones remaining on the spirit herb leaves with yearning in their eyes. They wanted to eat more but Bu Fang only prepared a single serving.

The young serpent-girl licked her lips while narrowing her eyes. Even though she only got to eat a small portion of the fish, she was feeling really full. The spirit energy inside the fish was more than enough for the young serpent-girl to digest.

After everyone tried his dish, no one there doubted Bu Fang's culinary skill anymore. His ability to cook such a delicious grilled fish was already astonishing enough for them. Even elder sister Mu was nodding her head while eating the fish. The more she ate, the more she became aware of the techniques used in the grilled fish.

True energy culinary... Good heavens! She could hardly believe that the young man before her eyes was actually proficient in true energy culinary. When true energy was infused into a dish, its flavors would improve and its fragrance would become even more enticing. Furthermore, the spirit energy in the ingredients would even be fully retained. It was simply unbelievable.

"Alright... Since we're all fully rested, everyone should get ready. There's still a bunch of spirit beasts waiting for us outside, so let's not lower our guard." When the head of the serpent-men noticed that everyone was still engrossed in the dish's aftertaste, he coughed a few times to get their attention.

Outside of the tribe, a humongous figure was quietly coiled into a ball. With an eye-catching, blood-red crown on its gigantic head, a hissing sound could be heard as it flicked its forked tongue.

The growls of the spirit beast were continuously resounding in the surroundings, lingering within the Illusory Spirit Swamp, and echoing into the distance.

The head elder's words immediately woke everyone up from their stupor. As they looked toward the humongous Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa, their expressions became grave.

However, most of the serpent-men were actually not too worried. For the serpent-men tribe to exist within a treacherous place like the Illusory Spirit Swamp for such a long time, they were naturally not just relying on a single seventh grade Battle-Saint. Beneath the tribe, there was a gigantic barrier magic array that encompassed the entire area. Each serpent-men tribe was protected by a magic array such as that.

The presence of a seventh grade Battle-Saint was only to ensure that they would not be too defenseless during an enemy attack. This protective magic array was their actual safeguard.

Since the magic array was passed down by the Serpentine Sovereign, a mere seventh grade spirit beast would not be able to destroy the barrier.

"Head elder, even though we have the protection of the magic array, the medicinal herb farm is not included in its range... Furthermore, the aura of this beast is growing more and more powerful. It looks like it's about to undergo another molting. This won't be easy," The serpent-men Battle-Saint gave the Black Swamp Boa a glance. He felt the situation was really troublesome.

Sometimes, spirit beasts were harder to deal with than humans because of their tough skins and thick muscles as well as their strong capability in combat... Therefore, most humans were unwilling to face spirit beasts with equivalent cultivation levels as them.

"The Ice Soul Monarch Lotus must be protected... We need the seeds of the lotus, this beast must not be allowed to ruin the spirit herb!" the head elder solemnly said with a grave expression.

The serpent-men Battle-Saint let out a sigh and a hint of determination flashed in his eyes. He understood the importance of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus toward the tribe as well.

As seconds passed by, the mood within the serpent-men became tense once more because everyone could feel the serious atmosphere that was spreading in the air.

The aroma emanating from the faint blue bud of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus was becoming more and more intense. As the fragrance spread and enveloped the area, everyone felt refreshed and their eyes lit up.

"Looks like... the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus is about to bloom!" the head elder said.

Wu Yunbai nodded as well and signalled toward the Battle-Saint behind her to get ready for battle.

With two Battle-Saints guarding the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus, there was still a chance for them to succeed... The problem was the large bunch of spirit beasts gathered around the Black Swamp Boa. Even though there was a barrier protecting the tribe, activating the magic array would use up a large amount of crystals... Wu Yunbai was not sure how many crystals the serpent-men tribe's storage had.

If their storage of crystals was not enough and the barrier went down, they would be facing a horde of disgusting spirit beasts...

Bu Fang was quietly standing on one side. He was observing the humongous Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa with a slight frown on his face. Something was on his mind.



He stared at the blood-red crown of the Black Swamp Boa for a long while and then smacked his lips. An idea seemed to have struck his mind.

"This blood crown... looks pretty good, it might just be a decent ingredient. However, acquiring this will be difficult," Bu Fang muttered to himself.

Elder sister Mu was standing right next to Bu Fang. When she heard Bu Fang's muttering, she was immediately dumbfounded. As expected of a chef, he could think of cooking even when looking at the Black Swamp Boa.

All of the essence throughout the body of the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa was gathered in its blood crown. Without a doubt, the blood crown was a highly nutritious ingredient and definitely its most valuable body part. However, this Black Swamp Boa was just about to undergo another molting and become a terrifying eighth grade spirit beast. Not just anyone could treat this spirit beast's body parts as an ingredient...

Bu Fang was naturally unaware of elder sister Mu's thoughts. He was busy staring at the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa.

The fragrance was growing stronger and stronger. The aroma of the spirit herb seemed to possess some kind of magical power that caused their true energy to seethe with excitement and a faint coldness to spread throughout their bodies.

"This Ice Soul Monarch Lotus is not just any spirit herb. If it's properly handled, the cultivation level of the person who consumes it will greatly increase. It's a valuable spirit herb that increase one's spirit energy... That's the reason why this Black Swamp Boa is yearning for the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus because it needs the spirit herb to achieve a breakthrough," elder sister Mu promptly explained when she noticed the perplexed expression on Bu Fang's face.

"This beast won't be able to snatch away our Ice Soul Monarch Lotus! With the elder around, this beast will not succeed! If Yu Fu's father wasn't heavily injured, this beast wouldn't... Hmph!" Ah Ni snorted while tightly clenching his fists. He was extremely infuriated by this Black Swamp Boa.

Yu Fu let out a sigh. The one who needed the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus the most was her. The head elder wanted to protect the lotus because of her father, a heavily injured seventh grade Battle-Saint who was also the leader of the serpent-men.

She did not anticipate that the blooming of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus would attract so much attention. That Wu Yunbai appeared to be someone from the White Cloud Villa, and that mysterious chef... She did not know where he came from but his objective was definitely the Ice Soul monarch Lotus as well.

However... she could not let the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus fall into the hands of others because she needed to use the herb to treat her father. This was the objective of all of the serpent-men in the tribe.

## Chapter 175: This Beast Is Going to Molt

The aroma of the herb wafting in the air was growing stronger and stronger to the point where many of the people present felt as if the true energy in their bodies were seething with excitement like boiling water, as though they were going to achieve a breakthrough at any point.

Many of the serpent-men immediately coiled their lower bodies into a ball and focused on their breathing. They breathed in the medicinal aroma and started cultivating on the spot.

