

I Am Loaded 301

### **Chapter 301: Stand Back While I Cultivate Magic Pills**

“Yes, you may use your own,” Yun He said.

Xu Xiaoshou nodded in satisfaction.

This alchemy cauldron was too small and delicate, and the earth fire was too inferior and low grade.

He was not used to it.

After arranging these items to one side, he managed to create some space in the small alchemy room.

Xu Xiaoshou recollected the size of his small tub.

His tub was a little bigger compared to the regular tub sizes. It was comparable to Elder Sang’s.

He looked at Yun He and said, “Take a step back.”

“Hmm?”

Yun He did not understand his request.

Take a step back? He had every intention of playing the role of a dutiful receptionist, down to handing each piece of herb and ingredient to Xu Xiaoshou.

“Yes, take a step back. I’m going to refine the pills.”

Yun He was speechless.

‘You certainly have your air when it comes to refining pills!’

Though he was displeased, he withdrew a few steps back. Xu Xiaoshou hesitated for a moment and said, “Retreat to the door.”

Cursed, Passive Points, +1.

Yun He’s expression showed a touch of anger.

‘How about I leave you to your own devices and close the door on you?’

‘You can take your exam and get your certificate without supervision. Is that okay, Young Master?’

Criticized, Passive Points, +1.

Xu Xiaoshou wasn’t sure what to think.

This old man had a rich imagination. He could not figure out what this good-for-nothing old man was thinking.

‘I am doing this for your good!’ he thought.

Nonetheless, he did not explain his actions further. Once he saw that Yun He had retreated to the side, he retrieved his gigantic tub from his space ring. It was so large that it could fit several people inside comfortably.

Dang!

When the gigantic tub hit the ground, Yun He's eyes nearly fell out of their sockets.

"Is this an ... Alchemy cauldron?"

Xu Xiaoshou chuckled. "Do you think it is a bathtub?"

Yun He was rendered speechless.

It surely resembled a bathtub.

Suspected, Passive Points, +1.

He was a little stumped by seeing such a large bath—alchemy cauldron. If he were honest, this was the first time he had seen one like that in his entire life.

But there were many exceptional and eccentric alchemists in the world, each possessing unique refining styles. Hence, he did not spare a second thought on it.

Perhaps this bathtub was a high-level spiritual weapon and could increase the success rate of alchemy.

Yun He extended his spiritual senses to scan the tub. Apart from being extremely thick and sturdy, this alchemy cauldron did not appear extraordinary.

As for its level ...

It was eighth grade.

The corners of Yun He's mouth twitched. Eighth grade was not deemed low. It was also an Innate stage alchemy cauldron.

For one with an impressive background, how much could the success rate be boosted by using an eighth-grade alchemy cauldron?

Xu Xiaoshou watched the colorful expressions on Yun He's face and could not help but feel amused.

With a flick of his finger, he sent a refined Fire Seed to the base of the small tub. Its blazing heat instantly lit the tub to a warm red color.

Yun He was caught by surprise.

Although he could not see anything with the naked eye, how could he not recognize this familiar scorching aura?

He further extended his spiritual senses and saw the refined Fire Seed that was flying around at high speed.

"An invisible flame?"

His mouth fell open slightly. He was unable to hide his surprise.

To be honest, Xu Xiaoshou's extensive preparation efforts took his breath away.

He had seen many alchemists with distinctive styles, but one that was so unconventional... This was a first.

Xu Xiaoshou looked over and reached out his hand for the ingredients.

"For the tenth-grade elixir, I'll choose the Red Gold Pill. I have more confidence in this."

Though he had mastered the condensing method of infernal heavens, he was not too familiar with it. After all, it was not on par with his self-concocted Boiling Soup method.

This technique had little to do with the control of the fire. However, it put his mastery of spiritual techniques to the test.

The good thing was that he finally learned it through hard work and effort.

When it came to refining the Red Gold Pills, he was quite confident in his ability.

Yun He didn't think much about it as this was practically the first choice of all alchemists.

He took out the spiritual ingredients from his space ring and was about to deliver it.

Xu Xiaoshou hurriedly stopped him. "Wait!"

"You're fine standing there. There's no need to come over. My alchemy method is rather unique."

Xu Xiaoshou was, of course, familiar with his method of cultivating magic pills.

If this guy was Elder Sang, then he would not mind if he came closer to help himself keep a lid on any unexpected incidents.

Yun He was only Voidness State.

If he simply stood back a little farther, he would need to protect himself in the event that any accidents occurred.

Yun He, however, did not know that Xu Xiaoshou was showing consideration toward him, and his face turned dark again.

He knew that some alchemists were infamous for having obsessive-compulsive disorders, and some went to the extent of not even allowing others to watch them cultivate magic pills. Thus, he decided to put up with it.

However, this was a special privilege extended to only high-grade alchemists.

For a mere tenth-grade test, this young man was putting on ridiculous airs.

Rebuked, Passive Points, +1.

Yun He sent over the tray with the spiritual ingredients by air.

Xu Xiaoshou smilingly accepted it. With a wave of his hand, he poured all the spiritual ingredients into the cauldron and sent the tray back.

The old man's face instantly turned purple.

"Why... This is alchemy!"

"What are you doing? A smorgasbord?"

He felt his heart going into spasms. Though the ingredients for the Red Gold Pill were relatively cheap, they were not for him to cook like a big stew.

Other people who refined magic pills did so step by step, one herb after another, to distill it into the elixir.

'You, on the other hand... I dare say you have stepped foot into the Pill Pagoda for the alchemist examination to waste these ingredients!'

Xu Xiaoshou said nothing. Actions spoke louder than words.

His Infernal Heavens alchemy technique for cultivating magic pills was unconventional.

It was normal if one could not understand it, but for those who could, they had some substance.

After Yun He's exclamation, he quieted down.

No matter what Xu Xiaoshou had intended to do, the alchemist examination had commenced. If he were to cause a commotion, it would be his misdoing.

With that in mind, he settled down and soon realized that something was amiss.

This kid did not seem to be destroying the elixir.

Was he really cultivating magic pills?

Dozens of medicinal herbs were divided. Part of them were wrapped with spiritual sources and left untouched.

The remaining seven or eight medicinal herbs, surprisingly, were being refined at the same time.

Yun He almost cried out in shock once again.

Was he being taken on a ride?

Even he did not dare to refine magic pills like this.

However, as time passed, the intrigued look on his face turned into one of astonishment.

This lad's alchemy technique was extremely rudimentary. It was fair to say that he had no technique at all.

Despite that, his control of the flame was so exceptional that it seemed to obey his every bidding.

When the temperature needed to be increased, subdued, set to a fiery blaze, or engulfed in a snug warmth...

