

## Gourmet 521

Chapter 521 A Pervert Came into the Restauran

As Bu Fang made his way back to the restaurant, dusk arrived.

There were no traces of human activity in the vicinity of the restaurant. Everyone had already gone back to rest for the day.

With his advertising board on his shoulder, Bu Fang walked toward the gate of the restaurant. As he pushed open the bronze gate, it creaked heavily. He dropped the huge signboard and walked into the restaurant.

Once inside, Bu Fang felt the glares of two people fixed on him. Nethery and Lord Dog were sat at the dining table some distance from the door. They glared at Bu Fang, who had just returned, with wide eyes.

The glares directed Bu Fang's way made him pause for a moment.

"What's going on?" Bu Fang asked. He pulled out a chair and sat on it. When the full weight of his body was transferred to the chair, he heaved a deep sigh and decided to rest for a while.

Today, he had prepared Barbecue skewer. It was a dish that required extreme concentration; furthermore, he had set up the Gourmet Array. All of that had really taxed him mentally.

Although the way Bu Fang cooked made it all seem easy, no one really knew the difficulties involved behind it.

"We are... hungry." Nethery licked her lips as she expressionlessly stared at Bu Fang.

Lord Dog sparkling gaze and hanging tongue made evident its agreement with Nethery's words.

"These two gluttons..." Bu Fang sighed, and then he stood up and made his way into the kitchen.

Nethery's eye twinkled as she watched Bu Fang's retreating figure.

Once in the kitchen, Bu Fang fired up the stove, and soon, a fragrant aroma began to waft out from it.

Bu Fang had cooked Dragon Blood Rice and Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs so many times, he could now do it in his sleep. It was now really easy for him to prepare these two dishes.

The fragrant aroma kept wafting out of the kitchen, and sounds from the Black Turtle Constellation Wok were audible in the dining room.

After a long while, silence finally reigned in the kitchen.

Nethery and Lord Dog were already waiting patiently.

Their gazes remained fixed on the kitchen door, and soon a skinny figure walked out of it.

"Nethery, here's your Dragon Blood Rice, and Blacky, here's your Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs," Bu Fang calmly said as he placed both dishes in front of the woman and the dog.

A glow flickered in the eyes of Nethery and Lord Dog, and they immediately began to gorge themselves on their meals. The manner with which the woman and the dog ate was somehow similar.

Bu Fang was not hungry, so he sat back down on his chair and watched the two enjoy their meals.

He had already advanced into the Magical Hand Conference's top 50, yet there was no notice from the system informing him that he completed the Temporary Mission. It seemed he had to advance even further.

The fame gained from being in the top 50 in the Magical Hand Conference was not enough, it seemed....

Bu Fang felt a headache brewing, so he rubbed his temples.

This competition had affected his restaurant's business, and this displeased him a little, for this directly affected the advancement of his cultivation. Although his store being run in the Light Wind's Imperial City also supplemented his cultivation, Bu Fang was worried about temporarily losing his source in Heavenly Mist City.

Lord Dog and Nethery soon finished their meals; after that, one immediately crawled under the Path-Understanding Tree, and the other returned to the Netherworld Ship.

Only Bu Fang and two cleanly-licked plates remained at the table.

He yawned and carried the plates back to the kitchen.

Whitey, whose eyes glowed purple, quietly stood guard at the entrance of the kitchen. Bu Fang patted its stomach and placed the plates into the dishwasher. He put the sleeping Shrimpy atop Whitey's head.

After that, Bu Fang made his way to his room. After taking a warm shower and drying his wet hair, Bu Fang lay on his bed and slept off.

...

Boom!

A shadow as large as a small mountain emerged from a crater on the ground. It was a bear-like spirit beast, which had a terrifying aura and incomparable strength.

A human shadow stood beside the enormous spirit beast. It was Xiong Shi from the Magical Hand Conference.

"So that is Cloud Mist Restaurant? To think there was still a restaurant in Heavenly Mist City..." Xiong Shi laughed.

His next opponent was Bu Fang, the biggest dark horse in this round of the Magical Hand Conference... a chef, nonetheless.

A chef... as Xiong Shi thought about how his opponent in the next round was a chef, he felt laughter bubbling in his heart. He had never competed with a chef before!

However, he would not let down his guard because of this. After all, even Sorceress An Sheng had been defeated. Hence, he took this opponent seriously.

Sorceress An Sheng was a talented alchemist from Heavenly Pill City, and he, Xiong Shi, was an alchemist from Heavenly Shine City. Although they were from different cities, their alchemy skills were almost on par with each other. In fact, on paper, Xiong Shi was only slightly better than An Sheng.

This was not because of his skill at alchemy, but because of his underhanded methods.

Xiong Shi was placed higher than An Sheng because of his trickery.

Although Xiong Shi was as huge as a caveman, he, in fact, paid a lot of attention to details and would always conduct thorough research on his opponents.

To know oneself and one's enemy is to win a hundred battles. After conducting extensive research on his next opponent, Xiong Shi would then devise a plan to deal with them during the match.

Because of this, all his victories had come easy.

"Big Bear, this is our opponent for the next round. Why don't you use your paw and flatten this restaurant; since that chef is so concerned about the place, then this would leave his heart in a mess. When that happens, won't we have won already?" Xiong Shi smiled as he rubbed Big Bear's belly.

The big bear growled in agreement. However, Xiong Shi was in no rush; all he did was to stare deeply at the Cloud Mist Restaurant before leading Big Bear away.

...

The next morning, Bu Fang woke up early, as per usual. After washing up, he went down the stairs and into the kitchen to practice his cutting and carving techniques.

Afterwards, he prepared breakfast and left the kitchen to serve the dishes. After the Netherworld and Blacky had eaten breakfast, Bu Fang opened the restaurant's bronze gate for business and saw a long queue already waiting.

In a daze, Bu Fang stared at the big bloke at the front of the queue.

This customer had a fierce appearance and extremely toned muscles, just like a bear. He had used a cloth to conceal his face, leaving only his eyes exposed; this kept his identity a mystery.

"You... what do you want to order?"

Bu Fang looked at the person strangely. His heart was brimming with curiosity, but he mentioned nothing of it.

The burly figure stepped into the restaurant and began to look left and right, in curiosity. It seemed as though he was scanning every single inch of the restaurant.

Finally, he went and sat at a table. When he turned to look at the menu hanging on the wall, his pupils shrank.

"Order," Nethery said, with an expressionless face, after she appeared in front of the customer.

"One plate of Egg-Fried Rice," the burly man said after deliberating for a while.

Nethery said nothing. She only glanced at him and moved to the other tables.

After taking down everyone's orders, she made her way to the kitchen window and reported them to Bu Fang

The burly man's eyes began to dart around.

There was a Path-Understanding Tree in the restaurant, and a black dog and the expressionless woman stood beside it. This restaurant's design might be very simple, but it was also very rustic. It seemed the chef character was someone down to earth who liked the simple things.

As the kitchen was further away from the front of the shop, he could not see its interior. "This chef is also someone who prefers solitude," he thought.

The burly man took out a jade talisman and began to record something on it.

The eyes of the surrounding customers, swiveled over to him, giving him strange looks. This guy is acting so suspiciously, and glancing at Big Sister Nethery... What a creep! Is he not afraid of being beaten to death by Big Sister Nethery?!

"Your Egg-Fried Rice," Nethery said, in an aloof manner, as she placed the Egg-Fried Rice in front of the burly man. After shooting him one last gaze, Nethery turned and walked away.

Egg-Fried Rice? It smells really nice!

The burly man's heart fluttered, and he stared at the golden-glowing Egg-Fried Rice, which had captivated his mind. The fragrant aroma burrowed up his nostril, and all the pores on his body seemed to open. He loosened the cloth wrapped around his face a bit just to expose his wide open mouth. He used a porcelain spoon that had an orchid flower design to scoop up a spoonful of rice, which he promptly put into his mouth.

As soon as the burly man bit down, his pupils dilated!

"This... this taste!" The burly man suddenly felt as though his world was set to collapse!

After exhaling a breath, he took out his jade talisman and began to record. Each time he ate a spoonful of rice, he would record something, and soon, the bowl previously filled with Egg-Fried Rice was emptied.

"Owner! Another plate of Egg-Fried Rice!" The burly big man hollered after licking his lips.



Nethery came over and coldly said, "The dishes served in the store... can only be ordered by each person once per day..."

The burly man was stunned! Only order once?!

This showed that the chef was obsolete and stubborn. The burly big man recorded this into his jade talisman.

Nethery looked at the burly big man strangely, for she had no idea what he was doing. However, since he no longer said anything to her, she walked away.

The burly man often looked left and right, then he would record once more into his jade talisman.

The other customers thought the guy to be mentally ill... Perhaps not mentally ill, but a pervert.

The burly man tried to enter the kitchen, but he was promptly stopped by Whitey, whose eyes glowed purple.

When the burly man saw Whitey, he was astonished and hurriedly recorded into his jade talisman. A puppet no weaker than a Divine Physique Echelon expert!

Soon, the burly man felt that there was nothing else of importance to record, so he walked out of the restaurant in satisfaction, amidst the strange glances the other customers gave him.

All this happened within a short period of time, so Bu Fang had no idea it happened.

Cloud Mist Restaurant continued business as usual. After Bu Fang's constant advertising, his business began to explode to greater heights!

...

After walking far away, into an alley, the burly man removed the cloth around his head, revealing a very rough face.

It was Xiong Shi.

He gripped his jade talisman within his hand and laughed out loud.

"This information is enough for me to analyze that chef's character, behavior, and ability; now, I can come up with the correct method of attack! Victory will be mine!"

Xiong Shi was extremely confident. After a morning of information gathering, he no longer considered the chef an issue.

"The real competition was actually fought outside the arena, and it had already begun! Those who won the battle outside the arena would emerge victorious in the arena!"

As array appeared beside him, and a huge big bear emerged from within it. Xiong Shi rubbed its belly and smiled.

"Big Bear, master has a task for you! Tonight..."

Chapter 522 Big Bear, It Up to You!

"Oh, Big Bear, master has an arduous task for you. Tonight, we will be depending on your performance!"

Xiong Shi rubbed Big Bear's belly and smiled. This bear was his most beloved spirit beast. He felt that the big bear was similar to himself, and for that, he had a strong affection toward it.

Big Bear growled, raised a paw, and patted its chest. The growling didn't stop, which made it seem as though it had understood Xiong Shi's words.

Xiong Shi narrowed his eyes and curled the corners of his lips into a sarcastic smile.

"The competition is not limited to the arena alone; while outside, some other methods are required." Xiong Shi laughed.

...

As night fell, the crescent moon emerged and hung in the sky. The clear and cold moonlight shone down, covering the ground with its luminance, causing it to glow.

At night, the Cloud Mist Restaurant was absolutely quiet and peaceful. The surrounding elixir stores had their doors shut, having closed for the day. The elixir stores under the area controlled by the

Nangong Family had undergone extensive repairs and had, once again, reopened for business. Nangong Wuque now had a firm hold on the family business, so the Lin and Zhang families did not cause any more trouble.

Hence, many elixir store owners were finally able to breathe sighs of relief.

Boom!

The ground trembled slightly as a huge shadow walked beneath the moonlight, with a terrifying aura emanating from its body.

This shadow belonged to a big bear—Xiong Shi's spirit beast. Why had the big bear come all the way out there in the middle of the night, while giving off a terrifying aura?

Big Bear's figure was enormous, and every step it took caused the ground to tremor.

Roar!

It stopped at a location not far from the Cloud Mist Restaurant. It beat its chest with its paw and growled. After walking around the Cloud Mist Restaurant once, Big Bear let out a deafening roar. The sound waves swept past the Cloud Mist Restaurant, and the store shook.

In a location far away from there, Xiong Shi was hiding in the dark. When he saw what happened, his lips curled upward into a smile.

"You have done well, my precious! Keep roaring just like that! Let us test the defensive capabilities of the restaurant! Let's disturb the chef's sleep! Without a good night's sleep, let see how you are able to cook!"

Xiong Shi's smile widened. Although the competition was just two more days away, he was in no hurry. He planned to use these two days to drain this chef's energy using devious methods. Without sufficient energy, how would a chef be able to cook delicious dishes?

Xiong Shi had a plan. He would not have Big Bear attack the restaurant directly. Although Big Bear's strength was by no means little, this was not the time for destruction; roaring like this was much better.

Roar!

In the middle of the night, an enormous bear roared without pause, and the more it roared, the louder it got; the roars were almost deafening.

They caused the entire district to tremble.

Within the restaurant, Lord Dog was sleeping soundly under the Path-Understanding Tree. Its doggy ears were covered, and its nose twitched slightly.

Beside Lord Dog was the black Netherworld Ship. Nethery was sleeping within the cabin of the ship.

Suddenly, the floor trembled slightly, causing the leaves on the Path-Understanding Tree to sway and rustle.

A single leaf fell off the tree and slowly floated down, and it landed on Lord Dog's nose. When Lord Dog took its next breath, it felt a slight itch.

"Roar!"

Big Bear roared once more. Without any intention of stopping, it continued to beat its chest with its paws and emit ear-splitting roars.

Bu Fang, who was sleeping on the second floor, was still breathing normally, with no sign of waking up anytime soon.

Since Nethery was sleeping inside the Netherworld ship, she was not affected by the roars.

Lord Dog slowly opened its eye, and with a slight huff, it blew away the leaf resting on its nose.

Lord Dog's ears twitched slightly and suddenly perked up, in high alert, and it immediately raised its head; then, it began to scan its immediate surroundings.

Finally, Lord Dog eyes twinkled as it fixated a spot on the wall of the restaurant; it was as though it could see through solid objects, seeing as it was looking directly at the spot where Big Bear's back was.