As expected of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus known as an essential spirit herb for achieving a breakthrough. It was no wonder a powerful seventh grade spirit beast like the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa would be attracted by its aroma.

Rumble!

As the medicinal aroma grew even stronger, the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa that had been quietly waiting slowly lifted up its body. Its humongous body was overlooking everything from high above while its eyes were filled with indifference.

The Black Swamp Boa was flicking its pitch-black tongue and emanating a foul smell while waiting for the blooming of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus.

Everyone inside the tribe could not help but tense up as they gazed at this large serpent. The two Battle-Saints standing proudly in the sky were also releasing powerful auras to oppose the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa.

Bu Fang's gaze was almost entirely focused on the faint blue lotus bud. Specks of light seemed to be drifting out from the lotus bud, like fireflies in the darkness. They were intersecting with the moonlight radiating from the sky above.

The spirit beasts in the surroundings all started roaring in a menacing manner. Their auras were becoming restless in the wake of the Black Swamp Boa's movements.

The Black Swamp Boa straightened its body before slightly lowering its head and gradually inched closer toward the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus.

As the Black Swamp Boa drew closer, the two Battle-Saints felt that the pressure on them increased as well... As expected of the terrifying existence that experienced three moltings, the pressure emanating from the Black Swamp Boa was extremely powerful.

Wu Yunbai widened her eyes as well. Her lips slightly parted as she watched the confrontation in the sky. From the looks of it, the two Battle-Saints were at a disadvantage.

"Look! It's going to bloom!"

Someone suddenly cried out in alarm while pointing toward the lotus bud floating on the little pond with a shaking finger. As time passed by, the lotus bud was actually quivering.

As everyone held their breaths, they suddenly felt as if something in the air had broken free from its restraints and rushed out.

Waves of freezing spirit energy burst forth from above the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus, coming wave after wave like tidewater.

"It's starting!" Wu Yunbai's eyes immediately lit up with expectation as she stared at the lotus bud.

"The blooming of the Monarch Lotus brings about a fleeting beauty... The Ice Soul Monarch Lotus will definitely captivate anyone who witnesses its blooming..." Yu Fu muttered to herself while gazing at the lotus bud floating on the little pond with dreamy eyes.

As the first petal of the lotus quietly opened, it was accompanied with a surging wave of spirit energy. Thereafter, the second petal, then the third...

Each time a petal opened, a simulacrum of a gigantic lotus petal would appear in the air like a beautiful aurora.

Bu Fang's eyes were shining with amazement. A beautiful scene like this was hard to encounter. The blooming of seventh grade spirit herbs were all accompanied with strange sightings. Back then in the Fallen Phoenix Valley, the scene of a phoenix ascending into the sky during the blooming of the Phoenix Blood Herb was also extremely stunning.

The Ice Soul Monarch Lotus was a seventh grade spirit herb as well. The beauty of the current scene was not any inferior to the blooming of the Phoenix Blood Herb.

Hiss!

Rumble! The ground started shaking. Everyone's attention was withdrawn from the beautiful scene. That humongous Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa had finally lost its patience. As it flicked its forked tongue, its lantern-sized eyes were glittering with emotions.

Malevolence and killing intent were welling up in this large serpent's eyes.

Both of the Battle-Saints tensed up and let out battle cries.

Up in the sky, the beautiful scene produced by the blooming of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus finally ended as well. Just like a flash in a pan, it was only a fleeting beauty.

The faint blue petals of lotus actually started wilting away in a rapid manner and revealed a gigantic lotus pod... This lotus pod was the real essence of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus.

"Beast! How dare you!"

The elder of the serpent-men tribe let out a shout. He propelled himself into the sky with his serpentine lower body and a pitch-black spear appeared in his hand. The tip of the spear was gleaming with a cold sharpness.

The serpent was sliding forward toward the herb farm as the elder thrust his spear at the large beast. The serpent's objective was the lotus pod remaining after the wilting of the Monarch Lotus.

Buzz!

The serpent-man elder did not dare to be careless while facing this large serpent. He was using all of his strength in this attack. As a wave of true energy surged out from his body, a countless amount of spears started falling from the sky toward the Black Swamp Boa.

Black Swamp Boa's eyes shone with malevolence. Anyone who attempted to obstruct it from obtaining the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus... must die!

The scales all over the Black Swamp Boa's body were emanating a chilling light. With a swing of its gigantic tail, it managed to block all of the falling spears without receiving a single injury.

"It's so hard?!" The serpent-men elder's eyes immediately widened.

The human Battle-Saint let out a shout as well. He stepped on thin air and immediately rose into the sky. As he thrust his palm toward the large serpent, true energy gathered in his palm and turned into an enormous palm that was extremely detailed and lifelike.

Boom! The palm directly landed on the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa's head and even caused its blood crown to slightly quiver...

Bu Fang's eyes suddenly widened and the corners of his mouth were twitching. He thought, "I hope that didn't ruin the blood crown, it's an ingredient that's hard to come by."

The Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa was enraged. As it opened its mouth and revealed its sharp teeth, it let out a screech and swung its gigantic tail with a wide sweeping motion.

Rumble! The air seemed to have been torn apart with the sweep of its tail.

The human Battle-Saint immediately cried out in panic and used all of his strength to protect his body. With a loud noise, he was sent flying like a ball and instantly smashed into the ground.

The fate of the serpent-man elder was even more miserable. He was swallowed with a single bite by the Black Swamp Boa.

The head elder's eyes widened in shock. This beast... How could it be so strong?

Fortunately, the serpent-man elder soon managed to crawl out from the large serpent's mouth. However, his entire body was covered in blood...

The human Battle-Saint rose into the air once more. Filled with rage, both of the Battle-Saints released their true energy at the same time and two streams of dreadful true energy suddenly streaked toward the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa.

The two Battle-Saints were truly enraged. Utilizing their true energy in such a reckless manner would result in severe damage toward the true energy vortex within their bodies. However, they were already long past the point of caring.

Surprisingly, the advance of the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa was stopped in such a manner and it was forced to continuously back away.

As waves of bestial roars sounded out, the horde of spirit beasts started charging toward the tribe in a frenzied state.

The head elder of the serpent-men tribe gave an order and the magic array underneath the tribe suddenly started flashing with an intense light.

The spirit beasts charging toward the tribe collided into the barrier and were all dazed by the collision. However, they could not break through the barrier.

For the time being, the situation entered a stalemate.

High above, the lantern-sized eyes of the Black Swamp Boa were focused on the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus. The large serpent let out a screech filled with frustration. These tiny ants before its eyes actually wanted to obstruct its breakthrough, unforgivable!