He had done it all with absolute control.

Though this seemed straightforward and clear, there was a nagging strangeness he could not dismiss.

He looked at the crackling fire.

How could a formal alchemist examination exude a vibe of a haphazard cook fest?

'This...'

'Is it an illusion?'

Yun He rubbed his eyes. He was somewhat unconvinced.

The elixir fragrance that was gradually wafting out of the furnace fire seemingly bore a waft of a food aroma.

Even if it were vegetarian, it still succeeded in triggering his appetite.

Growl...

The old man looked at Xu Xiaoshou very solemnly. His brows creased together in a frown.

He possessed such a domineering invisible flame, a grand way of refining the elixir, and a large cauldron. It reminded him of a certain legend of the Pill Pagoda.

However, there was a big difference.

He continued to watch him.

This lad's hand was constantly waving in the air. Even after staring at it with beady eyes, he was still completely unable to tell what technique he was using.

It was as if he was simply waving around.

### **Chapter 302: Where Did Yun He Go?**

However, an alchemist's technique was extremely important. How was it possible that Xu Xiaoshou was just randomly waving?

Yun He immediately brushed his thoughts aside. He continued to observe the magic pill refining and felt strangely immersed in the process.

It was such a big difference.

It was completely different from other alchemists.

It was as though Xu Xiaoshou had discovered a new path.

As Yun He was deeply immersed in his thoughts, he was shocked by himself.

To think that he could possibly discover a new path in a mere tenth-grade examination...

That was such a joke.

Even the president did not have such prowess.

However...

He examined Xu Xiaoshou's seemingly chaotic waving hand movements in detail and tried to discover if there were traces of the Great Path and its seal.

He failed to discover anything.

"Am I not knowledgeable enough?" Yun He thought with frustration.

Yet, he was not discouraged. This was a completely new discovery. For the time being, he could not tell if the alchemy method was on par with the Great Path, but it would qualify as a new road.

This new road... Well, he believed that if he examined it hard enough, he would be able to find inspiration and enlightenment.

This was also the reason why the old guys on the seventh floor dedicated their time to serving young prodigies.

Often, these geniuses, who had extraordinary and innovative ideas, could spark these old guys to steer away from their dated methods and point them in new directions.

Xu Xiaoshou concentrated hard on his task. The medicinal solution was refined very quickly, which was many times faster than the average alchemist.

Five minutes passed. The contents of the alchemy cauldron started to gurgle cheerily, and the elixir bubbled in the heat.

With a flip of his palm, Xu Xiaoshou extended his spiritual source to collect the liquid with the cauldron lid and continued to cook away.

The spiritual energy circulated. At that instant, Yun He was struck with inspiration.

He stared at Xu Xiaoshou with beady old eyes, realizing that he might have something to gain this time.

Xu Xiaoshou's hands were flipping and flying in the air swiftly.

The old man's eyes followed his movements keenly, not wanting to miss a single moment. He almost teared up from staring so hard.

'It's a new technique!'

'This must be a new alchemy technique!'

Even if he did not manage to observe what Xu Xiaoshou was up to, Yun He endeavored tirelessly. He wanted to seize this opportunity to uncover the secret of this young man's rapid extraction of an elixir.

Bloop, bloop...

The elixir boiled louder.

Even so, it still had not turned into ashes as one would have expected.

Xu Xiaoshou's precise control of the flames was so exceptional that the quality of the pure spiritual liquid was still being continuously refined.

Yun He was practically losing his mind.

What kind of technique was he using that could achieve this step?

He opened his eyes so widely that they were about to fall out of their sockets.

Glancing at the boiling cauldron, he could not help but to sniff the smell wafting out of it. The aroma was strangely reminiscent of vegetarian dishes. He felt as though Xu Xiaoshou's technique resonated deeply with the Way of the Heavens alchemy method.

Yun He's mind wandered off track.

Inexplicably, when he watched the young alchemist at work, he was reminded of a chef.

'This...'

Yun He was stunned.

Once this vision took shape in his mind, he could not control himself from comparing the similarities.

He secretly visualized this young lad holding a spatula in his hand and making similar motions and gestures. He thought, 'Doesn't he look like a chef frying vegetables?'

'What a joke!'

It was too strong of a blow for Yun He.

He had spent so long observing Xu Xiaoshou's movements, yet that was the only thing he had taken away from his observing.

It was no wonder the president said that his understanding of the art of alchemy was really poor.

But if he were honest, it made sense.

He was consumed with guilt and shame for not being able to comprehend the sacred art of alchemy despite spending so many years immersing his mind and consciousness in it.

But...

He took another look at Xu Xiaoshou, who was solemn and occasionally wiped sweat off with his sleeve.

'How similar though...'

'He really looks like a chef holding a spatula and cooking up magic pills...'

Yun He was once again led astray by his thoughts. He was consumed with that odd picture in his mind of Xu Xiaoshou cooking and could not help but admit that his focus on the art of alchemy was rather off.

He was lost in thought.

'No!'

'I must not think about it anymore! I am clearly going off the track!'

Despite being treated to such a grand display of innovation in alchemy, how could he possibly be thinking of cooking?

Perhaps it was true that old dogs could not be taught new tricks.

Yun He touched his belly and sighed silently.

He must have been partaking in abstinence for far too long.

Yes, that had to be it.

"Be careful..."

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly said, "I'm collecting the elixir!"

Yun He was speechless again.

Was he already collecting the elixir?

Yun He almost fell to his knees. His old face was flushed with shame.

How could this kid know what he was thinking? Did he have mind-reading skills?

Xu Xiaoshou ignored the man.

This old man had a very overbearing manner. He was almost comparable to Mu Zixi.

Except for not cursing him, Yun He had already bestowed various emotions dozens of times to him.

From Respect to Doubt to Admiration...

This old man simply had a knack for awarding Passive Points.

It was a simple task for Xu Xiaoshou to refine the elixir, so he was easily able to monitor the Information Bar at the same time and keep tabs on Yun He's reaction.

For the next step, he had to focus his full concentration on the task at hand.

Pill condensation...

The youth narrowed his eyes as if he was looking at the most dangerous enemy.

However, the old man, Yun He, did not retreat after Xu Xiaoshou's warning to be careful. Instead, he moved closer as if he were planning to observe more closely.

This...

This old man was remarkably brave.

Xu Xiaoshou repeated himself. "Stand back! I'm going to condense the pill!"

The elixir collection was over. To prevent the golden honey from condensing into a teardrop-shaped pill, he did not dare linger at this step for too long.



Yun He smiled brightly and said, “Young friend, you are too distant with me. The art of alchemy is a collaborative exploration. With such a special alchemy technique, you must share the knowledge so we can make progress together!”