Big Bear stopped roaring. After roaring for so long, it was tired and had to slowly return to its master.

Lord Dog rolled its eyes at this development. Where did such a silly bear come from?

Although it was frustrated that its sleep was disturbed, the bear had fled and Lord Dog was too lazy to deal with it, so it lowered its head and went back to sleep.

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On the following day, after breakfast, Bu Fang opened for business, as per usual.

As soon as he opened the restaurant's bronze gates, he paused for a moment because he saw the burly man from the previous day, who used a cloth to cover his face, at the front of the queue. The burly man was, of course, Xiong Shi.

When Xiong Shi saw Bu Fang, his eyes glittered. He stared at Bu Fang's face so intensely, it was as though he wished to see through the chef.

"Owner Bu? How was your sleep last night?" Xiong Shi asked in a low, hoarse voice.

Bu Fang was stunned; he had no idea why this person would ask him such a question.

"I had a good sleep; thanks for asking. What do you want to order?" Bu Fang calmly replied.

Had a good sleep? How was that possible? With Big Bear roaring in front of your gate the whole night, when even pigs would wake up?!

Xiong Shi was in disbelief as he stared at Bu Fang facial expression. Bu Fang had to be lying. He would definitely find the dark ring around Bu Fang's eye!

However, he was soon disappointed because Bu Fang's complexion was as good as his eyes were clear. He looked to be in tip-top shape.

This meant... Bu Fang really did have a good night's sleep!

Illogical! Could it be that Big Bear did not roar loud enough?

Xiong Shi was in doubt. This time, he ordered Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, and after eating it, he was left feeling stunned. It was possible for one to get drunk on the taste of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs taste, which allowed them to fully immerse themselves in it.

The dish's taste was much better than an elixir's, and its effects were not any weaker than one. Xiong Shi had finally realized how Bu Fang was able to fight his way into the top 50...

This was a miraculous chef!

No wonder even Sorceress An Sheng was not his match! At this point, Xiong Shi began to feel a greater pressure... Tonight, it looked like Big Bear would have to roar much louder, and for much longer.



Sorceress An Sheng and her large bosom walked into the restaurant whilst dragging along a hapless Duan Yun.

Nangong Wuque, Nangong Wan, and the judge also came to the restaurant.

As the fame of the Cloud Mist Restaurant had spread, they had all become slaves to Bu Fang's delicious dishes. How could they bear not coming over to try?

"Hmmm; doesn't this dude seemed kind of familiar?" Sorceress Ah Sheng glanced at the burly figure of Xiong Shi, who she found quite familiar, despite Xiong Shi concealing his face tightly with a cloth.

However, it was impossible to hide the burly figure.

Duan Yun was pondered because he, too, found the figure quite familiar.

Xiong Shi inhaled a breath, his heart a little frustrated. Where did all these fellows come from? Bu Fang would obviously not recognize him. However, how could Sorceress An Sheng not recognize her old opponent? Please do not recognize me!

After eating the last piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. Xiong Shi paid his bill with crystal and quickly walked out of the shop with his faced still concealed.

"Hmm... the manner with which this dude moves, doesn't it resemble Crazy Xiong's?" Sorceress An Sheng spoke out loud, right as Xiong Shi was about to take the final step out of the restaurant.

Xiong Shi stumbled and almost tripped over. This woman's eye is really sharp...

Being able to recognize him just like that.

Nangong Wuque was speechless. "Big boob An, you cannot be that silly. That is only a piece of cloth. One look is enough for you to tell that this is Crazy Xiong, that clown..."

An Sheng and Duan Yun pouted. Nangong Wuque do you have the right to call someone else a clown?

When Bu Fang came out of the kitchen with some dishes, he spotted Xiong Shi's figure leaving the restaurant, and a thought surfaced in his mind.

"So that person is Crazy Xiong, my opponent for the next round? Seems equally as silly as Big Boob An..."

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That night, Xiong Shi arranged for Big Bear to come within the vicinity of the restaurant to roar. He still did not believe that with a higher level of sound disruption, the chef would still be able to sleep peacefully.

However, Bu Fang still slept peacefully. Once asleep, Bu Fang could not be woken up by thunder, not to mention a bear's roar.

However, Lord Dog's eye was wide open, staring at the bear's retreating figure from within the restaurant, and it muttered, "This bear... won't you let your Lord Dog have a good sleep?"

The next day, Xiong Shi was, once again, first on the queue outside the restaurant's bronze gate. However, he was soon disappointed to find Bu Fang looking very energetic, without showing any signs of fatigue.

How could this be? Was this chef a pig that even the roars of the enormous bear could not wake up?

Xiong Shi's eye was now bloodshot. After he ordered and finished a jar of Buddha Jumps Over The Wall Soup, the panic he felt in his heart intensified.

This chef's skills... made him feel pressured!

"This cannot carry on! Tonight, I will directly have Big Bear flatten this restaurant. I don't believe you can still have a peaceful sleep!"

A cold glint flickered in Xiong Shi's eyes. As he was called "Crazy Xiong" by others, it was only natural that he would have crazy traits.

The next round of the competition was tomorrow. If he could not adversely affect Bu Fang's mental health, his chance of victory would decrease by fifty percent. Xiong Shi would never do something he had no confidence in.

So... Big Bear, it is all up to you!

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In the dark and windy night, the enormous bear came again!

Big Bear growled non-stop and beat its chests with its paw.

That night, Xiong Shi was not around. He had complete faith in Big Bear, as it was an existence that had broken through three Supreme-Being shackles. Its cultivation was even higher than his own, so Xiong Shi was not worried.

He had asked Big Bear to flatten the restaurant and return once the deed was done.

Tomorrow was the competition, so he needed to maintain his peak condition for it; after all, he would be refining a three-mark spirit pill.

If he could not refine a three-mark spirit pill, then he was not confident he could defeat Bu Fang.

This chef was just too strange!

Boom!

The ground trembled as true energy surged from Big Bear.

Within the restaurant, Lord Dog, who was asleep, felt the ground tremble. A leaf from the Path-Understanding Tree fell on its nose, and this made the black dog open its eyes.

With a slight huff, the leaf was blown away.

Lord Dog gritted its teeth in frustration, and as the black dog slowly stood up, a cold glint flickered in its eyes.

"This bear hasn't played enough yet? Does it have to come every day? Since it has come again tonight... this time, it will not be leaving! For disrupting your Lord Dog's sleep for three nights in a row, I will turn you into Bear Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs... Woof!"

Chapter 523 As an Ingredient, It Is Suitable

On a moonless and windy night, the bear had come once again.

Big Bear roared once more, causing the ground to tremble. After that, it charged at the Cloud Mist Restaurant.

That night, it had not come to roar until its throat became sore; it had come to take action directly. It was going to flatten the restaurant.

Actually, it had anticipated this for a long time, but Xion Shi had only instructed it to roar and retreat. Hence, it had been stifling its yearning for a while.

To Big Bear, nothing could withstand its bear paw. If a single bear paw failed to accomplish the task, then two bear paws would suffice!

Although the wind was blowing gently, it brought with it a chill, slowly turning the air frosty.

Big Bear's thick fur fluttered under the gentle wind.

Roar!

Big Bear roared again; it had reached the restaurant. With a bear roar, Big Bear approached the restaurant and encircled it.

Then, it ran a circle around the restaurant once. This was a routine Big Bear had become accustomed to; after all, it had been doing this for the past two nights.

Although it had no idea why it had run a circle around the restaurant, Big Bear still roared, nonetheless! Furthermore, its roar was deafening! Whenever it opened its mouth, its razor-sharp teeth were exposed.

It raised a bear paw up high, and the sound of its fine claws protruding resounded. Its paws were razor sharp, reflecting a cold light.

Big Bear was not a random spirit beast; it was a Divine Physique Echelon spirit beast that had broken through three Supreme-Being shackles.

With a single swipe of its paw, even a small hill would be leveled, not to mention a building.

Big Bear was filled with confidence. It intended to do its job and retreat.

Suddenly, the chilly wind stopped blowing, and Big Bear was stunned to see the great bronze gates of the restaurant creak open. The creaking sound continued for a long time, as though it was coming from the ninth level of hell.

Big Bear was stunned, and its big round pupils dilated, staring at the great bronze gates.

The moon emerged at that point, and its cold moonlight shone down on the great bronze gates. A shadow could be seen striding out, in a manner that resembled a cat.

A cat? No! It's a black dog?!

Why was a black dog walking like a cat?

With its level of intelligence, Big Bear could not understand the reason for such illogical behavior. However, It did not matter whether that was a cat or a dog, for a single bear paw was enough to crush it to death.

After all, Big Bear itself was a Divine Physique Echelon spirit beast. Would it be afraid of a small black dog?

Roar! This bear will defeat everything! No dog could possibly stand in its way.

Big Bear directed a resounding roar at Blacky.

Blacky, however, continued striding forward like a cat, with its gaze fixed on the large bear. When the bear roared at it, Blacky rolled its eyes.

"Is it you, silly bear, who has been roaring outside the store for the past three days, disturbing your Lord Dog sweet dreams?" Blacky's calm and manly voice resounded, permeating the surroundings.

Big Bear was surprised. Its eyes and mouth were wide open, making evident its shock.

This dog could speak?!

Big Bear began to feel that intelligence alone was not enough to process what was going on. If it itself could not speak, how could such an unimpressive black dog do it?

"Roar!" Big Bear roared again. Its momentum had weakened, so it used a majestic roar to reinvigorate itself. It was being questioned by a dog, but under the might of its bear paw, even a pack of wolves would succumb to death!

"Roar? Why are you roaring? Do you consider it fun to make such a racket in the middle of the night? Your roars have caused dark rings to appear underneath your Lord Dog's eyes. Do you know how important it is for your Lord Dog to have a good night's sleep?" Blacky lazily said to the enormous bear, who seemed to have no intention to cease its roars.



Big Bear was stunned. Dark rings underneath its eyes? Underneath what eye does this black dog have those dark rings?

Also... sleep was important for a dog?

Big Bear was momentarily shocked, but its astonishment soon turned into rage. It raised a big bear paw up and angrily patted its chest, growling continuously.

Boom!

It moved its four limbs, and its enormous figure, which was as large as a small hill, dashed toward the Cloud Mist Restaurant, with the intention to ram the dog into the building. Although it had taken off running, its gaze remained locked on Blacky.

As a Divine Physique Echelon bear, after all, why would it listen to such bullsh\*t from a dog? It planned to use a bear paw to crush it directly.

Rumble! The ground trembled. Big Bear, who was still staring at Blacky, curled the corners of its lips into a disdainful smile.

Where did this big bear get its courage from? Does it want to collide with this Lord Dog?

Blacky raised its nimble doggy paw and aimed it at the charging bear.

Seeing this, Big Bear sprinted even faster, and the aura surging from its body became more terrifying. It was a big bear that had broken through three Supreme-Being shackles, so the pressure it emanated was enormous.

Boom!

The bear's paw fiercely smashed the ground, and Big Bear used the momentum to leap into the sky. In midair, it raised a bear paw and fiercely swiped downward at Blacky.

A bear's might defeats everything!

Boom!!

A resounding explosion erupted.

Big Bear's enormous body was sent careening through the air, and it crashed into an elixir store in the distance.

As its body was quite springy, Big Bear bounced a few times because coming to a complete stop.

Lord Dog slowly lowered down its nimble doggy paw and licked its lips as it watched Big Bear, who was slowly climbing out of the crater it had formed in the ground.

Big Bear was in shock. After it climbed out of the hole, it sat its big bum down on the ground and scratched its head with a bear paw.

Although a stream of fresh blood was dripping down its nostrils, the bear remained in shock.

What just happened? What was it doing? Why was its nose bleeding?

It was all too sudden.

Roar!

Big Bear scratched its head for a while longer, but it eventually woke up from its reverie and roared. Its roar was deafening, and its aura climbed.

It slammed its bear paws into the ground repeatedly.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Then, it dashed towards Blacky. This dog must die!

It raised its bear paw up high once more and swiped downward at Blacky.

A bear's paw defeats all!

Lord dog rolled its eye and also raised it nimble dog paw again.

Boom!

Another resounding explosion erupted, and Big Bear body was, once again, sent careening through the air, into another elixir store. Again, its springy body caused it to crash a few times before coming to a complete stop.

Big Bear crawled out of the crater and began to scratch its head again. It was flabbergasted.

Slowly, it regained its wit...

Why was it blasted away twice?!

"This bear... is a little silly." Lord Dog strode forward gracefully, like a cat, and in a few moments, it was right in front of Big Bear.

Big Bear tried to open its mouth, but fresh blood poured out of it.

"You silly bear, your body is quite tough," Lord Dog calmly said.

Big Bear raised his head, looking up at Blacky.

Blacky raised its doggy paw one more time.

Pat!

A sound reverberated, and Big Bear was flattened to the ground by the doggy paw.

"Disturbing your Lord Dog's sleep for three nights in a row... Are you here specifically to offer yourself up to be a food ingredient? If you want to make trouble, just go straight to the store! The sooner you die, the sooner you reincarnate; why the hell did you have to make so much noise in the middle of the night? What's even worse is that you ran away immediately after you were done! Are you mentally ill?!"

Lord Dog was brimming with rage and kept waving its doggy paw.

Big Bear, however, was at a loss for words; It was unable to comprehend the recent turn of events. How could it, a Divine Physique Echelon bear, be unable to beat a dog?

Was it possible that a bear like itself was lower than a dog?

Roar!

Big Bear quickly got up off its butt, with a deafening roar.

A bear's might defeats all!