Thereafter, in front of the horrified gazes of the Battle-Saints, the blood crown of the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa suddenly emitted a crimson light and the head of the Black Swamp Boa started splitting apart right from the middle...

"This beast is attempting to molt by force?! Be careful!" Wu Yunbai hurriedly cried out in alarm.

## Chapter 176: Running Under The Moonlight While Holding a Kitchen Knife

The Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa was molting by force?!

This beast had gone insane! Just like humans when attempting a cultivation breakthrough, spirit beasts needed to find a quiet location when molting. Getting disturbed in the middle of the process might result in mental aberration.

Spirit beasts could suffer from mental aberration like humans as well. No one anticipated that the desperate struggle of the two Battle-Saints to protect the spirit herb would actually cause this beast to attempt its fourth molting. It was going all-in in a desperate gambit!

For the sake of obtaining the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus, this Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa had completely thrown all caution to the wind.

However... even though the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa was running the risk of suffering from mental aberration, it also meant that its cultivation level would dramatically increase and might even infinitely approach the cultivation level of an eighth grade spirit beast.

Eighth grade... was a really terrifying realm. If this beast advanced into eighth grade, everyone present might really perish.

The barrier would be simply unable to withstand the attack of an eighth grade spirit beast.

The head elder fell into a state of panic. If the Black Swamp Boa succeeded in molting, they would really be finished...

Wu Yunbai's eyes revealed a trace of panic as well. She managed to plan out everything but did not anticipate that this beast would actually make such a choice. The serpent had simply gone mad!

Bang! Bang!

As two loud noises rang out, both of the Battle-Saints were knocked several steps backward in mid-air. The expressions on their faces turned ugly.

The forehead of the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa split apart and a layer of skin slowly peeled off. A wave of spirit energy started surging, as if a violent storm was coming.

The intense pain caused the Black Swamp Boa to scream in agony. Its humongous body continuously thrashed about while its tail violently slammed onto the barrier, causing the entire barrier to shake for a moment.

The head elder's heart was trembling along with the shaking of the barrier...

"Please hold on..." The head elder silently prayed.

However, despite his prayer, the intensity of the barrier's shaking grew even further. The ferocity of the spirit beasts' attack on the barrier grew as well. Every single spirit beast became extremely menacing.

"Damn it! This must not be allowed to continue... Otherwise, once the barrier is broken, the tribe will be completely destroyed and everyone here will die," Wu Yunbai thought. Her eyes flashed as she searched for a solution.

Meanwhile, Bu Fang was observing his surroundings. He discovered that the eyes of the people around him were filled with terror. Evidently, they also understood the terrifying consequence of letting the large serpent succeed in molting.

Could the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa really succeed in molting?

It was actually difficult to predict because the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus was just sitting nearby. This beast only needed to swallow the lotus pod left after the wilting of the Monarch Lotus to successfully advance into eighth grade.



By then, this infuriated serpent would definitely not show any mercy to these people for obstructing its advancement.

"Master Ah Wu! Catch this!"

As Wu Yunbai took a step forward, she rose into the air as if she was light as a feather. With a flash of light, a longsword appeared in her hand.

The blade of the longsword was gleaming with flowing lights. Every ray of light appeared to have originated from the inside of the blade.

"The Cloud Rising Sword? Young miss... Isn't that the semi-divine weapon that the master gave you?"

The eyes of the human Battle-Saint called Ah Wu suddenly widened in astonishment. His entire body was trembling in excitement as he subconsciously caught the glowing longsword.

A semi-divine weapon... That was an actual semi-divine weapon!

Furthermore, it was a semi-divine weapon listed in the Celestial Arcanum Sect's Weapon Records!

The Battle-Saint was so agitated that he almost burst into tears. He was actually able to hold a semi-divine weapon and use it in combat... It was worth it even if he died in the next moment!

With the semi-divine weapon in his hand, the aura of the Battle-Saint suddenly changed. He became extremely confident. As his true energy filled up the longsword, he rose into the air like a god of war. His entire body appeared to be radiating light.

Compared to before, this Battle-Saint's arrogance suddenly increased by a large chunk.

"With a semi-divine weapon in my hand, the world is my oyster! You're just a mere snake! Now, die!"

With a shout, the blade of the sword suddenly flashed. A barrage of sword energy poured out and filled everyone's field of vision. They gathered and turned into a massive longsword.

Its target was the Black Swamp Boa!

The malevolence in the Black Swamp Boa's eyes suddenly dramatically soared. With a screech, a wave of spirit energy rushed out of its body and even its skin started shaking as well. The sword energy brutally shredded its shedded skin.

This was the shedded skin of a seventh grade spirit beast. If made into armor... it could even stop the full-strength attack of a Battle-King. However, it was completely torn into pieces by the sword energy.

The horridness of the sword energy could clearly be seen. Semi-divine weapons... deserved their reputation indeed.

This sword stroke could literally be called earth-shattering. The Black Swamp Boa felt a powerful sense of danger as well. It opened its mouth wide and roared toward the longsword in the air. Then, it suddenly charged forward with lightning fast speed.

Rumble!

Blood sailed through the air. The part of the large serpent where the skin had already shed was actually cut open and blood was spurting out.

However, the eyes of the Battle-Saint suddenly widened. He could feel a burst of dreadful pressure rushing toward him. Then, a shadowy figure shot out from the serpent's mouth and instantly struck his body.

Ah Wu was uncontrollably vomiting blood as he sailed through the air. He was nearly sliced in two just now. If not for the enhancement from the semi-divine weapon, he could have already perished.

Nonetheless, Ah Wu was still severely injured. He fell onto the ground and the Cloud Rising Sword landed a distance away from him.

Wu Yunbai, the head elder, and everyone else were all stunned...

Did he not have the upper hand? How did he get defeated in an instant instead? What happened to slaying this beast? What happened to his imperious presence from before?

The serpent-man Battle-Saint's expression turned dark as well. He thought, "Almost dying to a mere beast even with a semi-divine weapon... What a disgrace to all Battle-Saints!"

The humongous body of the Black Swamp Boa fell onto the ground with a loud noise. A snake, more fearsome than the Black Swamp Boa and a dozen times smaller, was coiled into a ball in mid-air and flicking its tongue. It then flew through the air in lightning fast speed toward the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus floating in the pond.

This was the true form of the Black Swamp Boa. Feeling threatened by the semi-divine weapon, it had no choice but to reveal its true form.

It was already more than capable of trouncing all of its enemies blocking its way. Soon, it would obtain the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus, there was no one around who could stop it from becoming an eighth grade spirit beast anymore!