As he spoke, he took a few steps forward and was standing right before the giant tub.

Xu Xiaoshou’s face paled.

What on earth did Yun He mean by a special alchemy technique? What did he know about it?

The waving hand movements he made to control the flames in alchemy were merely an attempt to imitate a chef using Cooking Expert.

He had always felt that something was missing from his hands during the process. It was as though there was a sense of emptiness due to the lack of grip. Despite that, the flames obeyed his bidding with his hand gestures.

He was not sure what principle that was, but it worked.

After all, relying on Cooking Expert for practicing alchemy was an unexplainable concept on its own.

That was why he could not teach it to anyone.

At any other time, he would have been completely fine if this old man wanted to discuss techniques and methods. But now, it was the crucial moment of condensing the magic pills. Did this old man have a dying wish by seeking participation at this moment?

Xu Xiaoshou’s face turned dark. If he did not condense the pill, the elixir would be fully collected.

By then, the jelly shape would be apparent.

He would also fail the examination.

He finally advised Yun He, “Old man, get away quickly! I’m going to condense the pill!”

Yun He smiled and sat down next to Xu Xiaoshou. “It’s fine. I’m an assistant. I’ll take care of everything for you.”

He took out the tray and asked in a low tone, “Little Brother, what is that technique? Teach me, and I guarantee that you will pass the examination!”

Did he still need to pull strings to pass?

Xu Xiaoshou’s face turned pale. He could no longer hold back, but he was at a loss for words.

He immediately drew his hand to a close. The suppressed Fire Seed in the tub suddenly bounced and turned into a raging fire.

The success of the Infernal Heavens condensing method was dependent on one-hit wonders. Through the instantaneously increased temperature, the coal covered the surface. Condensation then took place within it to form a magic pill.

That notion was deeply rooted in his heart from the jade scroll Elder Sang had given him.

Xu Xiaoshou regarded that nugget of information as a classic. He tore open the cauldron of spiritual source, and the flame suddenly danced ablaze.

Boom!

A faint white light pierced through the skylight, drawing sunlight into the room.

Xu Xiaoshou not only felt a blow to his mind, but he was also violently shaken in his soul.

He was not one to admit defeat. He had Toughness. Even if the elixir blew up and scorched his face, he was unmoving.

There was a fragrance of medicine, and Xu Xiaoshou was immediately thrilled.

This time, it felt wonderful. Although the explosion was inevitable, he was confident that what he produced was certainly not Red Gold Liquid but a Red Gold Pill.

As for its quality... He could tell that it had to be excellent from its smell.

He got up excitedly and started to pry the magic pill out from the cauldron's channel. Suddenly, he realized that the side of the alchemy cauldron, which led the magic pill from the channel outwards, was somewhat empty.

'Oh, that's right!'

Wasn't Old Man Yun He sitting beside him just now?

Where did he go?

### **Chapter 303: The Pill Pagoda Was an Ominous Place Today**

Meanwhile, in another alchemy room...

Mu Zixi was staring at the alchemy cauldron in front of her. Her first choice was also to make a Red Gold Pill.

Her technique and method were adequate and passable, and she did not make mistakes at all.

Relying on her strong intuition of the wood element, she could grasp the best medicinal properties of the ingredients. From refining the elixir to condensing the pills, every single step was in order.

It was a smooth alchemy practice.

Not surprisingly, this process produced a cauldron of excellent quality magic pills.

However, President Shi Ti frowned.

There was naturally nothing wrong with her alchemy process. However, the technique this little girl used to condense the magic pills was very problematic.

Wasn't she the successor of Elder Sang?

Why was her alchemy technique so rigid?

It had to be wrong.

Since Old Man Sang was looking for a successor, how could he not pass on his Infernal Heavens alchemy technique knowledge to this apprentice?

Moreover, if he did not intend to pass on his Infernal Heavens alchemy technique knowledge, why had he waited so long and invested so much effort in training so many prodigies?

Shi Ti could not be more puzzled.

He had every intention of revisiting the alchemy of the infernal lineage and experiencing its overbearing power, but he never thought that this little girl would fail to surprise him.

“Could it be... Is the Red Gold Pill too simple and not worth the effort to reveal the existence of alchemy of the infernal lineage?”

Shi Ti thought of this possibility.

He was a little speechless when it came to Elder Sang.

That lousy old man was indeed wicked.

If he did not intend to reveal his precious apprentice, why did he bother bringing a letter to see him directly?

Now that the individual and her identity were exposed, what else was there to hide and conceal?

‘How disheartening!’

Shi Ti was deeply offended. He likened this behavior to that lousy old man’s ability to irritate others.

He did not give it further thought and continued to observe Mu Zixi’s alchemy.

It was a feast for the eyes.

Even if she didn’t use the Infernal Heavenly alchemy technique, this little girl was a prodigy.

In the tenth-grade alchemy examination, there were not many people who could reach this step.

It would not come as a surprise if this girl could take the ninth-grade examination later.

‘What a treasure!’

Shi Ti’s eyes glittered in excitement, and a strong yearning filled his heart. No matter if it were people or objects, as long as Elder Sang approved of them, he wanted to seize them for himself.

‘I’ll have to wait until the end first...’

As he thought, the process of alchemy had come to an end.

Mu Zixi shook her head and focused her spirits. She was about to condense her magic pill.

Suddenly...

Boom!

There was a violent explosion in the next room, which directly caused her heart to palpitate. Under her trembling hands, the flames could not be controlled.

The alchemy cauldron suddenly throbbed. The elixir within instantly turned into ash. A burning smell wafted out.

“This is bad!”

“It’s going to explode!”

The little girl’s face instantly turned pale.

She thought she had it all calculated carefully, and she even deliberately sent Xu Xiaoshou away. She did not want him to watch her perform alchemy because she was afraid of being disturbed.

The Pill Pagoda was very intuitive and separated everyone into individual rooms. Each person had their own room.

There were no such things as dangerous events arising from a crowd watching one person performing alchemy.

Even though she thought she had it all planned out, she still failed to escape the fate of being forcibly disturbed.

That explosion sound couldn’t be more familiar.

Relying on her powerful ability to control medicine, the little girl worked up a sweat to salvage the situation on hand. She managed to prevent the pill from exploding in the furnace and let the air cool down.

Boom!

There was another violent blast.

Mu Zixi turned her head and looked to the other side.

She succeeded in controlling her alchemy cauldron, but it was evident that the alchemist in the room next to the neighboring room did not seem to be able to accomplish that perfect control.

“Be careful!”

President Shi Ti’s exclamation made her look back. The little girl’s eyes widened.