What bear might? Blacky rolled its eyes. It raised its doggy paw and slapped downward, and Big Bear was smashed back into the ground.

...

The next morning, rays of sunlight shone in through the window and illuminated Bu Fang's face, making him feel an itch.

He got up from his bed, stretched his arms, and yawned. After washing up, changing clothes, and using a string to tie his hair, Bu Fang left his room.

Once Bu Fang went downstairs, his nose twitched; he had perceived the stench of blood.

He glanced at the center of the store, and his eyes widened. Goosebumps sprouted all over his skin as he spotted a big bear, which was as large as a small hill, lying there.

Lord Dog and Nethery were already seated at a table, and they were both looking at Bu Fang with shiny eyes.

"This big bear... Where did it come from?" Bu Fang asked, doubtfully, as he gazed at the big bear, measuring its worth with his eyes.

This bear's spiritual energy was extremely dense. It seemed to be a Divine-Realm bear.

Why would a Divine-Realm bear be in the restaurant so early in the morning? Could somebody tell him what had happened?

"Bu Fang kiddo, aren't you still in the competition? With the quality of this bear, it should suffice as an ingredient. Also, Lord Dog is looking forward to Sweet 'n' Sour Bear Meat Ribs," Blacky said, with its tongue hanging out of its mouth.

"Hmmm... Using bear meat as an ingredient? Sounds reasonable." Bu Fang eye twinkled, and he nodded in agreement, still sizing the bear up with his eyes.

"Although I do not know where this bear has come from... as an ingredient, it will suffice." Bu Fang stretched out his hand and placed the body of the big bear into the system's dimensional storage space.

After that, the restaurant automatically removed the stench of blood in the air, saving Bu Fang a lot of trouble.

Bu Fang went into the kitchen and began to practice, as per usual. After that, he cooked Dragon Blood Rice and Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and served them to Nethery and Blacky.

After eating his own breakfast, he grabbed the huge signboard and left the restaurant. Today was the competition of the Top 50 in the Magical Hand Conference.

For the sake of completing the system's temporary mission, Bu Fang felt the need to try his best in the competition of the top 50, just so he could advance.

...

Early that same morning, Xiong Shi opened his eyes. He used his mind connection in an attempt to connect with his big bear. He discovered that Big Bear had not returned back to the pet holding array.

"Hmmm. Did Big Bear run off to find a female bear companion after completing his task? Really naughty..." Xiong Shi laughed, then he changed his clothes and left his room. Running off to search for female bears was something Big Bear did often, so Xiong Shi was used to it.

Since Big Bear had run off to mingle with female bears, he was confident that Cloud Mist Restaurant would have already become a wasteland. That chef can cry over his decimated restaurant for all Xiong Shi cared.

With the mind reeling from the unbelievable loss, Xiong Shi was sure to win their match of the Top 50 competition.

He proceeded to tidy his hair. For the past three days, he had wrapped a cloth around his head to mask his identity, leaving his hair a complete mess.

After fixing the last few strands of hair, Xiong Shi's walked out of the warship in a good mood, heading toward the central plaza.

Without employing any underhanded tactics, he had only a fifty percent chance of emerging victorious. But now that the chef would not be in a good mood, his chance of victory had increased to seventy percent.



If he had only had a fifty percent of victory, he would have been anxious. However, now that he had a seventy percent of victory, he was calm. In fact, he had left out that thirty percent only to remind himself not to be too arrogant.

"If I defeat the biggest dark horse in this Magical Hand Conference, I will become more famous. After all, An Sheng, that lass, was also defeated by the dark horse. But if I, Xiong Shi, win, it will prove to everyone that I am better than that An Sheng!"

Xiong Shi thought as he happily walked out of the warship wearing a tight alchemist gown. He soon arrived at the central plaza. Even the busy crowd he met there could not dampen his mood.

In his happy mood, Xiong Shi even began to nurse the thought of personally finding a female bear to accompany his Big Bear.

"Let me wait for the matches of the top 50 to end first."

Chapter 524 I'll Let You Experience What It's Like To Weep

Xiong Shi was in a great mood; not only was he walking calmly, but he was also humming a tune.

The wind blew past him, causing the tuft of hair on his head to flutter. The gentle flutter seemed to make evident Xiong Shi's calm and confident feelings.

In the central plaza of Heavenly Mist City, people bustled about, forming a dense crowd. Not only was the plaza packed with people, but the number of people streaming in and out also seemed endless.

Compared to the competition of the top 100, the competition of the top 50 had attracted the attention of even more people!

Nearly all the seats in the audience stand were filled, and the faces of every single audience member brimmed with excitement. They cried out in delight, cheering on their favorite alchemists.

Xiong Shi was really pleased as he walked up the stage. On his ascent, he occasionally turned to wave at the audience.

As a genius alchemist from Heavenly Shine City, he had many supporters who were cheering him on. Although he was not as popular as some other genius alchemists from Heavenly Pill City, there were still people who supported him.

Xiong Shi was always calm and collected when he faced his supporters.

For the competition of the top 50, only five stages were to be used. There were two magnificent bronze platforms atop every stage. As this was the competition of the top 50, the equipment had to be better than those used in the elimination rounds. The bronze platforms prepared by the officials for the upcoming matches were much more magnificent and exquisite.

Although the new bronze platforms didn't affect the competing alchemists much, the audience felt the increase in the grandeur of the competition. Even though all that just had to do with appearances, it was still something that had to be well taken care of.

Bu Fang, who was carrying his giant advertisement board, walked over.

The audience cheered fervently as he slowly made his way over. They were incomparably excited. The accomplishments of this dark horse in the past few rounds had completely captivated their hearts. He had turned into an idol in the hearts of many, and they supported him.

His fame in Heavenly Mist City was almost level with the fame of the genius alchemists. This was somewhat unbelievable. It could even be considered an outcome that no one would have expected.

As the public enemy of alchemists, shouldn't he have been thoroughly suppressed by them already?

The moment Xiong Shi looked at Bu Fang, the cheerful expression on his face evaporated, replaced by a cold stare.

This fellow... Why are there no bags under his eyes? How is he this energetic?

As soon as Xiong Shi noted Bu Fang's energetic appearance, his heart gradually grew restless.

"Everyone, take a look... The chef's opponent is Xiong Shi from Heavenly Shine City!"

"The Xiong Shi who is also called 'Crazy Xiong'? That little chef might lose this round!"

"Xiong Shi is extremely crafty and sly. He would have certainly made a move against Bu Fang already. This fellow does not only deal with his opponent within the arena!"

...

As they watched Xiong Shi and Bu Fang, the audience began to discuss amongst themselves.

Xiong Shi's popularity, in comparison with other alchemists', was not small; however, his popularity was mostly infamy. As such, not every member of the audience supported him in this match. Most decided to watch the match with an objective view.

Xiong Shi's abilities did not surpass An Sheng's by a large margin, hence it was possible for Bu Fang to achieve victory in this round.

When they realized that Xiong Shi was Bu Fang's opponent, they began to hope that Bu Fang continued his winning streak.

After pondering for a while, the anxiety in Xiong Shi's heart dissipated. He narrowed his eyes and stared at Bu Fang knowingly.

"Pretend! Keep pretending!"

This chef was really good at pretending... so much that even he, Xiong Shi, was almost fooled by it. The restaurant had already been destroyed, but the chef managed to act as though nothing happened. It was a pity that this chef did not choose to be an actor instead!

Xiong Shi rubbed the tuft of hair on his head and burst into laughter.

Bu Fang, who was holding his huge signboard, seemed to feel a gaze on him, so he looked over and spotted Xiong Shi laughing at him, with a silly expression on his face.

Bu Fang calmly nodded at him in reply. However, when he returned Xiong Shi's gaze, he showed an expression of someone who was looking at a mentally handicapped person.

This left Xiong Shi speechless for a moment, but in the next second, he flew into a rage. Why was his gaze so disturbing?

The top 50 competitors quickly gathered on the first stage, and they all had an imposing air about them; that was to be expected because they were already in the top 50. They only had to put in a little more effort, and they would be able to advance even further!

The competition of the top 50 was not an ordinary one. According to the rules, the competition of the top 50 would be used to separate the 10 strongest contestants. The other 40 would be ranked accordingly.

Therefore, they all had to perform to the best of their abilities just to compete in the competition of the top 50.

Even if contestants were unable to enter the top 10, they would not suffer any losses if they achieved a good ranking in the top 50.

Nangong Wuque was also present on this stage. This time, his expression was extremely solemn. This was because his next opponent was very special.

Not only did she possess a Heaven and Earth Obsidian Flame, but that Heaven and Earth Obsidian Flame she possessed was the same flame Nangong Wuque used to have in the past. This stirred up a complicated feeling in his heart.

Duan Yun was worried, too; his opponent was very strong. However, entering the top 50 was a feat that exceeded his expectations, so if he were to lose the next match, he would still be content.

A warship gradually appeared over the plaza, completely blocking out the sky. It brought with it loud roars and fierce winds. The audience members were unable to control themselves and narrowed their eyes at the imposing aura.

Five figures gradually emerged from the warship and remained hovering in the air.

Their long robes fluttered about, and the auras that emanated from them were extraordinary. These five were the judicators of the Magical Hand Conference; they were all four-cloud alchemists.

Grand Master Xuan Ming stood amongst them, with his hands behind his back and his gaze extremely sharp. As a judicator in the Magical Hand Conference, he had his own dignity.

The four grandmasters descended onto the high stage and sat on the seats allocated to them.

Grandmaster Xuan Ming, however, took a single step and arrived at the first arena's stage. It was as though he had traveled through space to appear there. His hands were behind his back as he looked at the competitors. His expression was calm.

"Today marks the start of the competition of the top 50. None of you are unfamiliar with the competition of the top 50, and today, we will be choosing the 10 strongest participants. We will also be ranking the top 50.

"You all might be wondering how we plan to rank the top 50. As usual, you will compete against each other on stage, but this time, there will be arrays on your bronze platforms, which will record

everything you do. It will also record the time taken and the quality of your product. That will enable us to rank you accordingly," Grand Master Xuan Ming said.

"This is the time for you to fight for fame. It is the time when you show off all your skills and abilities. As such, we hope that you will do your best in the competition of the top 50,"

Grand Master Xuan Ming said, with a serious tone of voice as his gaze swept across the stage. The instant he finished his announcement, the audience erupted with cheers.

It was finally time for the most intense part of the conference!

"Alright; participants, please move to your respective stages and make your preparations. Remember, do your best," Grand Master Xuan Ming said. After saying so, he clasped his hands behind his back and walked toward his seat.

The five stages already had judges allocated to them. Their expressions were solemn because they knew that this round was very important. None of them dared to be careless for a moment.

With his huge signboard in hand, Bu Fang made his way up the third stage. For this round, he was to compete on that one.

The judge on the third stage was not the chief judge Bu Fang was familiar with; it was someone he had never seen before. This judge was reserved and had an indifferent attitude.

When Bu Fang reached the top of the stage, he calmly nodded at the judge before walking over to his bronze platform.

The gazes of many audience members were fixed on the third stage.

Xiong Shi versus the dark horse chef. This match was bound to be a very exciting one!

As Xiong Shi's was naturally burly, the supposedly loose alchemist robe he wore was tight-fitting on him.

"Stop pretending... If you are sad, just let it all out. It will prove beneficial for you later when the competition starts. However, if you hold it in, you might not be able to concentrate later, so just let it out! Don't suppress your feelings anymore." Xiong Shi laughed as he walked toward Bu Fang's bronze platform while rubbing the tuft of hair on his head. His laugh exposed a mouthful of white teeth.

Bu Fang had just placed his advertisement board onto his bronze platform with a resounding thud when he heard Xiong Shi's words. He was momentarily speechless and turned to look at his opponent, Xiong Shi, who he still considered mentally retarded.

However, he was too lazy to deal with his opponent. Green smoke curled around both his arms, and the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife and Black Turtle Constellation Wok appeared within his grasp. Then, he tossed them onto the bronze platform.

This caused Xiong Shi to narrow his eyes. This little chef... It was no wonder he was able to take care of Sorceress An Sheng. His acting skills were really awesome!

Nevertheless, Xiong Shi believed he would suppress his opponent ruthlessly. He would make Bu Fang weep!



The corners of his mouth curled upwards into a sneer, and he returned to his bronze platform.

He took out a huge alchemy furnace and brutally smashed into onto his bronze platform. The enormous furnace was also made of bronze, and it looked extremely heavy. Furthermore, it was gigantic.

There were three small legs at its bottom, and there were three small air openings on it. Xiong Shi had made this furnace especially for himself.

Xiong Shi began to take out spirit herbs one by one from his dimensional tool. He carefully placed them on the bronze platform; in that instant, Xiong Shi seemed to have become another person. He had become extremely meticulous, and the look in his eyes had become extremely sharp.

He brought out a piece of white cloth, then he stuck his head into the gigantic furnace and began to clean it thoroughly using the white cloth.

Other than his dubious way of life, another reason why Xiong Shi was called "Crazy Xiong" was that he was extremely meticulous when it came to alchemy. During refinement, he always paid attention to every single detail.

The way he was thoroughly cleaning out his furnace was an example of that. He would not allow any impurity to make a home in his furnace.

"You can really pretend... but, that doesn't really matter. In a while, you won't be able to keep up your act!" Xiong Shi laughed in a sinister manner. He took out a spirit herb which resembled an orchid and began to pluck its petals, piece by piece.

He bunched the petals together, and his lips twitched, then he took out a mask and covered his mouth and nose.

Before the match, he had gained a thorough understanding of Bu Fang. Since the start of the competition, the chef had used either an overwhelming fragrance or disgusting stench to achieve victory.