By then, it would become the overlord-class spirit beast of the entire Illusory Spirit Swamp, the over-class spirit beast that stood at the top of the food chain.

The glow emanating from the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus was so beautiful that it was suffocating. The speed of the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa was lightning fast and its eyes were filled with desire.

It was getting nearer and nearer!

It would soon obtain the spirit herb of its dreams!

It would soon become an eighth grade spirit beast and look down upon the entire region!

The head elder and the others were filled with utter despair. They never expected the two Battle-Saints would actually fail to stop the seventh grade Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa...

Once the beast obtained the spirit herb, the entire serpent-men tribe would fall into ruins.

Just when everyone had fallen into despair, the sound of soft footsteps rang out. A figure slowly stepped out from the crowd and walked in the direction of the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa.

Wu Yunbai's eyes widened in incredulity as she watched the young man slowly walking forward.

"What is he doing?!" Wu Yunbai was filled with bewilderment. Why was a mere Battle-King stepping forward at such a moment? Was he seeking his own death?

A smile appeared on Bu Fang's lips as he looked at the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa. A wisp of green smoke encircled his hand and a pitch-black kitchen knife appeared in his palm.

As Bu Fang held the kitchen knife, his walking pace slowly changed into a jog. Then, his speed gradually became faster and he started sprinting.

In the darkness of the night, a young man holding a kitchen knife was running under the moonlight.

Chapter 177: Compared to the Aura of a Dragon, the Aura of a Snake Is Nothing!

"Has he gone mad?"

Everyone was staring at the knife-wielding figure charging straight toward the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa, with blank expressions on their faces. Was he going to oppose the Black Swamp Boa with his own strength? Was he planning to snatch the seed pod of the Monarch Lotus from the mouth of a spirit beast that was infinitely close to becoming eighth grade?

That was simply deranged and foolhardy!

That was the thought on everyone's mind at the moment. If Bu Fang was a seventh grade Battle-Saint, they might consider his behavior as worthy of praise. However, Bu Fang was merely a fifth grade Battle-King. From their point of view, his current behavior was simply stupid beyond belief!

A fifth grade Battle-King was simply a feeble ant before the Black Swamp Boa that defeated two Battle-Saints at once. Perhaps with a single swipe of its tail, this young man would be turned into dust!

Wu Yunbai let out a sigh and helplessly shook her head. She originally admired Bu Fang because he was a chef capable of making elixir cuisines. Such a chef was hard to find even within the White Cloud Villa. However, even though this young man's culinary skill was pretty good... his intelligence was worrying.

Why was he courting death by charging toward the Black Swamp Boa? Even if he really needed that lotus pod, he should first assess his own capability. Attempting to achieve something that exceeded one's capability was no better than committing suicide.

Elder sister Mu was bewildered as well. Before she could even react, Bu Fang had already charged toward the Black Swamp Boa. When she finally realized the situation, it was already too late for her to stop Bu Fang.

Ah Ni was stunned for a moment and then his eyes ignited with boiling hot fervor!

"Damn it! This friend has the guts to charge out there even though he's only a Battle-King! How could a Battle-Emperor like me cower inside this place?! I will not allow this!"

Ah Ni let out an angry roar and swung his tail. He was planning to follow suit as well.

However, before Ah Ni could even get far, he was struck in the face by the head elder's tail.

"Stop right there! Go stand at the back! What do you think you're doing?! Do you think it's the time for you to behave recklessly?!" the head elder angrily shouted. Ah Ni's complexion immediately turned ashen pale from fright. He lowered his head and went back to his original position.

However, his eyes were still filled with frustration. When he looked toward Bu Fang, his gaze was already filled with reverence.

The role model of our generation!

He shall be honored even in death!

The appearance of the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa was even more sinister after becoming much smaller. Its aura also became very ferocious. Its speed was so fast that everyone sucked in a breath of cold air.

It sailed through the air like an arrow seeking to pierce through everything.

Suddenly, the pupils of the Black Swamp Boa constricted. Within its field of vision, an ant-like human was actually heading straight in its direction.

The aura of the human was so weak... that it did not even have the slightest interest to deal with him.

"Is this human stupid? The two from earlier were very powerful but they still nearly died. The aura of this human is clearly much weaker... Is he coming here to die?" This was the actual inner thoughts of the Black Swamp Boa at the moment.

"Since that's the case... I'll just play with him for a while."

However, was Bu Fang really acting without thinking? No... he was not a fool!

While Bu Fang was charging toward the Black Swamp Boa, the true energy inside his body was slowly circulating. As the true energy seethed within his body, it filled his limbs and his aura reached its peak.

In the midst of running, the pitch-black kitchen knife in Bu Fang's hand was also glowing. The intensity of the light was not that strong at the start, but was slowly becoming brighter!

In the end, the kitchen knife was shining intensely!

Rumble!

As Bu Fang took another step forward, the ground slightly shook for a moment. The appearance of the antiquated kitchen knife in his hand had completely transformed. It changed from its shabby

appearance from before into a large golden kitchen knife. Light was emanating from the knife in all directions. Its intensity was so bright that it nearly blinded everyone.

Gosh... What the hell was that thing?

All of the serpent-men felt a dreadful pressure instantly engulfing them. It was a horrifying feeling that seemed to have originated from the depths of their bloodline. Their bodies started to tremble and their expressions were filled with horror!

The head elder was shaking like a leaf. He had never reacted in such a frightened manner before. Even when facing the Serpentine Sovereign for the first time, he did not feel this afraid...

This sort of fear was not from the crushing difference in their strength but originated from the depths of their bloodline.

With loud splashes, the serpent-men prostrated themselves on the ground. The trembling and the sudden palpitation forced them to kneel.

Wu Yunbai's eyes widened in astonishment. Her mouth was wide open as if an apple was stuck in there while her face was filled with disbelief... "This... What's going on? Why are the serpent-men prostrating on the ground?"

Ding ding ding!

A distance away, the Cloud Rising Sword that landed on the ground suddenly started shaking as well. Wu Yunbai who shared a telepathic bond with the sword suddenly felt a suffocating feeling for a moment. She could feel a sense of fear emanating from the Cloud Rising Sword.

As a semi-divine weapon, the Cloud Rising Sword naturally possessed sentience. How could a sword with sentience be afraid of an ordinary object?

Wu Yunbai raised her head once more and stared at the young man holding the golden kitchen knife in the distance...

That kitchen knife...

"Is that kitchen knife really a semi-divine weapon?! Are you kidding me? Which accursed tool-making master produced this semi-divine kitchen knife? Did he not realize that he was wasting valuable materials?"