She only caught sight of the alchemy cauldron trembling violently again because of her momentary distraction. This time, no one could stop it.

Boom!

“Uh...”

Mu Zixi was scorched from head to toe. She looked at the president, whose clothes were no longer resplendent, and hair was no longer white.

A passing silence loomed over them.

The air was quiet.

...

Many old men in the court looked sideways.

What was going on today?

Was there no end to it?

Every so often, an explosion sounded from the Pill Pagoda. Was it even capable of withstanding the blows?

“By the way, those candidates in the three rooms were all brought over by President Shi Ti, right?”

“It seems that President Shi Ti’s judgment is declining day by day!”

“Shhh, don’t say anything that shouldn’t be said! I’m curious how there could be explosions one after another, and each louder than the one before. Wouldn’t it affect alchemists in other rooms?”

“Yeah, perhaps the door isn’t closed.”

As everyone was deep in discussion, Xu Xiaoshou rushed out of the alchemy room where the door had been blown up with an anxious expression on his face.

“Where is Old Man Yun He?”

Everyone stood up in shock as he shouted.

“What’s wrong? What’s wrong with Elder Yun?”

“Didn’t the old man facilitate you for the alchemy examination, yet you’re still asking us?”

“Senior Yun He...”

A faint female voice suddenly spoke, which instantly attracted everyone’s attention.

She blushed and silently pointed in the direction of the stairs.

“Is that him?”

Xu Xiaoshou’s spiritual senses prompted him to look over instantly.

That was an old man with a scorched body and dried blood coated his face.

He was moaning for help.

The short intervals between the three consecutive blasts had attracted everyone’s attention, hence, no one could hear him.

Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback.

At the foot of the staircase...

How did this old guy get there?

An entire court separated the alchemy rooms and stairs.

If he flew this distance over, how could no one have noticed?

Xu Xiaoshou soon discovered a clue.

He closely examined the alchemy room where it all started. There was a red and black mark on the ceiling from the door panel upward.

The answer was quite obvious now.

Old Man Yun He was sent flying from the impact of the explosion.

His body was too frail to be blown through the ceiling. Under the suppression of the barrier, he suffered from a bloody injury.

“This...”

“This is rather inconceivable!”

Xu Xiaoshou ran over quickly and helped him up.

The old man was still groaning. Xu Xiaoshou hurriedly moved closer but could only hear a few words intermittently.

“Snake...”

“Snake?” Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback. “What snake?”

“Snake, snake puppets...”

“Huh?”

“The technique...” Yun He’s eyes were still blazing hot. Finally, he uttered the two words he wanted most.

Xu Xiaoshou’s face turned dark. This man was nearly killed, but he was still thinking about the technique.

He quickly took out some honey to feed him, and the old man’s breath became more stable.

“I told you to stay away, yet you didn’t listen. Are you satisfied now?”

“Uh!”

The old man could not catch his breath and passed out instantly.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

Voidness State?

How weak!

This old man probably achieved the Voidness State by consuming magic pills.

Everyone was still busy discussing and pointing out their views, though they were clueless about what was going on.

Since when did facilitating alchemists become a life-threatening event?

Some old friends of Yun He came over. Xu Xiaoshou quickly passed him to them.

The old guys took over with unfriendly faces. They seemed to want to say something, but when they saw that this lad's cultivation level was at the mid-state of Origin Court...

Never mind.

What kind of tricks could one pull with a mid-stage Origin Court cultivation?

Alchemy was not even sword practice. Its destructive force was nowhere on par with that.

They guessed that the lad had no intention of causing an explosion. Yun He must have fallen into this state to save him.

But...

If he was saving someone, how could he get injured so badly?

Suspected, Passive Points +32.

Sure enough, a thousand words could paint colorful stories. If one was to summarize the day's events into a single sentence, it had to be:

The Pill Pagoda was an ominous place today.

#### **Chapter 304: This is the Normal Process**

Pah!

Pah!

The two doors of the magic pill rooms were pushed open almost simultaneously.

Fu Yinhong had a frustrated expression on her face.

Her luck had been horribly terrible that day.

During the first exam, she had tried to make the Left Star Pill, which was ranked among the top seventh-grade magic pills.

However, the process of making it was very difficult and extremely complicated.

Yet, Fu Yinhong was confident in making it because she had already tried it at home.

Even though it was the Left Star Pill, which was very difficult to make, she believed that she had seven out of 100 odds to succeed as long as she could focus her mind on the task.

But...

When the Magic Pill Pagoda shook, all of her efforts had been in vain.

During the second trial of making the magic pill, she attempted something that was the second-best. She chose to make the Origin Court Pill, which was moderately difficult to make among the seventh-grade magic pills.

It was a popular magic pill often used by the public. It had an excellent cost-effect ratio and was a good representation of the magic pills.

In comparison to the Left Star Pill, however, the difficulty of making it was considerably lower.

Fu Yinhong believed that she had an almost 100 percent chance to succeed.

But she was wrong again.

The surprising explosion in the magic pill room next door obliterated all of her efforts.

Her mood at the moment was as uncomfortable as opening her mouth to breathe fresh air and accidentally swallowing a mosquito.

Fu Xing followed behind her carefully.

The blast...

He was rather familiar with it.

He looked in the direction of Xu Xiaoshou's magic pill room. As expected, the door panel was blown through. The remaining wooden spikes were extremely eye-catching.

"What kind of a person is this guy..."

Fu Xing felt his heart trembling.

He wondered if he could resist it even if he learned the 10 Sections of the Finger Sword.

Stroking the jade pendant around his waist, Young Master Fu suddenly reached out his hand and pulled out a second jade pendant from the ring and put it on.

After thinking about it, he still felt ill at ease and took out a third one from the ring.

"Well, in this way, I will have peace of mind."

...

The first thing Mu Zixi did after she got out of the door was to find her way to Xu Xiaoshou's magic pill room.

As expected, she smelled a scorching stench and saw a scorched bathtub...

And skylight.

She paused for a moment, shaking her head, and said to herself that the damage was not too bad.

"Xu Xiaoshou, where are you? Are you okay?"

The young girl sounded slightly panicked.



“I’m fine.”

Xu Xiaoshou’s voice came from behind her.

The young man looked at President Shi Ti, who was behind Mu Zixi with a beard full of ashes, and saw his face appear happier than a child playing in the mud.

He forced himself to walk toward them.

It turned out that Mu Zixi didn’t care about Xu Xiaoshou at all. She looked past him at a spot behind him.

“I’m not asking you. I’m asking the receptionist.”

Xu Xiaoshou held back his tongue.

‘Little girl, you’ve changed!’

‘I can’t believe that you don’t care about your senior brother first and foremost!’