This made him very similar to Xiong Shi. They were both used to underhanded means!

This time, they would both be competing against each other with underhanded means. It was a competition to see whose methods were more awesome!

"When the Sorrowful Orchid is burnt, the smell it emits would cause sadness to well up in one's heart. Aren't you extremely good at putting up an act? I want to see how you can still pretend to be unaffected after you have perceived the Sorrowful Orchid's fragrance. The amount of sadness you already have in your heart is so huge... I just want to magnify it for you!"

Xiong Shi laughed again in a sinister manner.

He raised a hand, and a ball of pink alchemic flames combusted within it. He pointed his finger, and the pink alchemic flames surged into his furnace. The interior of the furnace was lit up with a loud roar as the pink flames mesmerized a lot of spectators.

Afterward, Xiong Shi hurled the petals of the Sorrow Orchid into the furnace. As soon as he had done that, he began to take out other medicinal ingredients, and his refinement began momentarily.

A faint odor began to waft out from the vents of his alchemy furnace...

However, Xiong Shi soon paused his actions, in astonishment. His gaze, which had momentarily shifted to Bu Fang, had caught the wisp of something incredible.

Suddenly, his eyes widened until they were as large as saucers.

Bu Fang had taken out something really huge from his dimensional tool.

With a loud bang, he dropped it on the ground. The impact had caused a tremor akin to a mini earthquake.

What in the world was that thing? Was it Bu Fang's ingredient? How could it be so big?

When Xiong Shi got a clear look at what it was, he went into a state of shock.

The audience was quiet for the smallest of seconds, and after that, they all released collective cries of shock!

Chapter 525 Sadness... Crying! Oh, My Bear!

A loud sound resounded as the entire stage shook.

A large object, which attracted the attention of every member of the audience, had appeared.

"What's that?" They exclaimed in surprise. Who would have thought that Bu Fang would bring out something so huge this time...

Some of them could not tell what the object was, but those who could, immediately inhaled cold breaths before their eyes widened.

They glanced at Bu Fang before quickly turning their attention to Xiong Shi, who was further away at his own bronze platform. They were all looking at him with weird expressions.

The huge object Bu Fang had taken out was not something simple; it was an enormous bear.

For Bu Fang to take out a bear, did that mean he planned to cook bear meat in this match? However, bear meat was not at all tasty... at most, all he could cook was the bear's paws. This was something even alchemists like them understood clearly.

Was it a good idea to cook a bear paw in front of Xiong Shi, though? Was Bu Fang not afraid that Xiong Shi would go crazy and pick a fight with him?

Everybody knew that Heavenly Shine City's Crazy Xiong loved bears the most, seeing as he owned many bear spirit beasts.

However, to think that somebody actually planned to cook a bear paw in this Magical Hand Conference... And worse, that person was Xiong Shi's opponent... This made the audience feel that the chef was deliberately provoking Xiong Shi.

Owner Bu deserved his reputation; he was as bullish as ever, seeing as he was able to locate his opponent's weak point. Nevertheless, where did the bear come from? This was something a lot of people were thinking about.

Where did the bear come from?

Not Bu Fang knew, let alone the audience.

Even Lord Dog who had used its doggy paws to beat the bear to death did not know. This bear had come in the middle of the night to cause a disturbance, and it was dealt with by Lord Dog.

Lord Dog initially did not intend to kill it, but the bear looked to have been seeking death for itself, acting as though it wished to become an ingredient.

Xiong Shi's pupils dilated, and he hurriedly pulled his face mask off. As soon as his eyes caught sight of the enormous bear, he felt as though lightning had struck him.

That... That was his big bear! It really was his bear!

That shape and outline... It was certainly his bear!

Hadn't Big Bear gone to look for a female bear companion? Why had it suddenly appeared here? Furthermore, was it dead?

Looking at the enormous big bear lying on the floor, Xiong Shi's eyes reddened as though they were going to explode. He gave Bu Fang a look of pure hatred, but the latter completely ignored him.

Bu Fang took out his Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. After twirling it in his grip, he walked in front of the big bear. His gaze instantly fell on the bear's big paws, completely ignoring other parts of the creature.

For a bear, the most delicious part could only be its paw. This part also had the most medical benefit.

Bu Fang's expression never changed as he stood in front of the big bear, holding his Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife.

Suddenly, true energy surged out from his body, causing his hair to flutter.

A bright golden light shone from the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, and a resounding dragon roar could be heard from within it. The phantom of a dragon briefly appeared, causing the audience to gasp in surprise.

Whoosh...

With only a single cut—gentle, smooth, and without any obstacles—the bear paw was sliced off.

Although the big bear was a Divine Physique Echelon spirit beast, it was already dead and no longer possessed even one-tenth of its original defense. Without that, the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife was able to cleanly slice through it with only one swing.

Bu Fang grabbed the severed bear paw and put the bear back into the system's dimensional storage. Carrying the bear paw, he returned to his bronze platform.

When Xiong Shi saw Bu Fang swing his knife and cut the bear paw off, his heart tightened, and his eyes reddened even more. It was as though Bu Fang had sliced through his heart, instead.

Painful! It really was painful!

Oh, my Big Bear... Why have you become someone else's ingredient? Didn't I tell you to flatten the restaurant and run away? Didn't you retreat successfully?

Xiong Shi found it difficult to breathe because of his pain. He threw his face mask onto the bronze platform with such a sad facial expression that made it seem as though he was contemplating suicide.

The pink smoke wafting from Xiong Shi's furnace managed to reach his nose, causing his body to tense up before shivering in agitation.

Sadness... He really felt like crying!

"Boo hoo... Oh, my Big Bear!"

Xiong Shi was really sad, and he couldn't control the tears dripping down his bloodshot eyes.

He covered his face, which was now smeared with snot and tears, with both his hands, for his heart was in agony. The more he cried, the sadder he became...

You should be looking for a female bear right now, not serving as an ingredient for someone... I told you to retreat after the deed was done; why didn't you return?!

Oh, my big bear!

Xiong Shi was too sad, and the pain in his heart increased so much that he couldn't stop crying. He crumpled to the floor, sitting on his bum, and wept non-stop.

The pink flame in his furnace crackled slowly, and the fumes in the air thickened, causing more to seep up his nostrils. The more he inhaled, the harder he wept.

Why did he have such an overwhelming feeling to cry?!

Bu Fang was surprised.

The audience was equally as surprised. What had happened to Xiong Shi? The match had barely started, yet he was already sitting on the floor, weeping. His continuous bawls were audible throughout the arena.

The audience considered this development a strange one. However, they knew that whenever this chef, the public enemy of all chemists, competed, fun events would always occur.



This time it was not an exploding furnace. The chef had changed tactics; now, he made his opponents cry.

This was too bullish! From this alone, it seemed that this dark horse had the ability to charge into the Top 10!

All his opponents either suffered furnace explosions or burst into tears; neither of them had ever fully refined their pills.

Xiong Shi was bawling without stop, and his heart felt like it had been ripped out. There was another reason why he was so sad. It wasn't because of the death of Big Bear but because he could not stop crying.

He patted his chest, trying to stop the tears, but they kept dripping down his cheeks.

Was it because of the Sorrowful Orchid?

Xiong Shi suddenly remembered, startled, and in tears, he got back to his feet. The Sorrowful Orchid amplified one's sadness. He originally intended to use it to deal with the chef, deepening the sorrow the latter felt for losing his restaurant.

In the end, he had only sabotaged himself, however. At that moment, the chef was not crying, but he himself could not stop crying even though he was out of breath.

He hurriedly opened the furnace and drew out a portion of the alchemy fire, which he quickly extinguished. After that, the fumes from the Sorrowful Orchid dispersed.

Despite that, the amplified feeling of sadness would take a while to dissipate totally.

With no fumes from the Sorrowful Orchid lingering in the air, Xiong Shi was able to stop bawling out loud; however, the tears dripping down his face did not stop. That was still uncontrollable.

He stared at Bu Fang with a hateful gaze as the rage within him sought to explode.

"You killed my Big Bear! You... killed my Big Bear, and you dared to bring it out on stage for me to see!" Xiong Shi said, glaring daggers at Bu Fang. He really had underestimated this chef; he never thought that this chef would be so cunning.

Xiong Shi began to bawl again.

Bu Fang gazed at him with a puzzled expression. He glanced at the bear paw before glancing at the crying Xiong Shi, and his mouth twitched. Was there an undisclosed relationship between these two?

He really did not know; this was unintentional!

"You don't have to cry anymore. I will make an excellent dish out of this bear paw! I will bring you justice by cooking this bear paw," Bu Fang said to Xiong Shi, with a serious expression, after remaining deliberately silently for a while.

"You actually want to cook it... oh my Big Bear!" When Xiong Shi heard Bu Fang words, his entire body trembled. "You already killed my bear, and now you want to make a dish out of it?!"

The saddest thing in the world was watching one's beloved bear being made into a dish by someone else.

However, after Bu Fang had said that, he proceeded to totally ignore Xiong Shi and focus completely on processing the bear paw.

He opened his mouth and spat out the golden Ten Thousand Bestial Flame. It soared to the bottom of the Black Turtle Constellation Wok and began to heat it up. The Black Turtle Constellation Wok was filled with Heaven Alps Spirit Lake water, which was rich with spirit energy. Bu Fang walked to the wok and tossed the bear paw into the water, to boil.

As the bear paw boiled, Bu Fang began to process other ingredients. For this dish, besides the bear paw, he had a whole lot of ingredients to prepare.

After chopping up many spirit herbs, spirit energy filled the air and made those who perceived it to feel refreshed.

Bu Fang also prepared some meat from other supreme beasts to support the flavor.

He took out a slab of Supreme Mantis Prawn meat and chopped it into pieces. After that, he chopped up some other supreme beasts' meat and added it to the mix, then placed the processed meat aside.

Bu Fang then turned his attention back to the bear paw in the Black Turtle Constellation Wok

He increased the temperature of the golden Ten Thousand Bestial Flame, and the Heaven Alps Spirit Lake water began to boil even hotter, causing the bear paw to roll around within the wok.

An aroma began to waft outward.

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrow as he waited for a while, then he scooped out the bear paw and placed it in ice water to cool off. He prepared another batch of Heaven Alps Spirit Lake water and tossed the chopped spirit herbs into it, and after boiling for a while, the water turned clear.

With the flick of a thumb, the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife reappeared in Bu Fang's hand once more, and he took the bear paw out from the iced water.

He held down the bear paw with one hand, and his eyes narrowed. There was a tough layer of skin on the bear paw, but with the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife in his possession, Bu Fang was able to slice it off cleanly with one swing.

After that, Bu Fang covered the bear paw with his true energy and pulled the fur out from it.

Then he patted the bear paw. This helped to soften the meat.

When that was done, Bu Fang began to showcase his eye-catching knife technique.

The attention of the audience was totally focused on Bu Fang. This was not so because of what he was cooking; it was because of the knife techniques he displayed, which left them speechless.

Each cut was extremely fast, and every time the knife moved, a bone was removed.

Soon, he managed to debone it completely.

The speed at which his hand moved was so fast that most of the audience was unable to see it.

Finally, with a loud thump, the bear paw landed atop the bronze platform.

The bear paw was still springy, and faint spirit energy wafted out from it.

Bu Fang took out a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine from the system dimensional storage tool. As he opened the jar's seal, he continued to work on the bear paw.

...

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Xiong Shi looked as though all the love he possessed had been drained completely from him. When he saw how Bu Fang tossed the paw of his Big Bear around, his heart ached.

He felt like crying again.

Finally, the judge could not bear watching this anymore. He moodily walked over to Xiong Shi with a serious expression on his face.

"You should hurry up and start refining your spirit pill. The bear being cooked is not yours, so why are you crying? This bear is not the bear you have at home, so why are you so sad? I want to remind you that, in this round of competition, Bu Fang is not your only opponent. If you lose, there would be another 30 competitors fighting for the position," the judge warned sternly.

With great difficulty, Xiong Shi turned to face the judge, and when he saw the stern expression on the judge's face, he felt like crying again.

But... that is the bear I had at home!

Xiong Shi's eyes were wet with tears. He really did not want to cry, but his heart was in agony.

When he perceived the pleasant aroma of meat permeating the air, his agony increased.

#### Chapter 526 Red Braised Bear Paw

Was bear paw delicious? Most people would think that bear paw was a kind of delicacy and it tasted extremely delicious. However, that wasn't the case at all.

Maybe it was because there was a famous saying which went: I want to eat fish and I also want to eat bear paw. If I can only choose one of the two, I will give up fish for the paw.

That was the reason everyone thought that bear paw was a delicacy which was hard to come by. However, in actuality, the meat of a bear paw wasn't as tasty as one would imagine.

Nevertheless, Bu Fang didn't care about it too much. He didn't care if bear paw was tasty or not since he would be doing his best to make it into a dish.

Even though the taste of the bear paw was extremely bad, it was still an ingredient which came from a divine beast. How bad could it be?

Placing the bear paw into the pot, he poured the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine all over it. He completely covered the bear paw and the aroma from the wine quickly soaked into the bear paw. In an instant, the unpleasant smell emitted by the bear paw dissipated.

Originally, Bu Fang was supposed to brush on a coating of honey on the meat. However, he didn't prepare any honey and instead, he used the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine to get rid of the unpleasant smell.

The effects were not too bad. The Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine contained dense spirit energy and when they mixed together, the spirit energy in the bear paw started to circulate.

The soup stock in the Black Turtle Constellation Wok started to boil and the spirit herbs which had been prepared by Bu Fang started to roll around inside it. A pleasant fragrance was emitted and filled the area.