Wu Yunbai was furious! The most infuriating part was that she sensed that the kitchen knife seemed to be superior to her Cloud Rising Sword!

The semi-divine weapon of the White Cloud Villa was inferior to a kitchen knife... How humiliating.

Bu Fang's running speed became faster and faster. Since the kitchen knife became much larger, he could only carry it over his shoulder.

At first, the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa did not take Bu Fang seriously. However, when the pitch-black kitchen knife in his hand started glowing and transformed into a large golden kitchen knife, the Black Swamp Boa was dumbfounded!

Its body suddenly stopped as if it was frozen solid by the ice from the polar regions. It completely lost its ferocity from before!

Roar!

A dragon's roar surged out from the golden kitchen knife and immediately rushed into the air, as if a divine dragon was roaming the skies.

Boom... All of the serpent-men prostrated their bodies even lower toward the ground. It felt as if the blood in their bodies were boiling. Good heavens... A dragon's roar! This kitchen knife... was made from the bones of a dragon!

"Is there any humanity left in this world? A dragon bone... kitchen knife? What a waste of precious materials!"

This was the inner thoughts of everyone there. Forging a kitchen knife with the bones of a dragon... was indeed quite wasteful.



However, Bu Fang did not care about what they thought... This kitchen knife was part of his God of Cooking set. So what if the knife was made from the bones of a dragon?

Bu Fang stopped right in front of the seed pod of the Monarch Lotus and took a few breaths.

A screeching sound came from above. The Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa was still flying toward him but the intimidating pressure from before was gone.

Compared to the aura of a dragon, its aura... was nothing!

Bu Fang stood right in front of the Monarch Lotus and watched as the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa rapidly approached. He slowly wrapped his hands around the handle of the kitchen knife... and then suddenly swung the knife.

The kitchen knife glowing with a dazzling light drew a beautiful arc in the air before making an intimate contact with the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa.

Chapter 178: The Tribe Leader... Is Saved

Bang!

The back of the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife directly struck the body of the rapidly approaching Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa. This seventh grade spirit beast was immediately sent flying away like a ball.

While everyone watched on in amazement as the high and mighty spirit beast violently slammed into the ground. The impact caused the ground around that area to collapse.

Bu Fang's arms were slightly trembling. He winced in pain as he sucked in a breath of cold air. The serpent was tougher than he expected. The flesh on his palm was almost torn off from the impact.

The Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa that was sent flying by Bu Fang suddenly rose into the air once more. It flicked its tongue at Bu Fang with eyes filled with malice.

Bu Fang heaved the kitchen knife over his shoulder and raised his eyebrows as he gave the Black Swamp Boa a glance. Then, he slowly walked toward the serpent.

At the same time, the spirit beasts around the tribe had all stopped attacking the barrier. They were all prostrating on the ground. The aura emanating from the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife was completely restraining their bodies.

Bu Fang slowly walked toward the serpent with one hand holding the handle of the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife and the back of the knife resting on his shoulder.

The Black Swamp Boa was somewhat flinching while fearfully staring at Bu Fang. As a serpent spirit beast, its veins were flowing with the bloodline of the dragon race. Each time the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa underwent molting, it was further refining its racial bloodline and advancing its development into a dragon. Therefore, when facing the actual aura of a dragon, it could not even think of resisting.

Rustle...

The Black Swamp Boa was writhing in pain as its skin continued to fall off. The pain experienced during its molting was not something comprehensible by humans.

The molting process had already reached its last moments... Since the Black Swamp Boa had not swallowed the seed pod of the Monarch Lotus, it was clearly doomed to fail. As a result, it would suffer a severe injury that would take a few hundred years to recover from.

The Black Swamp Boa originally thought the appearance of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus was its opportunity. However, it never anticipated a young man with a Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife would appear. Who could expect such a twist of fate?

Bu Fang brandished the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife and suddenly pushed the knife toward the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa. A faint golden glow circulated on the surface of the kitchen knife and scattered like a wisp of smoke into the Black Swamp Boa's nostrils.

The body of the Black Swamp Boa was trembling. It lost all courage to resist... This was due to the effect of racial bloodline suppression.

Bu Fang indifferently gave the Black Swamp Boa a glance. With the presence of the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, it was completely unable to resist. The Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife could only mildly suppress ordinary seventh grade spirit beasts but possessed absolute suppression effect on spirit beasts like the Black Swamp Boa and Wandering Dragon Cow because their evolution goal was becoming dragons. Thus, they were naturally powerless against the aura of a dragon.

Splurt!

As the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife swung downward, blood immediately splattered everywhere.

Bu Fang expressionlessly watched as the Black Swamp Boa writhed in its own pool of blood...

"On account of the difficulty of your cultivation, I'll only sever your blood crown today. Get lost," Bu Fang said.

The Black Swamp Boa hissed back in response while flicking its pitch-black tongue. Its eyes were filled with lament and frustration. However, after looking at the golden kitchen knife on Bu Fang's shoulder... it chose to back off in the end.

After giving a final hiss, the Black Swamp Boa wriggled its body and swiftly slithered into the depths of the Illusory Spirit Swamp. Within an instant, it disappeared without a trace.

After losing their leader, the other spirit beasts all retreated as well. In an instant, they were completely gone, like a receding tide.

Bu Fang let out a soft sigh and staggered for a moment. The Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife in his hand grew dim all of a sudden. As the glow gradually faded, it regained its pitch-black appearance. In addition, it turned into a wisp of green smoke and burrowed into his wrist.

The true energy expenditure of the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife was simply too much. Even though he possessed more true energy as a fifth grade Battle-King compared to back when he was only a fourth grade Battle-Spirit, slicing off the blood crown of the Black Swamp Boa was his limit.

With his current level of true energy, Bu Fang was unable to slay the Black Swamp Boa. The scales of the Black Swamp Boa were too tough. He would need to expend a large amount of true energy to cut through its skin. However, at the moment he was unable to provide the amount of true energy to utilize the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife.

After regaining his balance, Bu Fang walked toward the blood crown lying on the ground.

This was the actual blood crown of the Black Swamp Boa. Even though the other blood crown on its larger body looked pretty good as well, that was not real. All of the serpent's essence was compressed into this blood crown that was only the size of two fists.

After losing its supply of spirit energy from the Black Swamp, the blood crown gradually hardened. However, it did not become too hard and retained a certain softness.

After seeing the dense amount of spirit and vitality energy emanating from the blood crown, Bu Fang broke into a smile. He was pleased with his decision of cutting off the blood crown. It was an outstanding ingredient.