He said crossly, “I’m fine, and I can still breathe.”

Mu Zixi grabbed her twin ponytails and let out a relieved “Oh.”

Shi Ti was stunned.

After listening to the tone of the conversation between the senior brother and junior sister, he checked the expressions of the two, which showed an immense familiarity between them.

‘What about the gag of being able to breathe?’

‘What kind of talk is this?’

‘What the hell has happened here?’

He grew a little nervous.

Although Yun He had a limited qualification, he was an extremely hard-working old guy and had a considerably high position in the Pill Pagoda.

What did he mean by saying “can still breathe?”

Did that mean he blew up everything?

“Xu Xiaoshou, what happened over there?” he asked through his gritted teeth.

Xu Xiaoshou thought about it for a while and said seriously, “Actually, it’s nothing. It’s just the normal process of making the magic pills. Elder Yun He... stayed a little too close.”

Shi Ti held back his anger and walked to the door of his room to take a look.

He saw the exploded door panel, shredded skylight, and room full of gray smoke.

This was nothing short of blowing up the stove.

However, if it was merely the blast of the stove, why did it sound so terrifying?

And, how come Yun He was unconscious?

Shi Ti felt he was on the verge of losing his temper. He was panting heavily. He wanted to say something but couldn't speak at all.

After Xu Xiaoshou had been in the Pill Pagoda for half a day, the president seemed to have suffered from asthma.

"This... Is this what you call the normal process of making the magic pills?" Shi Ti managed to come up with this sentence after a long while.

"Yes."

Xu Xiaoshou said seriously, "Although I feel a bit embarrassed, it is the way I make magic pills. The commotion is probably... a bit too loud."

"Heh, only a bit?"

Shi Ti was furious. He had the intention to throw the young man in front of him out of the skylight.

Although he was very angry, Shi Ti couldn't suppress the doubts in his mind. As such, President Shi Ti asked through his gritted teeth, "How did you guys break the barrier of the magic pill room?"

"How could this door shatter?"

"Did you guys switch off the soundproof barrier? It's affecting the other magic pill rooms now!"

Fu Yinhong looked that way at the right time.

That was the very question she wanted to ask the most.

Xu Xiaoshou felt a severe headache coming on and explained, "That door had nothing to do with me. I told Elder Yun He to stay further away. He opened the door, and I have no idea why he did it."

"His injury had nothing to do with me either. Before the condensation of the magic pill, I discouraged him repeatedly, but he insisted on coming close and chatting with me. I was making the magic pills and had no way to deal with him. What could I do?"

"As for that skylight..."

With his face looking green, Shi Ti roared angrily, "I suppose it also had nothing to do with you!"

"Nothing had anything to do with you, and you had nothing do with all of these matters... You didn't blow up the Pill Pagoda, or beat up Fu Xing, or damage the magic pill room!"

"What the hell did you come over here for..."

Shi Ti suddenly choked and had a hard time breathing. How could he pause when his emotions had reached their peak?

He used the spiritual source forcibly and caught his breath to continue his yelling.

"Are you here to tear down my house?"

The people in the main hall were silent in terror.

No one dared to breathe heavily, fearing that they might draw the anger of the president if they broke the silence.

The old men who fell in the back were all shocked.

It was the first time that they had seen President Shi Ti so upset during most of their long lives.

This...

This young man...

He was indeed incredible.

As he watched President Shi Ti's behavior, Xu Xiaoshou felt like he was again experiencing the scene where he met Elder Sang the first time after the master-disciple ceremony.

At that time, Elder Sang became someone's master the first time and was in high spirits. It seemed that Elder Sang could have everything in his control, including the clouds and rains.

It wasn't until Elder Sang planted a few Fire Seeds into Xu Xiaoshou's nose that the nobleness of a master had gone through the roof.

However, Elder Sang didn't lose his temper because he wanted to save face and didn't dare to go crazy in front of his disciple.

Shi Ti was different, and he didn't have to take the matter of saving face into consideration.

If he couldn't get a satisfactory answer, the anger in his heart would be brought directly to his coffin.

Xu Xiaoshou didn't press the old president further because he was afraid that Master Shi Ti might drop on the ground if he was pushed too far.

Seeing Shi Ti calm down a little, the young man started to speak slowly.

"Master President, you misunderstood what I meant. I wanted to tell you that it was I who blew up the skylight. I will definitely pay you for the damage!"

Xu Xiaoshou bowed very apologetically and got up. After he gave it some more thought, Xu Xiaoshou intended to explain a bit more.

"By the way, Master President, you have misunderstood me somewhat by saying that."

He deliberated on how he should put it in an attempt to make himself sound kind and considerate. Then, Xu Xiaoshou carefully said, "I'm not here to tear down your house. I'm here to take the exam for the magic pill technician badge."

Ka!

The crowd fell silent again. It seemed that they had even suppressed their heartbeats.

Poof!

The old president spurted out a mouthful of air/ Xu Xiaoshou hastened to step back. Seeing that what Shi Ti spewed out was not blood, he felt relieved.

Shi Ti felt a demonic force tearing at his flesh. It was as if the force intended to split his body into five parts.

Yes, he felt like he was cracking open.

He roared, "Making the magic pills! But are you freaking making the magic pills here?"

"What the hell did you make? Can you show me what you have made?"

Xu Xiaoshou nodded his head and didn't dare delay. He rushed to the bathtub and rummaged around. In the end, he pulled out a black and unpleasant pill.

He took a sip of water and absorbed the impurities of the surface of the magic pill. He then exhaled and released the turbid air through the skylight.

A medicinal fragrance was spreading.

Xu Xiaoshou turned around and said happily, "I told you, this is the normal process of making the magic pills. I've succeeded!"

### **Chapter 305: Fake Magic Pill?**

"Is it a magic pill?"

"Is this the... Red Gold Pill?"

Seeing the golden magic pill in Xu Xiaoshou's hand, everybody was dumbfounded.

The blast of the stove was so loud that Yun He was even blasted unconscious on the spot. Yet, this young man claimed that it was merely a normal process of making the magic pills.

It was not so incredible if he had just talked about it.

Having said that, Xu Xiaoshou had somehow pulled out a magic pill from the stove's debris.

Shi Ti was frozen like a wooden chicken.

He stared at the magic pill in Xu Xiaoshou's hand in a daze. He raised his eyes to check the young man's face.

"Are you kidding me?"

"I'm not. This is really a magic pill I've just made." Xu Xiaoshou showed a serious expression on his face. "As I said, what I've just gone through is the normal process of making magic pills."

Shi Ti took the magic pill in his hand and sniffed it, which was his subconscious behavior.