Bu Fang took out the bear paw which had been soaking for some time, then placed it into the boiling soup in the Black Turtle Constellation Wok.

...

Xiong Shi finally managed to suppress the sadness in his heart and realized that it would be useless even if he wallowed in his sadness. He knew he had to do his best in order to refine this elixir. As long as he managed to refine this elixir, he would be able to defeat the main culprit who killed his giant bear.

However, every time he thought about how this chef was cooking the paw which came from his giant bear, he felt as though something was stabbing at his heart. He didn't know whether his discomfort was due to the aftereffects of the Sorrowful Orchid... He felt like crying.

In the end, his tears didn't flow out and he forcefully kept them back. He focused all of his attention into the furnace.

A ball of pink fire emerged from his hands as it jumped into his alchemy furnace. Xiong Shi finally managed to concentrate all of his attention into the refinement of his elixir.

This round of the competition which seemed to be a farce was finally getting back on track. Xiong Shi's alchemy skills were extremely strong. There were many people who were worried for Bu Fang, however, there were also many audience members who felt as though Xiong Shi should be afraid of him.

After all, the sight of a furnace explosion from Bu Fang's opponent wasn't uncommon.

Bu Fang clasped his hand behind his back and it seemed as though he was counting the time in his heart. After some time, he opened his eyes and quickly fished out the bear paw which was piping hot.

The bear paw which was letting out steam started to emit a meaty fragrance. There was a peculiar smell which came along with the smell of the meat.



After retrieving the bear paw, Bu Fang cleaned the Black Turtle Constellation Wok once again before pouring Spirit Spring Water into it. Before adding the bear paw into the wok, he added many different kinds of spirit herbs and boiled the water for the third time.

This time, the speed at which the water boiled was extremely quick. As the hot water surged, Bu Fang took out the bear paw once again.

At this moment, Bu Fang finally started to seriously prepare the bear paw.

Retrieving all his ingredients, Bu Fang added in some oil into the Black Turtle Constellation Wok. Frying the spirit herbs which were filled with spirit energy, he placed the bear paw which had been boiled thrice into the wok.

Adding the supreme beast meat as well as some spirit herbs into the wok, Bu Fang finished it off by adding some soup before he simmered the contents in the Black Turtle Constellation Wok.

As the dish simmered, Bu Fang added in some seasoning

As Bu Fang didn't cover the wok, hot steam rose into the air and the fragrance of the bear meat started to diffuse around the arena.

The fragrance had a hint of a gamey smell but it wasn't smelly at all. Anyway, it was a smell which was extremely unique.

The audience had clear eyes as they looked at Bu Fang's Black Turtle Constellation Wok. They couldn't control themselves as they whispered among each other.

Many people were suddenly curious. How would the bear paw taste like?

On the judicators' seat, the five Grand Masters were looking at Bu Fang with serious gazes. They had tasted Bu Fang's dishes before and, this time, they discovered that he was cooking bear paw. They had no idea how the bear paw would taste like and they didn't know the effects of Bu Fang's dish...

"Actually, it shouldn't be too bad this time. Look at how many spirit herbs he added and how they complement each other. It seems as though it's more complicated than alchemy!"

"Isn't that true... Alchemy seems much easier compared to this. However, because it's easier, it seems like we can't bring out the full effects of the spirit herbs we use."

"Alchemists are different from chefs. There is no point in our discussion."

The grand master alchemists discussed with each other and they felt as though this little chef's cooking skills were extraordinary. It seemed as though they were able to obtain some inspiration from Bu Fang.

However... for something as elusive as inspiration, it was difficult to grasp.

Xiong Shi had thoroughly entered a state where he solely focused on alchemy and it seemed as though he was almost going crazy. His eyes were bloodshot and he emitted a strong surging momentum. The pink fire in his alchemy furnace was rolling about unceasingly.

A faint fragrant was emitted from his furnace.

After simmering the bear paw for half a day, the meat became extremely soft and tender. The meat seemed as though it was about to turn transparent and the muscular bear paw seemed extremely tempting.

It looked extremely delicate and beautiful.

Retrieving a huge and round porcelain plate, Bu Fang placed the tender bear paw into the center of the plate. He placed the spirit herbs around it as decoration.

The supreme beast meat which was simmered till it was soft and tender was placed around the bear paw as well. It as though they were like leaves surrounding a flower. A blast of hot air emerged and the steam around the bear paw became much denser.

However, after Bu Fang did all this, his dish still wasn't complete.

"Ahhh!"

Instead, just as Bu Fang was about to add the finishing touches on his dish, Xiong Shi's enraged roar sounded in the distance.

With a loud thud, the alchemy furnace which was slightly floating in the air crashed into the bronze platform. The entire stage started to shake.

Xiong Shi's body was wet with perspiration and the tuft of hair on his head was already messy. His eyes were bloodshot and his entire body seemed as though it was emitting a tyrannical aura.

His eyes were fixed on Bu Fang, however, it was more accurate to say that it was fixed on the bear paw. Gritting his teeth, he swung his hand and the lid of the alchemy furnace opened in an instant. A ripple started to spread out with Xiong Shi's furnace as the center.

The fluctuations were invisible and they rippled in every direction.

A pink pill started to float out from the alchemy furnace and the air around it fluctuated. There were two pill lines on the pill and it emitted a bright glow.

He actually managed to complete his refinement... Moreover, he did it extremely quickly!

All of the audience members finally noticed Xiong Shi and stared at him. How could he be done with his refinement?

It was extremely quick!

This time, it seemed as though there was no furnace which exploded... It was really a miracle!

There were many audience members who had never seen a furnace explode before and a disappointed expression actually appeared on their faces.

Xiong Shi glared at Bu Fang and tightly gripped his pill.

Bu Fang shot a glance at Xiong Shi before turning away. He started to prepare the finishing touches of his dish.

As the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife rotated, Bu Fang sliced the ingredients and poured some oil into the Black Turtle Constellation Wok. He added the ingredients and started to fry them up.

After frying them for some time, the soup started to thicken up.

Rumble...

As bubbles appeared on the surface of the soup, rumbling sounds could be heard when they popped. There would be spirit energy which lingered around when that happened.

The thick soup had a ruddy color and seemed as though it was the same as the gravy which Bu Fang used when he cooked the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. However, compared to the gravy, this soup seemed even thicker.

Extinguishing the fire, Bu Fang prepared the wok as he scooped up some of the thick soup. He drizzled it on top of the bear paw.

Sizzle sizzle sizzle!

In an instant, hot steam rose into the air. The fragrance seemed to fill the area immediately as it emerged from the dish.

The fragrance was faintly discernible as it quickly covered the entire arena. The audience members were able to smell the aroma almost instantly and intoxicated expressions appeared on their faces.

"It smells so good! Indeed... The dish produced by this chef is never ordinary!"

"Even though the fragrance isn't as dense as the barbeque, it feels as though it is restrained. There is something different about it."

"The aroma coming from this dish isn't the strongest, however, the flavor contained in it is the best!"

....

The audience seemed as though they were all food connoisseurs as they nodded their heads while they commented on the dish.

Retrieving a plump white radish, Bu Fang shot a glance at Xiong Shi and his Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife started to fly around. The audience was only able to see a blur before the product appeared in Bu Fang's hand. He carved the radish into a shape of a bear which had its mouth open as it roared.

The majesty of the bear seemed unparalleled.

Placing this bear onto the plate, Bu Fang completed his dish.

"Red Braised Bear Paw... complete."

The Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife twirled around in his hand and Bu Fang played with it for some time before grabbing it firmly. His face was expressionless when he declared that his dish was complete.

Rumble!

Everyone was unable to control themselves as they swallowed a mouthful of saliva. Staring at the tender and fragrant bear paw, it seemed as though their appetite was stimulated.

Although the fragrance wasn't something extraordinary, it brought with it a kind of special charm. The audience members became unable to control themselves.

Looking at the piece of glistening bear paw on the porcelain plate, Xiong Shi couldn't help himself as he grieved in his heart.

"My bear..."

When the judge saw that both of them were done, he walked in between them. He had a curious gaze on his face as he looked at the bear paw. Looking at the exquisite and beautiful Red Braised Bear Paw, the judge swallowed a mouthful of saliva involuntarily.

He had eaten many elixirs before. However, this was the first time he had seen anything like this dish which was both beautiful and fragrant.

A majestic voice came from the vault of heaven. No one knew when, but the five grand masters had already appeared on the stage. The judge was shocked as he paid his respects to the five of them.

"There is something special about this round. Let us be the judges of this round." Clasp ing his hand behind his back, Grand Master Xuan Ming said. A gust of wind was swept up when Grand Master Xuan Ming spoke.

The rest of the grand masters had solemn expressions on their faces as they nodded their heads. After nodding, all of them looked at the bear paw.

"What is this dish called?" Grand Master Xuan Ming looked at Bu Fang and asked.

All of them surrounded the bear paw and started to examine it. They discovered that there was spirit energy circulating inside the glittering and exquisite bear paw. Compared to the barbeque in the previous round, it seemed as though the bear paw was much more appealing.

Xiong Shi held onto his two-mark spirit pill and was extremely confused. Why did the five grand masters run down there?

Even if you planned on coming down, why didn't you notice me?

I'm the victim here! The bear paw which that little fellow cooked came from my giant bear!



Xiong Shi suddenly felt as though he was abandoned by the entire world. A feeling of sadness which was hard to describe appeared in his heart.

"This dish? I call it the Red Braised Bear Paw... It tastes really good," Bu Fang glanced at Grand Master Xuan Ming and lightly said.

After he said it, he grabbed his advertisement board and started to seriously advertise his Cloud Mist Restaurant...

Everyone was already familiar with Bu Fang's stiff advertisement. All of their attention was placed on the Red Braised Bear Paw instead.

The grand masters looked at each other before picking up their chopsticks. Standing on the bronze platform, they lightly touched the bear paw with their chopsticks before picking up a piece.

In the instant their chopsticks pierced into the bear paw, the several grand masters were shocked.

That was because the meat was extremely tender. Even though they lightly touched it, the meat fell apart. A brilliant light burst out from the bear paw and illuminated the area.

Chapter 527 Why this much Sorrow?

The moment that light shone from within the bear paw, everyone present could not help exclaiming in surprise. The sight was really too awe-inspiring, and its beauty was enough to make one feel slightly intoxicated. The dazzling light and tantalizing aroma were a combination that generated infatuation from the spectators, who felt almost unable to resist.

"Another dish that emits light," grandmaster Xuan Ming said with a serious tone of voice as he narrowed his eyes.

For a dish to emit light, the amount of spiritual energy it contained would have to have reached a considerable level; otherwise, the dish itself would not be able to undergo such a qualitative transformation and emit such resplendent brilliance.

The bear paw was smeared with a thick layer of red broth. The steam emanating from the boiling broth highlighted the contours of the bear paw, making it crystal clear.

Grandmaster Xuan Ming moved his chopsticks, trying to pick up the bear paw. The dish was tender, not tough; despite that, it was slippery and difficult to pick up.

Even Grandmaster Xuan Ming was unable to use his chopsticks to grasp the paw. This made him slightly embarrassed. However, he kept at it, and after a few more tries, he was able to grasp and pull a piece of crystal clear bear paw meat.

The piping-hot piece of bear paw meat was topped with bits of chopped up spirit herbs, making it resemble a dragon-looking horn. The red broth dripping of the piece of meat exuded steam.

Although the aroma emanating from the piece was fragrant, it was not too dense.

If a piece of meat from the bear paw was placed into one's mouth, the aroma of bear meat would permeate every cranny of their oral orifice. The aroma was fresh and didn't stink, so it would not make anyone feel nervous. In fact, it was this aroma that made the rich flavor in the bear meat burst forth when it was chewed.

Unlike a lot of other meat, the bear paw meat was chewy, for within the bear paw meat there were also bits of chopped up spirit herbs. When chewed, the bear paw meat would not melt in one's mouth. Even if it was boiled until it was really tender, the meat would still remain chewy.

However, after being chewed for a while, a different flavor would begin to emerge from the bear paw meat.

Ba Ji Ba Ji...

When Grandmaster Xuan Ming began to chew, his eyes widened, and the spectators licked their lips while staring at him with curiosity-filled gazes.

"How is it? How does the dish taste?" Grandmaster Gu He eagerly asked. He also wished to have a bite, but since Xuan Ming was the host, he had to give Xuan Ming some face.

"Tender but not greasy; fresh, and does not smell... Its taste is simply superb!" Grandmaster Xuan Ming replied, emotionally.

The flavor of the bear paw meat lingered on his palate. It tasted delicious, and he almost lost himself to its flavor. Before that moment, he had never tasted such a unique flavor in his life.

Being able to make a dish this delicious proved that this little chef was not ordinary.

This dish was very different from the dish he made last time, the barbecued skewers. In the last round, the little chef stumbled onto a great opportunity, but in this ground, he displayed genuine skill in cooking.

The value of Bu Fang's bear paw meat did not lay in its delicious taste alone; it was, more importantly, also very medicinal. It was akin to a very valuable medicinal spirit herb.

Bu Fang's bear paw meat almost seemed divine. The amount of spirit energy it contained was enough to allow those who ate it to obtain an unlimited amount of benefits.

Furthermore, it possessed the powerful ability to expel impurities from one's body.

When everyone heard Grandmaster Xuan Ming's verdict, they were shocked; no one expected him to praise the dish that much. Now, they really wanted to taste it.

Grandmaster Gu He hurriedly moved his chopsticks to the bear paw, and the other grandmasters did the same.

They all ate quickly, and when the first pieces of bear paw meat entered their mouths, the grandmasters' eyes widened. Their wrinkled faces turned rosy, almost as if they had experienced something unknown.