After putting away the blood crown into the system's storage space, Bu Fang turned around and walked toward the seed pod of the Monarch Lotus.

The Ice Soul Monarch Lotus had completely wilted. Its beauty only lasted for an instant. Even though it was astonishingly beautiful, it only left a moment of brilliance in the world before wilting. After it wilted, a faint blue pod filled with jade-like seeds was left.

Bu Fang took out the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife and sliced off the seed pod. He then walked toward the others while holding the seed pod of the Monarch Lotus in his hand.

Everyone else was still in a state of bewilderment. Some of them did not even know what had just happened. Why did that high and mighty Black Swamp Boa retreat all of a sudden? What happened to that ferocious stampede of spirit beasts?

"You... You drove off the Blood Crown Black Swamp Boa?!" Wu Yunbai exclaimed while pointing a finger at Bu Fang. She was filled with disbelief. While everyone else was despairing from this seemingly inescapable disaster, a chef from god knows where resolved the situation using... a kitchen knife.

"This is the seed pod of the Monarch Lotus." Bu Fang did not respond to Wu Yunbai. Instead, he turned toward the head elder of the serpent-men tribe who was still nervously prostrating on the ground.

The head elder only looked up after hearing Bu Fang's words. When he saw the faint blue lotus pod, his eyes immediately lit up.

"That's right, that's the seed pod of the Monarch Lotus. This young master..." The head elder hesitated for a moment.

If Bu Fang was still that unknown chef from before who only knew how to cook, the head elder would have openly snatched the lotus pod back. However, he was hesitating... If he had to prostate whenever the kitchen knife was out, how was he going to snatch anything?

"Take it, aren't you going to use this to treat someone? Go see if it works. There's plenty of seeds here, so just leave some for me when you're done," Bu Fang said as he tossed the lotus pod toward the head elder.

The head elder was stunned for a moment as he subconsciously caught the lotus pod.

"Young master, you... Alright, please come with me." The head elder gave Bu Fang a serious look and then beckoned Bu Fang to follow him.

Yu Fu and the others were sobbing with joy. They thought they were going to lose the seed pod of the Monarch Lotus. They never anticipated that Bu Fang would actually hand over the seed pod to them. In that case... her father would be saved!

With the seeds of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus, there was hope for treating their bedridden tribe leader.

As the group slowly proceeded on, the head elder instructed a few of his subordinates to tidy up the devastated herb farm before leading Bu Fang and the others through a group of buildings.

The group soon reached a slightly run-down building.

Even though the building was short and run-down, it was much more luxurious compared to the residences of the other serpent-men.

The head elder led Bu Fang, Yu Fu as well as the uninvited Wu Yunbai into a room. The interior of the room suddenly became somewhat crowded.

The gorgeous serpent-woman sitting inside suddenly got up and looked toward them in surprise.

"Mother, there's hope for father!" The moment Yu Fu entered the room, she immediately threw herself into that gorgeous serpent-woman's embrace.

The gorgeous serpent-woman was stunned for a moment. She subconsciously turned toward the elderly head elder and saw the latter waving a faint blue lotus pod with a smile on his face.

"The Monarch Lotus has bloomed and its seed pod is here... The tribe leader is saved."

## Chapter 179: Blood Crown Wandering Dragon Beef Congee

"Head... Head elder, is there really hope for Yu Feng?" After blanking out for a moment, tears suddenly trickled down the cheeks of the gorgeous serpent-woman. She covered her mouth and started sobbing.

There was finally hope for her husband. The former strongest warrior of the serpent-men tribe was about to return.

"The seeds of the Monarch Lotus will definitely be able to treat Yu Feng," the head elder replied as he gave her a glance.

Bu Fang and Wu Yunbai remained silent and quietly watched on from the side.

The head elder solemnly raised up the lotus pod. As he directed true energy into his palms, a marble-like seed was sucked out from the seed pod. The seed was extremely crystal clear, as if it was carved from a piece of jade.

Everyone within the room was somewhat enthralled by the plentiful spirit energy and aroma that instantly filled the entire room.

As Bu Fang breathed in the aroma, his eyes shone brightly as well. Judging from its spirit energy and aroma, the seeds of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus were indeed qualified enough to be used together with the Phoenix Blood Herb and the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit.

Holding the seed in his hand, the head elder suddenly clenched his fist tightly together. He directed true energy into his palm and the seed was crushed into powder. As he opened his hand, the seed had turned into a puff of powder and was hovering above his palm.

With a gentle wave of his hand, the puff of powder drifted into the comatose serpent-man's mouth.

Yu Fu's eyes were sparkling with hope as she stared at the serpent-man who ingested the puff of powder.

After ingesting the powder, the serpent-man's complexion immediately started glowing. A faint blue light flashed past... and then nothing else happened.

Hmm? Was that all?

Bu Fang was stunned for a moment. He turned and looked toward the head elder. After using up a single seed... it seemed like their treatment plan did not work at all?

What was going on? It was not just Bu Fang who was startled by the current situation, even the head elder was stunned. According to his assumption, the serpent-man should have woken up after ingesting the seed of the Monarch Lotus.

Refusing to give up, the head elder crushed another lotus seed and sent the powder into the serpent-man's mouth. However, just like the first seed, the serpent-man's complexion flashed blue for a moment and then nothing else happened.

Each and every single seed of the Monarch Lotus was extremely valuable. By all rights, the serpent-man should have woken up after consuming two seeds in a row...

Clenching his teeth together, the head elder crushed another seed with his trembling hand.

With only eight seeds in total, using up three seeds within such a short while was definitely an extravagance.

However... the serpent-man remained unconscious.

At this point, the head elder's lips started trembling. He was planning to crush another seed but was stopped by Wu Yunbai who could not stand by and watch any longer.

"Don't waste any more of the seeds. If this remedy was effective, he should have already woken up after the first seed. Three seeds is already more than enough. Any more... would just be a waste," Wu Yunbai said with a somewhat cold voice.

The head elder dejectedly relaxed the hand that was holding the seed. His face was ashen pale from the loss of hope.

Meanwhile, the gorgeous serpent-woman and Yu Fu were already on the verge of breaking down. The hope that had just arisen was ruthlessly crushed.

Wu Yunbai walked toward the bedridden serpent-man. A cloud of true energy left her hand and enveloped his chest. She closed her eyes as if she was sensing the condition of his body.

"He's still unconscious because of a severe loss of vitality energy. No matter how many of the Monarch Lotus' seeds are used, it will only be a waste. Even though the seeds are capable of providing him with spirit energy and enhancing his healing capability, they're unable to replenish his vitality energy. You're only wasting the seeds like this," Wu Yunbai directly said.