Without this subconscious behavior, he could easily figure it out simply by feeling the temperature of the magic pill and smelling its medicinal fragrance.

He could tell it this was a magic pill that had just come out of the stove.

Xu Xiaoshou hadn't lied.

But...

He raised his head sluggishly and swept the crowd of onlookers with his gaze.

He had just scolded and yelled at the young man, and he hadn't done something like that for decades. 'Am I in the wrong?'

If he told this thought to others, questioning why he got so upset, his respect as a master president would have been lost.

This magic pill seemed to be something else rather than a Red Gold Pill. It was more like a slap on his face. Shi Ti felt like his face had been slapped unmercifully.

Shi Ti returned to his senses.

He recalled the letter from Old Man Sang.

"Forgiveness is a virtue."

"Generosity reflects one's civilization level."

"Ahem!" Shi Ti started to cough violently by covering his chest with his hand.

Everyone looked at the president, who was hunched over.

He gazed at the magic pill in his hand.

At first, the expressions on everyone's faces were incredulous. Even though some of them, such as Shi Ti, had the ability to perceive the magic pills, they still felt this was unbelievable.

Judging by the reaction on the president's face, it was plainly obvious.

"Is this really a freshly made magic pill?" Fu Yinhong asked hesitantly. She approached the president and took the Red Gold Pill from his hand.

It felt warm and smelled fragrant.

She felt like her soul had been pugnaciously assaulted.

"How is this possible?"

Was it possible for someone to achieve this in the blasted stove?

No.

It dawned on Fu Yinhong that nobody had believed Xu Xiaoshou ever since he started talking.

Though his words sounded rather outrageous, what he said seemed to be mostly true when she thought of it in retrospect.

"Did you really make this magic pill by the means of the normal process of making magic pills?"

Xu Xiaoshou smiled bitterly. "If there is an abnormal process of making magic pills, can you teach me how to do it?"

Everyone fell silent.

After a long time, an uproar finally resounded in the hall.

"How is this possible? I don't believe it for a million years. Maybe he pulled this Red Gold Pill from his ring!"

"Was it pulled out? How can one imitate the medicinal fragrance and the temperature?"

"Adding heat... Yes, one can definitely use one's spiritual source from the fire system to add heat to the magic pill in an instant."

"What about the medicinal fragrance? Didn't you smell the faint scorching odor hidden in the medicinal fragrance?"

"I'm not smelling it."

"There is no need to smell it now. It has been gone a while. You could only smell it the moment the magic pill came out of the stove. Your cultivation level is not high enough to smell it. I believe all the top magic pill technicians can smell it with ease."

"Are you belittling me?"

"If you don't believe me, you can ask the president to confirm it."

Hearing this, everybody focused their attention on Shi Ti again.

At the moment, Shi Ti was still hunched over and immersed in the painful thoughts.

'The Red Gold Pill is real...'

As such, his earlier roar, his magic pill room, his Magic Pill Pagoda...

All of that had become insignificant.

'What have I done, and what do I have to do?'

Shi Ti found that his mind was blank. He was too angry.

By the time his anger reached an extreme extent, he felt like a bucket of cold water had been poured over his head as he was about to vent his anger. He felt a chill from his body to his soul all at once.

"Ugh."

The old man couldn't help but sigh. The crowd noticed that Shi Ti's expression was full of frustration.

The blow to his esteem was really a bit too much.

"Where's old Yun?"

"We'll ask him when he wakes up."

Someone loudly made that suggestion.

Even though it looked and smelled very real, the Red Gold Pill still needed to be confirmed by a witness.

However, the eyewitness, at the moment, was still a bloody, unconscious man.

Shi Ti shook once when he heard the suggestion with his eyes beaming. He ran his hand over Yun He lightly. As a result, Yun He woke up after twitching his eyelids a few times.

“What did you see?”

The president’s voice was trembling.

He wanted to get a negative answer from Yun He, which would give him a good reason to vent his anger. He would also have a sufficient reason to kick the lad out of the Pill Pagoda.

Yun He looked at Shi Ti. He suddenly turned his head around to look at Xu Xiaoshou. He reached out his hand with trembling fingers.

“His...”

“Did he cheat?” asked someone nearby eagerly.

“No!”

Yun He struggled to free himself from the hands of the person holding him. His face was full of excitement. “His method... I’ve never seen such a method of making the magic pills. It is a remarkable method!”

Shi Ti’s face turned pale.

Yun He was screaming and jumping. He had no concern for his image at the moment.

“This lad could refine the medicinal liquid in such a quick way.”

“The method is really awesome, which I have never seen before. He flipped and turned the medicinal ingredients like he was frying vegetables. Soon, the magic pill was ready.”

“There was also a technique of gathering the spirit back into the flow to collect the juice. This little brother described the technique so vividly and properly. It really was like collecting the juice!”

“It is a bold attempt to use the cooking method to gather the medicinal properties under the premise of precise manipulation of the fire. It’s simply the idea of a genius!”

“Also, as for the method of condensing pills, if I’m not mistaken...”

“Yun He!” Shi Ti shouted loudly.

His face turned dark green, which was the worst color when one was extremely angry.

He had woken Yun He up in hopes that the man could help him disprove the magic pill made by Xu Xiaoshou. What did he mean by saying all of this?

‘Frying vegetables?’

'Collecting juice?'

'What the heck? Can you say something sensible?'

'We are talking about making magic pills, not about cooking!'

"You, calm down!" Shi Ti yelled.

Immediately, Yun He came back to his senses from the exhilaration state. He was on the verge of crying when he saw the looks on the crowd. Everyone must have thought he was an imbecile.

It was not long ago that he was the one who had looked at Xu Xiaoshou making the magic pill with the same expression on his face.

However, it turned out that they were wrong, and everyone was fooled.

In other words, they were not fooled, but they were close-minded because of their subjective thinking of inertia.

'This Xu Xiaoshou is really capable!'

"I'm only asking you..." Shi Ti took a breath and asked with trembling lips, "Is it true that Xu Xiaoshou just made this magic pill?"

Yun He glanced at the young man, who stood silently on the side.

The young man shrugged his shoulders carelessly. It seemed that the young man didn't care so much about what he would say.

"Master President, you have truly misunderstood him."

"Though this lad is sometimes careless and has seriously injured me with the blast, frankly speaking, as for his method of making the magic pills..."

Yun He said with fire in his eyes, "I completely approve."

Everyone was surprised at the affirmative tone of Yun He's voice, wondering how someone who had almost died supported the culprit after waking up. What kind of strength did this young man have?

Shi Ti was also dumbfounded.

He looked down at the magic pill and closed his eyes tightly.

"If everyone still needs an affirmative answer..."