"This... this feeling!! I can't quite put it into words... Somehow, I'm beginning to feel wisps of the youth I lost long ago," grandmaster Gu He emotionally said. His face was slightly flushed, and his white beard fluttered in the wind.

Xiong Shi, on the other hand, was weeping. My Big Bear is allowing you to feel wisps of the youth you lost? Was your youth spent as a bear?

My dear Big Bear!

How did you end up as a dish for so many people!

Xiong Shi felt so wronged, and tears couldn't stop dripping down his cheeks. Up until that moment, no one had cared about the spirit pill he refined, which lay atop his open palm.

That truly was the greatest tragedy.

What had his big bear sacrificed itself for? It had sacrificed itself so that he could defeat his opponent in the next round.

But, what had happened in the end? Everyone simply ate it up, overlooking its sacrifice. This made Xiong Shi's sorrow so heart-wrenching, he found breathing difficult.

Tragic! It was simply too tragic!

The judge, who was standing at the side, turned to look at Xiong Shi. He noticed the expressions on Xiong Shi's face change thrice every second, and his heart was slightly unable to bear it, so he said, "Let me help you take a look. However, keep in mind that your chances in this round are not too good."

Xiong Shi's eye's instantly lit up, and he was almost moved to tears.

Despite that, he was confused. Even though he had been affected by the Sorrowful Orchid, did the smallest of things have to bring him so close to tears?

"I have never seen such expressions on these teachers' faces before. It seems the chef's dish has greatly satisfied them. Although you have refined this spirit pill in such a short time, I'm afraid it's close to impossible for you to defeat him at this point." The judge sighed as he pulled out a jade tablet.

That jade tablet began to glow, and an array appeared from within.

The judge took the spirit pill from Xiong Shi's hand and placed it into the array.

A dazzling glow burst out of the array. Xiong Shi's spirit pill was a two-mark spirit pill. The pink spirit pill was like an exquisite work of art. It had two fine lines, which seemed to flow as deftly as a dragon. It was visually awe-inspiring.

"The quality of its spirit energy is sufficient. Normally, two-mark spirit pills are considered high level, but it will be too difficult to defeat the chef with this; unless the effects of your spirit pill are unique and excellent," the judge said.

On the other side, the five alchemy grandmasters were still gorging themselves on Bu Fang's bear paw dish.

The members of the audience could hear the "ba ji ba ji" sounds, and it made many of them speechless.

Furthermore, the match was being broadcast to all the Pill Cities via the projection array, and every spectator in Heavenly Pill City and Heavenly Shine City could see what was happening.

When they all saw the alchemy grandmasters, who they highly respected, gorging themselves on bear paw meat, they were left a bit dumbfounded. Their views of the world had now become obscured.

Were these people on stage still their once highly respected grandmasters?

Those people who understood what the grandmasters' behaviors implied, completely changed the manner with which they looked at the chef.

The chef's cooking skills and intricate control over his true energy highlighted his level of strength and his standards.

Through the array, they realized that cooking was not something easy.

From Bu Fang's display so far, one could see that cooking skills were nothing that could be acquired without a certain period of practice.

...

The bear paw was soon finished. The porcelain bowl it was served in had been licked clean; not even a drop of the thick broth was spared.

The five grandmasters turned to face Bu Fang, with a similar expression of satisfaction on their faces.

"Little Chef, you are pretty good, so continue working hard. This round is your victory," Grandmaster Xuan Ming said with a smile.

Every time he looked at Bu Fang, he felt more pleased than before. This little kid was from Heavenly Mist City, and he was representing Heavenly Mist City in the Magical Hand Conference.

The chef's ability to charge into the top ten, becoming the biggest dark horse, made grandmaster Xuan Ming feel proud.

"Esteemed grandmasters, you still haven't seen contestant Xiong Shi's spirit pill," the judge hurriedly said, trying to help Xiong Shi, when he saw how grandmaster Xuan Ming directly crowned Bu Fang the winner.

Grandmaster Xuan Ming slowly turned around, with folded arms, and glanced at the judge.

"Didn't you test it already? Although the spiritual energy in the pill is enough to make it a two-mark spirit pill, have you checked out its effects?"

The judge froze before shaking his head sideways.

"Then, you can give it a go; after that, you will understand why I instantly declared the little chef the winner of this match."

After that, grandmaster Xuan Ming was too lazy to say any more. He gave Bu Fang a nod, and the grandmasters, who had all eaten their fill, slipped away.



The judge frowned at that. He glanced at grandmaster Xuan Ming's retreating figure and turned to face the wide-eyed Xiong Shi. ]

Did that mean the pill had some sort of defect?

The judge gritted his teeth and placed the pill into his mouth.

The spiritual energy within that pink spirit pill was really dense; after all, it was a two-mark pill made using only high-grade spirit herbs.

Once the pill entered the judge's mouth, the true energy within his body began to rotate like a cyclone. His hair fluttered wildly; his eyes brimmed with power, and every pore on his body seemed to open up.

Behind him, three supreme shackles swayed wildly, and the pressure of heaven and earth surged from his body.

Without question, Xiong Shi's pill was a pill that enhanced one's combat strength.

However...

The judge's expression changed; he felt that something was not right.

As he was trying to put his finger on that nagging thought, an inexplicable feeling of sorrow welled up in his heart, for no reason whatsoever. The sorrow seemed to stem from the fact that, before he left his house that morning, he failed an attempt at refining a spirit pill.

The judge's lips began to twitch uncontrollably; his eyes became moist, and sorrow filled his heart even more. Why was he feeling so sad? Wasn't it just a failed attempt at refining a spirit pill?!

"Wuu... Wuu... This feeling is so uncomfortable, and now I want to cry. Why am I so sad?! What is the reason for this..."

The judge placed a hand over his mouth and began to sob, and tears streaked down his cheeks without pause.

"What is happening? This... sadness... where is it coming from?" The judge wept. He was so sad, and the audience could only watch in astonishment.

Xiong Shi was stupefied. Why was it like this?

Why would the judge start crying out of nowhere?

Suddenly, Xiong Shi was hit with a realization. Was this happening because of the Sorrowful Orchid?

Oh my god! Did I not get rid of the Sorrowful Orchid?

Xiong Shi's burly figure trembled as he recalled his previous actions. Back then, he had taken care of the pink smoke from the Sorrowful orchid, but... because he was agitated by Big Bear's untimely demise, a sorrow which had been further intensified by the pink smoke, he forgot to deal with the remains of the Sorrowful Orchid left in his furnace.

Hence, the Sorrowful Orchid completely mixed with the other spirit herbs.

Although this didn't have any effect on the medicinal effect of the spirit pill, whoever consumed the spirit pill would have to deal with a huge pang of sorrow.

"I... I really didn't do it on purpose!" Xiong Shi was close to tears. He really hadn't done that on purpose. He was just unable to control himself at the time.

The sobbing judge stared daggers at Xiong Shi. He finally understood why grandmaster Xuan Ming had so confidently declared Bu Fang the winner: Xiong Shi's spirit pill had such a glaring flaw.

This was literally asking for a life!

The judge glared at Xiong Shi with hatred, despite massive drops of tears dripping down from his eyes.

After declaring Bu Fang the winner with a shaky voice, the judge covered his mouth and rushed off the stage, in tears. The sounds of his sobs made the hearts of the audience members tighten in pain.

Bu Feng was speechless as he watched the judge rush down the stage, then, he gazed at Xiong Shi, and the corners of his lips curled upward before he nodded at his opponent.

Xiong Shi, on the other hand, felt sad at that moment. He lost... He had actually lost.

When he saw Bu Fang glancing at him, he was overcome with sadness.

"Anytime I look at you, I think of my Big Bear!" Xiong Shi wailed and also rushed down the stage, in tears.

Only Bu Fang was left on the stage, sporting a look of astonishment. Could someone tell him what exactly had happened?

Weng...

Suddenly, a solemn voice resounded in Bu Fang's mind. It was the long-awaited voice of the system.

"Congratulations to the host for completing the temporary mission: spread Cloud Mist Restaurant's reputation throughout Heavenly Mist City. Beginning the release of the rewards now..."

Chapter 528: Loving and Hurting Each Other?

"Congratulation to the host for completing the temporary mission. The reward shall be given to the host now..."

The system's solemn voice resounded in Bu Fang's ear and he was stunned. Still standing at his original position, his eye brightened as the corners of his mouth curled upward. He revealed an expression of delight.

"So, the temporary mission has been completed? As it turns out, I only had to reach the top 10 in the Magical Hand Conference. It wasn't too hard..." Bu Fang's lips curled upward and he spoke with ease.

He originally thought that he had to win the championship of the Magical Hand Conference. To win the championship, he wasn't completely confident. After all, those alchemists weren't completely useless. They were not so easy to deal with.

Sorceress An Sheng's and Crazy Xiong Shi's strengths were already really high. To win the championship, there would be alchemists stronger than Sorceress An Sheng appearing. At that time, it would be extremely difficult for Bu Fang to obtain victory.

"What's the reward? I remember that the mission rewards this time is the recipe for Spicy Diced Chicken 1 ?" Bu Fang blinked his eye as he recalled in his heart.

Spicy Diced Chicken was a very famous dish. It was famed for its spice and sweetness and many people had heard of it.

Bu Fang naturally also knew how to cook Spicy Diced Chicken. However, his recipe and cooking method was different from the one given by the system. Since the system offered the recipe of this dish as a reward, it was definitely going to be different.

After being lost in thought for a long time, Bu Fang was the only one remaining on the arena.

Crazy Xiong Shi had already left the stage in a hurry after being overwhelmed with grief.

Bu Fang looked around before storing his giant advertisement board. Since he had already completed his temporary mission, he did not need to advertise for his store anymore. He quickly took the board away. After all, lugging around a giant advertisement board gave him a weird feeling.

As he got off the arena, he thought about whether he should return to the restaurant in order to continue doing his business.

Compared to wasting his time there, going back to the restaurant was much better. As such, Bu Fang started to make his way back to the Cloud Mist Restaurant. In the end, earning crystals was how Bu Fang increased his cultivation.

Speaking of cultivation, Bu Fang felt a little headache coming. At this point, he didn't feel like he was even close to breaking through, not even after doing business for so long. This caused him to feel somewhat anxious.

However, Bu Fang also understood that there was a large barrier between the Supreme-Being Realm and the Divine Realm. He had to break through many Supreme-Being Shackles in order to advance. Many people spent their lives trying to break through this barrier. However, for Bu Fang, as long as he was able to earn enough crystals, he would be able to break through into the Divine Realm. So, there was nothing for him to complain about.

The temporary mission had been completed. Bu Fang instantly felt a wave of lethargy overwhelm him. Honestly, he didn't want to continue taking part in the competition.

Anyway, since the aim for joining the completion had been achieved, it was time for Bu Fang to pack up and return to his restaurant.

When he thought up to this point, Bu Fang wanted to leave immediately.

Bu Fang suddenly came to a realization. After taking part in the competition, he didn't know if there was a prize for the winner.

Why did he join this competition in the first place? What was he thinking?

Right now, Bu Fang was didn't have any idea about the prize for the winners of the Magical Hands Conference. After all, no one mentioned anything about the prize.

If there was no prize, Bu Fang felt as though there was no point in competing anymore. It was time for him to pack up his wok and return to his restaurant.

It was better than wasting his time.

Bu Fang solemnly nodded his head as he carried this thought while he walked off the bronze arena.

The audience scratched their heads as they did not understand why the dark horse chef suddenly had such a serious expression on his face.

Could it be that he was going to face an extremely strong opponent since he reached the top 10 contestants?

The appearance of a strong opponent finally caused the chef to become serious.

The audience felt touched all of a sudden. The chef was finally facing some pressure in the competition.

Little did they know that Bu Fang was seriously contemplating whether or not to store his wok for the last time and leave. If they knew, they would definitely vomit blood.

Off the bronze arena, there were other intense battles going on. All sorts of alchemy fire were blazing fiercely. Those who had reached this point were all alchemists with true strength. Their refining techniques and skills were well known throughout the Pill Palace. Their displays were eye-catching and the audience cheered loudly.

This was what the Magical Hand Conference was meant to be... As for Bu Fang, this extremely huge black horse, he was an anomaly.

Nangong Wuque had also finished his match. His whole body was emitting a dense aura of true energy. As his true energy surged, he had a solemn expression on his face.

Bu Fang gave Nangong Wuque a look. If he remembered correctly, Nangong Wuque's opponent should be Yang Meiji.

"Ah, Bu Fang, how did you finish your competition so fast? Did you win?" Nangong Wuque looked at Bu Fang with a surprised expression as he asked.



Bu Fang did not speak. He simply looked at Nangong Wuque with an expressionless face.

Fine... Looking at Bu Fang's expression, he should have emerged victorious.

Nangong Wuque ruffled his hair as he came to Bu Fang's side looking for a seat, he said with embarrassment in his voice, "Actually, I also won."

Nangong Wuque won over Yang Meiji? Bu Fang looked at Nangong Wuque with a surprised look.

Could it be that he used his seduction techniques?

"What are you staring at! Yang Meiji... that woman... gave up competing halfway and stopped refining. She also talked about giving back the Heaven and Earth Obsidian Flame." Nangong Wuque spoke with a headache.

The match which just took place left Nangong Wuque extremely confused.

"So, did you accept it? After all, the Heaven and Earth Obsidian Flame is quite useful."

"Am I that kind of person? Of course, I honorably rejected!" Nangong Wuque stared at Bu Fang as he spoke. "The Nine Hell King Flame does not belong to me anymore, it's not mine. I won't take it... This is my principle."