She withdrew her hand and looked back at the others.

The head elder let out a sigh while the eyes of both Yu Fu and her mother were bloodshot. With their hope dashed, it was already a miracle that they did not burst into tears.

Vitality energy? Bu Fang narrowed his eyes as countless thoughts flashed across his mind.

Thereafter, Bu Fang stepped forward and slowly walked toward the serpent-man. He stopped next to the bed and stared at serpent-man's face for a long while.



After looking for a while, Bu Fang turned toward Wu Yunbai and asked, "Are you really sure that he's still unconscious because of a loss of vitality energy?"

Wu Yunbai was suddenly speechless. When she noticed Bu Fang staring at the bedridden serpent-man for a such a long time, she thought he had discovered something new. Contrary to her expectation, he still had to ask her in the end. Then, what was he staring at for such a long time?!

"Members of the White Cloud Villa are proficient in all sorts of miscellaneous skills and learning medical skills is considered compulsory for us. Therefore, you don't need to doubt my diagnosis," Wu Yunbai haughtily said with confidence.

Bu Fang nodded. Ignoring Wu Yunbai who was proudly thrusting her chest out, he turned and looked toward the head elder. He held out his hand and said, "Since the seeds are useless, give me the remaining seeds."

Without saying anything, the head elder immediately handed the seed pod over to Bu Fang. With a flash of light, the seed pod was put into the system's storage space.

After storing the seed pod, Bu Fang turned toward the gorgeous serpent-woman who was quietly weeping and asked, "Do you have a cooking stove here?"

The gorgeous serpent-woman gave Bu Fang a puzzled glance and subconsciously pointed toward the back of the room.

Bu Fang nodded and walked toward the rundown cooking stove in the corner.

There was a rice vat next to the cooking stove. When he removed the lid, he discovered that there was not even a single rice grain inside. The living conditions of the serpent-men tribe were indeed extremely tough.

After cleaning up the pot, Bu Fang actually started a fire and got busy around the cooking stove.

Wu Yunbai was at first surprised by Bu Fang's actions but she immediately thought of something. Her eyes slightly widened and started shining brightly.

"Is he going to make an elixir cuisine and use that to treat this serpent-man? However... is it really possible to replenish vitality energy with an elixir cuisine?" Wu Yunbai muttered in disbelief.

Losing vitality energy was actually quite a common problem. The vitality energy of people with weak constitution tended to deplete all the time. However, when the loss of vitality energy reached a certain level, the problem was much more severe.

Bu Fang took out some rice from the system's storage space. This was the same rice used to cook the Egg-Fried Rice sold within the store. Every single grain was plump. Bu Fang originally intended to use the rice to cook a meal for himself. However, he never got the chance to use them while he was inside the Illusory Spirit Swamp all this time. Now, it was time to put them to good use.

After washing the rice, he left them inside the pot to boil.

Bu Fang gathered some true energy that he just recovered and brought out the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. With a flash of light, the blood crown appeared in his other hand.

"This is... the blood crown of that Black Swamp Boa?!" Wu Yunbai covered her mouth while her face was filled with bewilderment. "This fellow... did he obtain this thing earlier on?"

In that case, the Black Swamp Boa must be really depressed right now. It gained nothing and even lost its own blood crown!

Nonetheless, if the blood crown was used... this might just work. The essence of the Black Swamp Boa was located inside its blood crown and most of its vitality energy was accumulated there as well. An elixir cuisine made from the blood crown might just be effective.

Bu Fang carefully sliced off a small piece of the blood crown using the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. After dicing the small piece of blood crown, he put the rest of the blood crown away. With a flash of light, a fat and tender piece of the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat appeared in his hand.

After dicing the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat as well, he mixed both the meat together and poured them into the pot.

As the lid of the pot was removed, everyone in the room was astonished by the refreshing aroma of the rice that accompanied the rising steam.

Both Yu Fu and her mother turned their heads and looked in Bu Fang's direction. They were somewhat baffled when they saw Bu Fang was actually making congee.

Yu Fu understood Bu Fang far better than her mother. When she realized that Bu Fang might be making an elixir cuisine, her eyes glimmered with hope once more.

There might still be hope for her father!

As white bubbles frothed inside the pot, the swelling rice grains were emanating a mellow aroma.

After pouring the mixture of the blood crown and Wandering Dragon Cow's meat into the pot, Bu Fang's expression started becoming serious as well. His true energy had not completely recovered yet, so he did not know whether he could last until this elixir cuisine was fully completed.

Fortunately, the process of making the congee was much simpler than his other elixir cuisines. Therefore, his current amount of true energy might be enough.

"I might need to prepare some snacks that could help me recover my true energy in the future... Otherwise, it'll be annoying whenever my true energy runs out," Bu Fang muttered to himself. His forehead was covered with fine beads of sweat.

However, the elixir cuisine was still completed in the end.

The white grains of rice were reddish in color while dark-red pieces of beef floated on the surface of the congee. A rich fragrance and vitality energy was hovering above the congee.

Without any doubt, a congee made with the meat from two seventh grade spirit beasts was extraordinary.

After Bu Fang ladled the congee—which was just enough for a single bowl—into a worn-out ceramic bowl, he walked toward the others who were already astounded while holding the congee that was strongly exuding vitality energy.

Chapter 180: Look for Me in the Imperial City of the Light Wind Empire

Hiss!

A faint hissing sound could be heard. As Bu Fang held the bowl of congee in his hands, the vitality energy hovering above it appeared to have turned into a small snake. It was continuously swimming around in the air and intermingling with the aroma encircling it.

"This... this is an elixir cuisine?!" Wu Yunbai exclaimed in disbelief.

Bu Fang gave her a puzzled glance. He could not understand why she was so surprised. Was making a bowl of elixir cuisine... really that strange?

Of course, there was nothing strange about making an elixir cuisine. Wu Yunbai was only surprised because Bu Fang easily made the elixir cuisine even when the amount of true energy in his body was in a depleted state.

The working condition was extremely horrible as well. That cooking stove... Wu Yunbai had never seen a cooking stove in such a terrible state before. It was doubtful whether this cooking stove could be used to cook ordinary dishes, let alone elixir cuisines that had harsher requirements and a higher difficulty.

Bu Fang brought the steaming bowl of congee over to the serpent-man. Yu Fu and her mother were staring at him with eyes filled with hope while the head elder's gaze was filled with gratitude.

Bu Fang's elixir cuisine was their only chance left.

Bu Fang gave the serpent-man a glance and went into a daze for a moment. He then turned toward Yu Fu's mother and said, "Feed this to him."