Yun He looked at the crowd and categorically said, "This magic pill was indeed made by Xu Xiaoshou!"

### **Chapter 306: You Don't Believe Me Again**

Suspected, Passive Points, +34.

Affirmed, Passive Point, +1.

Supported, Passive Points, +4.



Xu Xiaoshou turned his head and looked at Mu Zixi.

The little girl shot him an encouraging expression in her eyes. She then clenched her fist and gave a thumbs-up.

“Hey.”

Xu Xiaoshou asked with a smile, “Master President, do you still not believe me?”

“Yes, I believe you.”

Shi Ti nodded his head deeply. Xu Xiaoshou felt relieved.

“To be honest, with just this magic pill and the assurance from Yun He, I can give you the magic pill technician badge on the spot.”

Xu Xiaoshou was silent and looked at the old president with a smile, knowing that there would be a catch.

“But...”

The old president stroked his beard and grabbed a handful of black material. He sighed and said, “This old man wants to see you make the magic pill one more time.”

The onlookers nodded frantically, thinking that seeing was believing but hearing was not.

Even though Yun He had sworn that he saw the process with his own eyes, they still couldn't believe that a magic pill had survived the extraordinary blast.

Xu Xiaoshou waved his hand with a smile.

“There is no need to redo it.”

“Since Master President has said that you believe me and are going to give me the magic pill technician badge, why would I do such an unnecessary thing?”

Shi Ti was speechless.

Cursed, Passive Point, +1.

The crowd was in awe.

‘There is nothing wrong with his brain,’ the crowd thought.

Admired, Passive Points, +36.

Shi Ti's anger was stirred up again. He opened his mouth and was on the verge of roaring again.

Xu Xiaoshou hastened to interrupt him. “Master President misunderstood me. I didn't mean what you think I meant.”

“Now that you are planning to give me the badge, I won't turn down your request.”

“I'll take the exam for the tenth-grade badge first, and later I'll take the exam for the ninth grade.”

He waved his hand carelessly, but everyone was stunned by what he had just said.

“Taking consecutive exams?”

Suspected, Passive Points, +36.

Shi Ti paused in anger, raising his eyebrows high.

He had previously thought that Mu Zixi had the possibility of taking the exams consecutively, but it was merely speculation.

It was one matter if one could take the exam. It was another matter if one could pass the exams.

Yet where did this Xu Xiaoshou get his confidence from?

‘You are merely a shield for Mu Zixi and someone blocking the lines of sights of the others, but you start to think that you are a disciple of Old Man Sang.’

‘With only a method of making the magic pills, do you think that you can conquer the entire Pill Pagoda?’

Xu Xiaoshou smiled lightly and said, “President, you don’t believe me again.”

Shi Ti was again speechless.

Cursed, Passive Point, +1.

Everyone was amused by his words.

As onlookers, after they calmed down a little, they realized for the first time that this lad seemed to have a good temperament.

Even though he was misunderstood by the crowd, and even though he was roared at by President Shi Ti, he still behaved carelessly as if nothing had happened. It seemed that nothing in the world could affect his emotions.

On the contrary, the crowd’s behavior...

All of them felt surprised when the lad said something so casually and grew outraged.

President Shi Ti was the worst of them all, even though he was usually as calm and steady as a mountain.

Shi Ti showed a sullen expression on his face.

It was true that he didn’t believe this lad had achieved such a feat already.

“It’s not important whether I believe you or not at the moment. If you can make a stove of magic pills in front of our eyes, I’ll believe you are indeed capable!”

Yun He rolled his eyes undetected, thinking that the truth was that Shi Ti didn’t believe his words.

Xu Xiaoshou felt amused and said with a smile, “Okay, but you give me the badge first.”

"I can't give the badge to you for the time being, but you can make the magic pills according to your own plan. If you can really make the ninth-grade pills..."

Xu Xiaoshou shouted excitedly, "Is President Shi Ti is going to place a bet with me and give me a reward?"

Shi Ti paused.

'I don't think I said it that way,' he thought.

He gritted his teeth and had almost spoken the hysterical words in his heart.

Xu Xiaoshou felt sad and commented, "Alas, it is true that one who is not envied by others is a mediocre talent!"

"It is apparent that I've made the Red Gold Pill, and Elder Yun He has confirmed it. However, no one is willing to believe me."

"Is it true that the life of a genius must be lonely?"

"What about my peers? Do you guys believe me?"

Everyone was dumbfounded.

They wondered why Xu Xiaoshou spoke the words that should have been kept in his mind. Why was he so shameless?

Mu Zixi clenched her fist at the side and said, "Xu Xiaoshou, I believe you."

Everyone glanced at her sideways. The little girl flushed and hid behind Shi Ti.

"Go, Xu Xiaoshou, go."

This abrupt cheering sound was even more surprising.

The crowd looked in the direction of the sound.

Was the speaker Fu Xing?

Fu Yinhong stared at him with her pretty eyes. "Why are you getting involved!"

Fu Xing replied, "I believe Xu Xiaoshou. I believe my big brother!"

Fu Yinhong was dumbfounded.

Shi Ti let out a sigh of relief and realized that he had no choice but to say something.

He thought that it would be hard to save face if what Xu Xiaoshou said was true, even if it was just a slim chance.

He said slowly, "If you can really succeed in making the ninth-grade pills, I will let you choose a condition."

Everyone was surprised to hear that.

Why has he promised a condition so easily?

The envious expressions were apparent in the eyes of the crowd. Yet they wondered when Master President had become so casual and easy to give in.

However, when the crowd mulled it over, they realized that what Shi Ti said and did was a bit too outrageous if Xu Xiaoshou could actually do it.

In comparison, a promise was worth saving the president's face.

Xu Xiaoshou looked exuberant.

Although Shi Ti and Elder Sang had a close relationship, it was obviously not a reason for him to do whatever he wanted. On the other hand, if he could win the condition, the situation would be quite different.

'As a result, I will have a backer in Tiansang City!'

'As long as I don't cash out the promise, who dares to touch me?'

He immediately replied, "Does Master President mean that I can choose any condition?"

Shi Ti replied with a sneer, "The premise is that you can make the magic pill!"

Xu Xiaoshou thought, 'It's not so difficult to achieve it.'

He had made ninth-grade spiritual pills back in the Spirit Palace a long time ago, and he had many of them in the ring at the moment.

Although he didn't have enough spiritual liquids, and some of the pills still looked scorched and black, they were nevertheless finished magic pills.

'It looks like I can win his promise with ease.'

Thinking of this, Xu Xiaoshou asked again, "If I have made a ninth-grade magic pill, will Master President promise me one condition?"

"What if I can make an eighth-grade magic pill?"

There was a hint of longing in his eyes.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

This lad...