Bu Fang looked back at him expressionlessly. When did this guy become so righteous?

Meanwhile, Nangong Wuque became silent again. After all, he felt somewhat dejected after he won like that.

“Yeah... wait, Old Bu, since you also won, doesn't it mean that both of us are in the top 10?” Nangong Wuque tilted his head and spoke his thoughts out loud. “Is it possible that we will meet each other in the next round? Fighting it out in the top 10... Thinking about it makes me excited.”

“Excited? Why don't I feel anything?” Bu Fang gave Nangong Wuque a strange look.

When he thought of the possibility of challenging Bu Fang in the Magical Hand Conference, Nangong Wuque started running his mouth off. The troubled feeling in his heart eased by a lot.

After a long time, Duan Yun walked toward both of them with low spirits. He had lost. After everything he had done, he was still defeated. He had to wait for the final announcement in order to determine his position in this competition.

Time flew by as night fell. The crescent moon could be seen hanging high in the sky.

At last, the competition of the top 50 was over.

At the central Plaza, on the first arena.

50 participants stood quietly as they looked forward to the final verdict.

Tonight, the placing for the top 50 would be announced.

Grand Master Xuan Ming stood on the arena as his solemn gaze swept through the area.

Grand Master Gu He was smiling joyfully as he stood beside Grand Master Xuan Ming. With his hands held behind his back, the temperament of the two people had a stark contrast.,

“The competition of the top 50 is now over. I believe that everyone has shown their true potential in this match in order to fight for a higher placing. Your placing will bring you glory in the Pill Palace! Everyone’s hard work will pay off eventually due to your growth and honor obtained in this competition.”

After speaking, he finally announced the position of the top 50.

Bu Fang listened to Grand Master Xuan Ming’s announcement with a serious expression on his face.

Duan Yun attained the 40th position. It was considered among the last few spots... It seems as though he didn’t manage to do so well.

What surprised Bu Fang was that Xiong Shi was in the 15th place. The pill which caused the judge’s endless grief actually possessed such amazing effects. After all, it was a two-mark spirit pill.

After the announcement, some people were happy and others were sad.

Of course, the top 10 were determined.

The top 10 placements were not explicitly announced. Their names were simply not announced together with the participants from the 11th place to 50th place. Bu Fang's and Nangong Wuque's name were naturally included in the top 10.

These ten people were the final people remaining on the stage.

Grandmaster Xuan Ming's serious face involuntarily broke out into a smile as he looked at the ten of them. These ten people were the future of the Pill Palace. Of course, there was a chef who managed to enter the top 10 as well. Charging into the top 10 as a black horse was out of everyone's expectations.

Xuan Ming was in a good mood. This time, there were two people from the Heavenly Mist City who managed to enter the top 10. This was much better than the previous Magical Hand Conference.

In the last Magical Hand Conference, there wasn't a single participant for Heavenly Mist City in the top 10.

"Alright, the ten of you are the ten strongest individuals in this Magical Hand Conference. In half a month, we will rank you accordingly," grandmaster Xuan Ming spoke as he explained the rules which would follow. "Take note that there will be a match every day from now on. The matches will be carried out according to the same format and the loser's ranking will drop. This will take place until the rankings are determined."

Every Magical Hand Conference had been held this way and everyone was no longer a stranger to how the competition was held.

“Following which, you will draw your opponents...”

Grandmaster Gu He, who was standing beside grandmaster Xuan Ming, took out a jade talisman and smiled joyously at the crowd. The audience members finally started to focus their attention on the stage as the main event was finally there.

Many of the audience members were looking forward to the competition of the top 10. Who was the dark horse chef going to face?

Everyone who remained on stage, with the exception of Nangong Wuque, were famed and talented alchemists in the Pill Palace. None of them were weaker than Sorceress An Sheng.

Buzz...

As the energy wave scattered, a bright ray shot toward the sky. In the midst of the blinding light, there were ten names which were densely packed together.

Bu Fang raised his head and quickly saw the name of his opponent. It was extremely clear in his eyes. However, the moment he saw the name of his opponent, the expression on his face became somewhat odd.

Nangong Wuque, who was standing beside Bu Fang, was shocked as well. He didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

“Old Bu! This is absolutely ridiculous! I jinxed myself! It seems as though my words are really accurate, you are my next opponent. ”

Under the bright lights in the sky...

Bu Fang's opponent was actually Nangong Wuque.

The audience was stunned. However, they soon broke out into an uproar. All of them had excited expressions on their faces.

Nangong Wuque challenging the dark horse chef? Wasn't the relationship between them pretty good? Things were going to get interesting. The audience would be able to watch them hurt the person they cared about!

The nosy audience became agitated as something exciting finally happened. It had been a long and boring night, at least up till this point.

Grandmaster Xuan Ming's face also became black. Both Nangong Wuque and Bu Fang were from Heavenly Mist City. Doesn't this mean that they would be fighting an internal battle? Why?

Nangong Wuque didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. However, his heart was filled with excitement.

Bu Fang stared at the name list for a long time and finally, the corners of his lips curled upward. He revealed a faint smile.

His gaze fell on grandmaster Xuan Ming as he opened his mouth. He spoke calmly...

“Grandmaster, can I give up? I do not want to compete in the challenge of the top 10...”

The moment the words left Bu Fang’s mouth, everyone was stunned.

Give up? The dark horse who slaughtered his way into the top 10 chose to withdraw from the competition just like that? Was it all for the sake of Nangong Wuque?

The eyes of the audience members became as wide as saucers. Their imaginations started to run wild!

Could it be that there was some unspeakable secret between the two people?

Chapter 529: Eating Spicy Diced Chicken Tonight

Give up?

Bu Fang voice echoed through the entire audience stand and the rowdy crowd gradually became quiet. They stared at Bu Fang with a trace of anticipation.

The biggest dark horse in this Magical Hand Conference, who managed to slaughter his way into the top 10, the dark horse who defeated countless talented alchemists all the way up, actually didn't want to compete anymore? Was he going to give up?

The audience became spirited yet again. There were a few people in the crowd who were about to fall asleep. However, after hearing what Bu Fang said, they woke up startled and became clear-headed once again.

Unbelievable, unexplainable... All of them suddenly found out that they were unable to keep up with this chef's train of thoughts.

Why was he giving up on the competition? After reaching the top 10, why in the world would he give up? Wasn't it the same as jumping off a mountain right before he reached the peak?

Grandmaster Xuan Ming was also surprised. After deliberating for a while, he finally understood what Bu Fang was trying to say. The color of his face turned even darker.

He suddenly regretted his actions. He was initially so happy. However, in an instant, two major issues popped up and caused him a major headache.

Firstly, it was the internal competition between the two participants of the Heavenly Mist City. Now, this dark horse even wanted to forfeit the competition...

Were they deliberately trying to mess with him?

"Why are you not competing? Do you think that the Magical Hand Conference is a game? Do you think that you can compete just when you feel like it and give up when you don't?" Grandmaster



Xuan Ming angrily stared at Bu Fang, and the aura coming from his body started to surge. His words were cold as he addressed Bu Fang.

He was really angry and wasn't polite at all.

Nangong Wuque also did not understand why Bu Fang wanted to give up the competition.

“Old Bu, what are you doing? Why will you give up the competition? Are you scared of being defeated by me, Nangong Wuque, and be trampled under my feet? Don't be scared, you won't know the meaning of despair if you don't compete!” Nangong Wuque spoke as he hurried toward Bu Fang.

Bu Fang was speechless... The skin on Nangong Wuque's face was still as thick as always.

However, to be honest, he did not really want to compete anymore. Originally, the reason he participated in this competition was to complete the temporary mission. Now that the mission was completed, he didn't need to waste his time on the competition any longer.

Bu Fang would use all his spare time to do business. The earlier he earned enough crystals, the sooner he would be able to become a Divine Realm cultivator.

At that time, his true energy would be sufficient for him to cook dishes of higher grade.

“I...” Bu Fang opened his mouth and he was about to say something.

However, Nangong Wuque knitted his eyebrows and raised his hand to pat his chest. “You do not have to be scared... Based on our relationship, I, Nangong Wuque, will not let you lose too badly! After all, you are my brother-in-law!!”

What brother-in-law?

Bu Fang’s mouth twitched slightly. He had an impulse to beat up this guy. Bu Fang had already given him an inch yet he wanted a mile...

“I do not have any intention to disrespect the competition... However, my skills have reached the limit. The top 10 is my limit.” Bu Fang thought for a while as he spoke.

Bu Fang’s sincere gaze almost caused Grandmaster Xuan Ming to believe him.

However, Grandmaster Xuan Ming had his doubts. Was Bu Fang really at his limit?

All the audience discussed among themselves as they listened to Bu Fang’s explanation. The darkest horse in the Magical Hand Conference said that he had reached his limit. After running out of tricks, he was going to withdraw from the competition?

This was huge news! Everyone’s head almost exploded as they tried to process the news.

Nobody thought that this would actually happen.

Reached his limit?

Who was he trying to bluff?

Sorceress An Sheng, Nangong Wuque, and the rest of the people naturally rolled their eyes at Bu Fang. Reached his limit? Who was going to believe that?

Buddha Jumps Over The Wall Soup, Sweet ‘n’ Sour Ribs... These were dishes Bu Fang hadn’t presented in the competition! How could he say that he reached his limit?

Those people who hadn’t been to Cloud Mist Restaurant might not be aware, however, the regular customers knew that Bu Fang still had a ton of tricks up his sleeve.

“Pei pei pei... That is too bad. I actually wanted to compete with the dark horse. To think that he is out of tricks.” The other top 10 competitors in the competition actually believed him.

For a chef to charge into the top 10, honestly speaking, was indeed difficult.

The person who spoke was a handsome young man. He was extremely elegant and his eyes were extremely sharp.

This person was one of the top 10 competitors in this Magical Hand Conference, Heavenly Shine City’s talented alchemist, Grandmaster Yao Guang’s disciple, Mao Shi.

Originally, he was not convinced that a chef could enter the Top 10. After listening to how Bu Fang said that he had reached his limit and wanted to give up, Mao Shi decided to kick him down even further. He was extremely sarcastic.

The other competitors were grinning as they looked at Bu Fang.

Mu Bai was the Heavenly Pill City's talented alchemist. He was also one of the hottest favorites to win the competition. However, he was more friendly. He simply smiled without saying anything.

He felt that this chef wasn't simple at all. After all, he managed to defeat Sorceress An Sheng. There was no way Bu Fang was a simple person.

He was An Sheng's senior; naturally, he was aware of An Sheng's true strength. That lass might be a little crazy, however, in terms of her alchemy abilities, she made great improvements.

"Owner Bu, don't give up, please reconsider your decision. At most, you can lose to me in the arena. At least, it's better than withdrawing from the competition! It won't look nice if you give up now." Nangong Wuque sincerely spoke.

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at Nangong Wuque. This guy's shamelessness was unrivaled.

Bu Fang felt that if he wasn't going to withdraw, he would use the Buddha Jumps Over The Wall Soup in order to force Nangong Wuque into despair. If he couldn't withdraw, in the next round he would use the Buddha Jumps Over The Wall Soup to let Nangong Wuque know what was called despair...

The way Nangong Wuque spoke was really provoking.

“Bu Fang, the Magical Hand Conference is of utmost importance to the Pill Palace. It’s not somewhere you can mess around. In the next round, you better compete honestly. There is no such thing as withdrawing from the competition! Unless you admit defeat on stage, you won’t be able to leave!” Grandmaster Xuan Ming coldly looked at Bu Fang. Initially, he had a good impression of this chef, however, it was gone now.

After speaking his harsh words, he turned around and left.

Grandmaster Gu He was also speechless. This chef really knew how to create trouble. After giving Mu Bai an encouraging look, he left as well.

After the grandmasters left, the entire central plaza erupted.

Was the dark horse really going to give up because he reached his limit? Or was it because he wanted to help Nangong Wuque? Was there some unspeakable relationship between the two of them?

The audience was truly curious!

Mao Shi coldly smiled as he looked at Bu Fang. Without thinking deeper, he thought that Bu Fang was giving up on the competition due to his guilty conscience. It seemed as though he had really run out of tricks. It was too embarrassing.

If you don’t have the ability, why did you join the Magical Hand Conference in the first place?

“If you want to give up, why did you take part in the first place? You even caused my An Sheng to get kicked out of the top 50. Do you know how heavy your crimes are?” Mao Shi coldly spoke.

Your An Sheng?

Bu Fang was stunned. What was going on? Was there some relationship between Sorceress An Sheng and the gigolo in front of him?

“Don’t bump into me in the competition in the future, else I’ll make sure you lose till you jump off the arena crying! Eh... Why am I speaking to a person who wants to give up? You won’t even have the chance to meet me.”

After speaking these harsh words, Mao Shi folded his hand behind him as he left in an arrogant manner. Puffing his chest outwards, he acted like a proud chicken.

Bu Fang was completely unprepared when he faced Mao Shi’s act of arrogance. He was shocked.

Nangong Wuque’s mouth also started twitching, “This Mao Shi is also one of Big Breast An’s pursuers. Everyone knows about him. Just treat it as though he is farting. After all, you’re going to lose to me in the next round. You won’t have the chance to meet him.”

Bu Fang had an impulse to use the Black Turtle Constellation Wok to bash this clown.

Bu Fang was too lazy to be bothered with him. He turned around and left the arena.

Since he had no choice but to compete, so be it. In three days, Bu Fang would face Nangong Wuque. To be honest, Bu Fang wasn't interested in this competition at all.

However since it had already come to this, it was time to teach Nangong Wuque a lesson.

...

Arriving back at the Cloud Mist Restaurant, Bu Fang stretched his body. Another day had passed and his restaurant wasn't open at all.