The serpent-man was her husband after all. Besides, Bu Fang did not have the habit of feeding another male...

Yu Fu's mother carefully took the bowl from Bu Fang. This was her last hope.

As she scooped a spoonful of congee using a worn out duck spoon, a small snake made of vitality energy encircled the handle of the spoon like a vine entwining a branch.

With a careful expression, Yu Fu's mother gently blew on the spoonful of congee in order to cool the piping hot congee, even though this level of hotness would not be able to hurt the serpent-man at all.

As she fed the serpent-man a spoonful of congee, the congee entered his stomach and turned into a small snake. It instantly spread throughout his body and nourished every part of it.

The turbulent spirit energy within the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat plus the vitality energy from the Black Swamp Boa's blood crown immediately caused the serpent-man's cold body to heat up like he was thrown into a fire.

The eyes of Yu Fu's mother suddenly widened and her hand holding the bowl of congee started trembling as well. She suppressed the agitation in her heart and fed the serpent-man spoon by spoon.

As Bu Fang watched this scene, a barely noticeable smile appeared on his lips.

It really worked?! Wu Yunbai was astonished. To be able to produce an elixir cuisine in such harsh conditions, how formidable was this young man's culinary skill? Even the chefs back at the White Cloud Villa might be inferior to him.

The head elder finally let out a sigh of relief while Yu Fu's eyes were filled with joy.

After finishing half the bowl of congee, Yu Fu's mother suddenly felt her husband's body slightly trembled for a moment. The slight tremble caused her heart to quiver in response. There was finally a reaction from her husband!

Subsequently, under everyone's attentive gaze, the eyes of that serpent-man, Yu Feng, slowly opened. His eyes were filled with confusion.

The mood of the serpent-men family was finally turned from sadness to happiness. Bu Fang was feeling a little happy for them as well.

However, Bu Fang was more happy about finally completing his objective for entering the Illusory Spirit Swamp. He managed to obtain a satisfactory ingredient, the seed pod and seeds of a seventh grade spirit herb, the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus.

"Spirit herb harvesting completed. Next, the return teleportation will now begin. Teleportation preparation in progress..."

Just when Bu Fang was quietly watching the joyful reunion of the serpent-men family, the system's solemn voice suddenly resounded in his mind.

Bu Fang was slightly startled for a moment. He almost forgot about returning home.

"Teleportation preparation is completed. The return teleportation will begin in 3, 2, 1..."

As the system finished counting down, a white speck of light appeared above Bu Fang's head. It started to rapidly form lines of light in the air and soon finished drawing a magic array.

Wu Yunbai was the first to notice the strange phenomenon happening around Bu Fang. The magic array hovering in the air made her eyes widen from surprise...

"What is he going to do this time? This magic array... it's really complex!" Wu Yunbai thought. It was a magic array that she had never seen before.

The serpent-men family noticed the commotion as well. Yu Fu opened her mouth and asked, "Our benefactor, what's going on? Are... are you leaving already?"

As Bu Fang sensed the magic array above his head was about to be completed, he suddenly recalled something important.

He went into a daze for a moment before he turned toward Yu Fu and said, "Erm... Miss, there's something else that I need to inform you. As your father's constitution is too weak, I only provided enough vitality energy within the Wandering Dragon Beef Congee to sustain him for half a month."

What?! Yu Fu and her father, Yu Feng, who was getting up from the bed, was startled as well.

This bowl of congee will only provide him enough vitality energy for half a month? Doesn't that mean he would revert back to his weakened state after half a month?

"Our benefactor, isn't there any other solution?" Yu Feng anxiously asked. Since there was finally a possibility of treating him, he definitely had to grasp the chance. He felt a sense of shame for letting his wife and daughter worried about him while he lay in bed all the time.

Yu Fu looked toward Bu Fang with hopeful eyes as well.

She firmly believed that Bu Fang could treat her father!

As Bu Fang pondered for a moment, a breeze started to encircle him and gradually grew stronger.

"Within half a month, come to the Light Wind Empire's imperial city and look for Fang Fang's Little Store. Once you're there, I have a way of helping you," Bu Fang said.

Half a month, Light Wind Empire's imperial city, Fang Fang's Little Store!

Yu Fu deeply memorized these words in her heart.

"Hey! Don't go just yet! The seeds of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus are still in your hands, I want to trade with you!"

Wu Yunbai finally recovered from her surprise. "Looks like this Bu Fang is planning to teleport away... But, activating a teleportation array on the spot, is there a need for him to be so showy?!"

"Hmm? What? This woman wants to make a trade for the seeds of the Ice Soul Monarch Lotus?" Bu Fang thought.

He suddenly raised his eyebrows for a moment and then expressionlessly looked toward Wu Yunbai. The latter's voice was already starting to be overwhelmed by the deafening sound of the wind.

"If you want the lotus seeds, come look for me in the imperial city," Bu Fang coolly replied.

As his words ended, the magic array shrunk and disappeared along with Bu Fang.

Looking at the empty room, Wu Yunbai was furious! She could not believe Bu Fang actually teleported away on the spot... She thought, "Doesn't he know that people who show off like this will get struck by lightning?!"

Within Wu Yunbai's memories, only those teleportation array spirit talismans made by array masters were similar to the magic array that appeared earlier on.

"Hmph! The imperial city of the Light Wind Empire? I will definitely find you!" Wu Yunbai muttered.

Yu Fu had never gone to the imperial city before. In fact, she had never even left the tribe before, so she had no idea about the outside world. Therefore, she asked, "Dad, our benefactor told us to go to the imperial city of the Light Wind Empire, but... how long will it take for us to get there?"

At the moment, Yu Feng's expression was somewhat awkward.

He stroked Yu Fu's head and said, "It's not that far. From here to the imperial city... should take half a month of travel."

...

A gust of wind started blowing and then engulfed the entire room.

A speck of light appeared in the air and gradually formed a complete magic array. As the wind violently blew on, a figure slowly appeared in the center of the wind.

Bu Fang's thin figure walked out of the wind and stood in the middle of the room. As he sensed the familiarity of his surroundings, he suddenly felt a sense of comfort.

"As I thought, the inside of the store is still the most comfortable," Bu Fang exclaimed.



After staying in the Illusory Spirit Swamp for so long, his entire body was feeling sticky. Therefore, the first thing he did after returning was not examining the ingredient that he obtained; instead, he immediately headed into the bathroom.

For a chef with a slight obsession with cleanliness, having a dirty appearance was most unacceptable.

However, while Bu Fang was happily taking a shower, he did not realize a crowd was already gathered outside the store...