Stepping through the door, Lord dog and Nethery were lying on the dining table as they glanced at him.

Bu Fang sneezed... These two greedy beings.

Under the gazes of the two people, Bu Fang walked to the kitchen and prepared to cook for these two gluttons.

However, making use of this chance, he accepted the temporary mission rewards. He obtained the recipe for the Spicy Diced Chicken.

Spicy Diced Chicken had both a spicy and sweet flavor and it was extremely palatable.

As he looked at the preparation method for the Spicy Diced Chicken, Bu Fang was selecting the ingredients on the side. It seemed as though he wouldn't be cooking the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs or the Dragon Blood Rice today.

After washing his hands, Bu Fang cleaned off the water droplets from his palm. Twisting his wrist, Bu Fang reached out to the cupboard and took out an iron cage. There was a giant burning chicken in the cage.

"Heavenly Flame Chicken, a supreme spirit beast. Its body is covered in a bestial flame. Although it has weak battle power, it moves extremely quickly. It's able to fly through the void, and it's extremely difficult to catch this supreme beast. The meat on the chicken is tender and it is considered a high-quality ingredient as it lived by eating spirit herbs and it is born from flames," the system explained to Bu Fang.

A chicken which could fly... Bu Fang became slightly stunned.

As he opened the cage, Bu Fang stretched out his hand to catch the fire chicken by the wings. He pulled it out of the cage.

The beast fire was still burning and Bu Fang covered his hand with a layer of true energy. Although it wasn't burning his hand, Bu Fang felt a warm sensation.

"Cluck cluck cluck!"

Taking out the chicken from the iron cage, the Heavenly Flame Chicken started to make a fuss.

That chicken's clucking was like thunder and it gave Bu Fang a fright.



Lord Dog, who was lying outside, raised its head. Nethery also widened her eyes as she looked at the kitchen.

What was Owner Bu doing?

“Cluck cluck cluck!” The chicken couldn’t stop crying out and it started to struggle. It tried to squirm out of Bu Fang’s grasp as it flapped its wings.

Bu Fang felt as though it was a chicken with a dream! However, he could not let this chicken fly away!

What the hell were they playing at? Why was it so noisy? Lord Dog was still waiting for its food!

“Woof!”

Lord Dog could not bear it anymore. It was starting to get irritated with the chicken. With a single bark, an enormous pressure came from its body and the Heavenly Flame Chicken shrunk its neck and started to shiver in fear.

A chicken with a dream met a dog who ate meat. It seemed as though its dreams were over.

Bu Fang was delighted that the chicken became docile. This saved him a lot of trouble.

Plucking out the chicken's feathers, Bu Fang prepared the bird. The Heavenly Flame Chicken soon turned bald. Bu Fang threw it into a basin.

Bu Fang held the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife as he started to slice the chicken breast. He swiftly prepared all the ingredients used to cook the Heavenly Flame Chicken.

Chapter 530: Overwhelmed Lord Dog

The night was deep but the center of Heavenly Mist City was still brightly illuminated with lights of various color. They lit up the entire city and it seemed as though Heavenly Mist City was a city which never slept.

All kinds of light reflected off the tall bronze buildings... This was the flourishing Pill City, Heavenly Mist City.

Under a towering building, a bronze door opened and two figures slowly walked out.

Misha and Tong He were wrapped in black robes as they left the building. Looking around them, they tightened their robes and walked into the distance.

The two of them walked extremely quickly and, in a few moments, left the area where there were many tall bronze buildings. They increased their speed as they made their way to the city gates.

Before long, the two of them arrived at the city gates which were located under the towering walls of Heavenly Mist City. The bronze gates were incomparably tall and rugged, and it was covered with arrays. A vigorous and suppressive aura was emitted by them.

Misha looked at the city gates with awe in his eyes. There were three major Pill Cities in the Pill Palace and every single one of them was extremely flourishing and lefty.

On the other hand, Tong He was indifferent when he looked at the city gates. It seemed as though he didn't care at all.

Standing in front of the city gates, the two of them waited for the gates to open. The guards of the Pill City who were around them glanced at them with solemn expressions.

However, since the two of them didn't do anything, the guards didn't take any action.

The security check at the gates of the Pill City was extremely serious and throughout. People with unknown identities were prohibited from entering the city. As a Pill City was the economic development center of the Pill Palace, it was an extremely important place. Naturally, security was extremely strict.

After waiting for a long time, Misha and Tong He finally saw that a spirit beast carriage was arriving from outside the city.

The spirit horse pulling the carriage was extremely pure and holy. There was a pair of wings growing on its back and it emanated a terrifying aura.

The guards' heart skipped a beat. It was actually a spirit horse which was at the level of a divine beast!! Who in the world was the man in the carriage? How could the carriage be pulled by a spirit beast in the divine realm?

None of the guards dared to be disrespectful. After they ascertained the identity of the owner of the carriage, the guards allowed the carriage to pass.

“They are here!” Tong He told Misha as they stared at the oncoming carriage. There was an excited expression in his eyes.

Misha was also a little excited.

Soon, the carriage arrived in front of them and the indifferent coachman glanced at the both of them. The spirit horse breathed out a stream of white gas as it flapped its wings viciously. Feathers swirled around everyone.

The door to the carriage opened, and a long, white, and tender leg stepped out. The beautiful leg had almost no fat on it and looked slender and proportionate.

They were afraid of staring at the wrong things as they quickly lowered their heads.

In a while, the figure in the carriage walked out.

Her hair which was as crimson as blood cascaded down like a waterfall. An exquisite and beautiful face appeared.

Tong He and Misha lifted their heads in order to take a look. They were completely shocked.

This woman... She was too pretty! It was a kind of arrogant beauty, one that made others feel inferior.

“Tong He... You mentioned that the Shura Tower is in Heavenly Mist City. I hope that you are not lying to me...” This woman batted her long eyelashes as she looked at Tong He with her blue eyes. He instantly felt as though there was a mountain crushing him.

“Saintess, Tong He will never dare to lie to you. If it wasn’t for the troublesome guy who is holding on to the Shura Tower, I would have obtained it a long time ago. It would have been brought back to our Ancient Shura City at the fastest speed possible,” Tong He said respectfully with his back bowed.

He wouldn’t dare to be rude. This lady in front of him was the Saintess of the Ancient Shura City. Her strength was unmeasurable and she wielded a tremendous amount of authority in the Ancient Shura City.

Even some elders would greet her with a respectful expression when they met her, let alone him.

It was because this woman was the Shura Sovereign’s representative. It was possible that she would be the next Shura Sovereign! An heiress with so much influence... Who wouldn’t be respectful to her?

“Then lead the way. We’ll get the Shura Tower back right now.” The bright red lips of the woman were slightly opened, and she had a ruddy expression on her face. She emitted a beautiful radiance as she commanded both of them.

“Right now? Saintess, I have to tell you something about that fellow. He isn’t someone easy to deal with!” Tong He spoke hurriedly as his body became drenched with cold sweat.

The Saintess glanced at Tong He with an indifferent expression on her face. Seeing Tong He, whose body was shivering, she finally spoke, “Alright, I will first take a look at this guy who has the guts to wield my Ancient Shura City’s Shura Tower.”

Tong He heaved a sigh of relief. Looking at the woman’s slender figure as she moved away from him, he wiped away the sweat on his forehead.

“Saintess... The person who holds the Shura Tower is the boss of a restaurant...”

...

Holding the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife carefully in his hand, Bu Fang placed the breast meat which came from the Heavenly Flame Chicken onto the chopping board.

The quality of the Heavenly Flame Chicken was pretty decent. The meat was a light pink color and there were grains on the meat. The lines on the meat seemed alive as it brought with it a wave of spiritual energy.

Spinning the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife around, it flashed in the air and, in a few moments, the chicken breast was diced into many small pieces. Every single piece had the same size.

After he diced the chicken breast, Bu Fang placed them into a small bowl. He seasoned them and marinated them before preparing other ingredients. He took a sack from the system’s storage space and poured out its content. It was actually a sack full of peanuts.

The fragrance of the peanuts filled the area and Bu Fang slightly raised his eyebrows.

Grabbing a handful of peanuts, he felt as though he was holding a handful of oil. The peanuts had already been shelled, which saved him a ton of trouble.

A ball of flames came out from his mouth and entered the Black Turtle Constellation Wok. As it quietly burned at the bottom of the pot, it quickly heated up.

Pouring all of the peanuts into the wok, Bu Fang fried them with a little bit of oil. Since these peanuts were the product of the system, they were special and were accompanied with a majestic spirituality. After frying them up, a pleasant aroma filled the area. Bu Fang's nose twitched uncontrollably and a feeling of intoxication washed over him.

When the peanuts were a golden color, Bu Fang took them out.

Taking out a spirit herb which had a stinging fragrance like garlic, Bu Fang diced it up. He chopped up other spirit fruits as well and placed them to the side.

Finally, Bu Fang took out the chili in the system's storage, which was dark red, and chopped it up. Adding some oil into the wok, Bu Fang stir-fried the chili. When an aroma started to appear, he placed the spirit fruits into the wok as well.

The sound of oil splattering could be heard and a strong plume of smoke surged into the air.

Spirit energy rushed into the sky and it slightly fluctuated. Bu Fang moved his spatula as he started to stir-fry the spirit fruit and spirit herbs.

A blast of pungent aroma came from inside the wok as it assaulted his nostrils. It would cause one's nose to start to itch.

After stir-frying for some time, the spirit fruit and spirit herbs became golden yellow. The spirit energy started to settle down and Bu Fang threw in the chicken breast into the wok. In the instant the meat touched the wok, it started to vibrate violently.

It was as though the spirit energy inside the chicken breast was ignited as flames shot into the sky. It almost scared someone.

However, Bu Fang was calm. He continued to stir-fry the chicken breast meat and the fire gradually died down.

After the fire died down, an aroma started to emerge from the wok. It was the strong smell of meat and it had a special flavor in it. There was a fiery flavor floating around in the wind. This was a strong meat flavor with a special innuendo. It seemed a little fiery, just like a burning heat inflammation.

When Bu Fang felt that there was spirit energy which was fluctuating in the Black Turtle Constellation Wok, Bu Fang poured in the red chili and the golden peanuts.

When the two ingredients were thrown into the wok, the spicy flavor intensified. The aroma from the peanuts coupled with the spiciness of the chili. They complemented each other.

Green smoke started to roll up from the pot and it brought along with it the fragrance of the dish. It drifted around in the wind.



Boom! Boom! Boom!

As Bu Fang used a huge flame to fry his dish, a burst of flame surged into the air. The dish jumped around in the wok as if it was alive. The dish glistened and the aroma filled the area.

Sizzle!

The sound of stir-frying was endless. As the aroma of the peanut mixed with the fragrance coming from the chicken meat, the combined smell became much denser.

Adding on the touch of spicy Chili, the aroma became extremely thick.

Sizzle!

With a sizzling sound, the fire disappeared. Bu Fang flipped the wok upside down and poured the contents onto a porcelain plate.

A portion of savory Spicy Diced Chicken was completed.

Wiping the oil around the porcelain plate carefully, Bu Fang nodded his head with satisfaction.

Fragrant... It was naturally fragrant. There was also a spicy flavor in it and it would stimulate the appetite of anyone who smelled it.

With this Spicy Diced Chicken in hand, Bu Fang stepped out of the kitchen. The already impatient Lord Dog and Nethery's eyes lit up as they stared at Bu Fang's figure which was leaving the kitchen.

However, they quickly fell into a state of shock. They realized that Bu Fang was only holding on to one plate.

Why was there only one dish?

Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Dragon Blood Rice.... Shouldn't there be two dishes?

Was it possible that this little brat, Bu Fang, became a little biased today?

Bu Fang remained composed as he served the Spicy Diced Chicken to the table where Lord Dog and Nethery were seated.

"We are trying a new dish today."

Bu Fang said faintly as he placed the plate of Spicy Diced Chicken on the table. He glanced at the disappointed Lord Dog and the confused Nethery as a smirk appeared on his face.

"Rascal Bu Fang! If Lord Dog tastes this dish, will there still be Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs?"

Blacky stuck out its tongue as it seriously asked.

“Make a guess.” Bu Fang answered while looking at Lord Dog with an expressionless face.

Looking at Bu Fang’s provocative appearance, Lord Dog was almost unable to control itself. It almost smacked Bu Fang with its paw.

On the other hand, Nethery didn’t care too much about it. She extended her slender fingers toward the Spicy Diced Chicken.

Just as she was about to touch the dish, Bu Fang smacked her hand with a pair of chopstick.

“Learn to use chopsticks,” Bu Fang said as he glanced at Nethery.

Nethery’s black eyes swept past Bu Fang’s face, but she remained expressionless. It seemed as though she was stubborn about not using chopsticks.

Ignoring her, Bu Fang tapped the chopsticks on the table. He picked up a piece of meat which was piping hot as he placed it in his mouth.

When the piece of meat entered his mouth, Bu Fang’s eyebrows rose upwards and he happily enjoyed the taste of the delicious meat.

Nethery stuck out her tongue and licked her ruddy lips. She seemed to be attracted by Bu Fang’s table manners.

She prepared herself as she stealthily stretched out her hand to grab the Spicy Diced Chicken.

However, she was stopped by Bu Fang once again.

Nethery felt wronged. Looking at Bu Fang with a cold gaze, she felt as though she didn't have a choice. She obediently picked up a pair of chopsticks.

Lord Dog looked at the two of them and had a depressed expression on his face. He raised his exquisite paws and a confused expression started to appear on it.

Was he trying to force Lord Dog to use chopsticks as well?