They had thought that he had a good temperament not long ago, but it didn't take long for him to reveal his original nature.

He had many bad qualities, such as speaking nonsense, being overly ambitious, and causing destruction everywhere.

Shi Ti was so upset that he actually felt amused. He said, "You speak without thinking it over. How can you boast about making eighth-grade magic pills?"

“How dare you say that!”

Xu Xiaoshou frowned as he said, “Master President, you don’t believe me again.”

“Could you recall carefully if I spoke without thinking? Which part of my words were false?”

Shi Ti didn’t reply.

He had no intention of talking at the moment.

He didn’t want to recall the destruction of the Pill Pagoda. He had no intention to do so at all.

Xu Xiaoshou said with a sigh, “You have always thought that I couldn’t do this or that, but every time, something unexpected happened.”

“What if...”

“What if I can do it again this time?”

“Ha-ha-ha!” Shi Ti laughed while tilting his head upward. He could no longer tolerate the boasting words of the lad. He spoke in a cold tone.

“If you can really make an eighth-grade magic pill, I will take you in as my disciple, all right?”

### **Chapter 307: Well, I want three favors!**

“Accept Xu Xiaoshou as an apprentice?”

The crowd went wild again. Everyone was exhilarated and worked up.

Following the promise of a favor, President Shi Ti spoke bold words again. ‘Pooh!’

How generous.

How could he be so generous?

Everyone was dumbfounded and could not believe their ears. Was this the President Shi Ti they knew?

What was the matter? Did he have a short fuse today?

How come he was so irritable?

Was it because he was at odds with that young man and could not control his emotions anymore? Or was he simply getting more and more worked up?

“The old president is going to accept an apprentice! My goodness, this is big news!”

“What are you thinking? Have you forgotten the conditions attached? He requires eighth-grade magic pills!”

“Eighth-grade... My dear mother! Is this how one becomes the president’s apprentice? If I knew that, I would have refrained from taking the examination and instantly sat for the third-grade assessment. That way, could I also be the president’s apprentice?”

“Hehe, wake up, it’s daytime now!”

“...”

Fu Yinhong glanced at Shi Ti with an inconceivable expression on her face.

Eighth-grade!

She was now an eighth-grade alchemist. If not for those two accidents, she would have been a seventh-grade alchemist now.

But Shi Ti could not possibly see something in her.

She knew that her abilities were far from enough.

Xu Xiaoshou...

Did he really have such prowess?

Fu Yinhong thought of that Red Gold Pill. Most of the people who watched the events unfurl were still on a high and did not give it much consideration.

If Xu Xiaoshou could protect and successfully condense the magic pill from the blast and was as exceptional as Yun He claimed...

Everything that happened in the meantime was extremely scary if one thought about it carefully.

She glanced at the old president. This old man seemed to be acting in the heat of the moment. In fact, Fu Yinhong could not guess what he was thinking in his heart.

“Xu Xiaoshou...”

She turned to look at the young man. To think that she almost imprisoned him when she saw him on the street that day.

She never expected that he would be such a character.

How would he respond in the face of the tempting promises made by the president?

“Accept an apprentice?”

Xu Xiaoshou murmured. To be honest, he was indeed captivated by the proposition.

He then thought of Elder Sang. Knowing the old man, he was sure that that old fellow would not set him free. He was a hundred percent sure of that.

Even if he escaped now, when the old straw hat-wearing man came looking for him, how could he not willingly go with him?

Shi Ti...

Was he capable of stopping Elder Sang?

Xu Xiaoshou was confident that he was not capable of that.

That old man’s true prowess was not in the art of alchemy at all. In fact, his alchemy skills were only a side benefit attained from the practice of Infernal Heavens.

“You flatter me, President. I know I am still not qualified to be your apprentice at the moment.”

Xu Xiaoshou spoke euphemistically and then steered the conversation away.

“However, it’s rare to catch the president’s eyes. I would be hard-pressed to shirk this bet.”

“How about this... If I succeed in refining the eighth-grade magic pill, will you add one more favor to the favors you promised earlier?”

Though Xu Xiaoshou sounded greedy, he did not have the guts to act on his words.

Two favors were enough.

Deep down, Shi Ti was surprised.

Could anyone refuse his invitation to be his apprentice?

Moreover, it was a young alchemist. How could that be possible?

His eyes narrowed slightly. It was evident that Xu Xiaoshou’s brazen actions triggered his anger again.

But he was not foolish.

This lad’s reaction was too unpredictable.

It was almost comparable to Old Man Sang, who created a big commotion in the Holy Palace in the past.

Mu Zixi’s figure unconsciously appeared in Shi Ti’s mind.

He admitted that the resemblance between Elder Sang and this unruly lad in front of him was uncanny.

If he had to decide now who would be the first-choice apprentice for Elder Sang, he was afraid this young lad was indeed more suited to be Elder Sang’s apprentice.

“Could it be possible that I was wrong? Xu Xiaoshou is not a cover that Old Man Sang designated for Mu Zixi, but...”

“Is it the complete opposite?”

Shi Ti was surprised by his thoughts.

He re-examined Xu Xiaoshou with scrutinizing eyes.

‘Similar!’

‘Too similar!’

‘Especially with regards to their destructive ability, he has far surpassed his teacher!’

He turned his head and looked at the skylight in Xu Xiaoshou’s alchemy room. He instantly connected the dots in his heart.

Could it be possible that what this lad said is true? Was the alchemy process just a normal procedure?

Yet, in this world, by simply following standard procedures, one could create such havoc with alchemy.

Shi Ti's face paled.

He had been deceived.

'Old Man Sang, was this what you were hiding all along?'

After not meeting for many years, his shrewdness went up a notch. He predicted that Shi Ti would be judging him and prepared his counterattack.

'Damn it!'

The surrounding crowd, including Xu Xiaoshou, were all watching President Shi Ti intently. His facial expressions changed as if he were flipping a book. In a flash, he displayed all kinds of colorful and exaggerated expressions.

In the short span of a few breaths, the old president vividly expressed various emotional expressions that one could achieve.

When Xu Xiaoshou's Information Bar stopped fluctuating, Shi Ti's eyes regained focus.

He stared at the young man in front of him and said sternly, "I agree with what you said."

'Wow!'

The crowd was instantly riled up and chorused in awe. Their faces were adorned with scandalous expressions.

"Has the president gone... mad?"

"My God, two favors? This, this..."

"It can't be! Is this even acceptable? But at this juncture, why wouldn't he be the apprentice of President Shi Ti!"

"Yes, this Xu Xiaoshou is still too inexperienced. Young people simply lack foresight. What are two favors when you can get countless favors by becoming the old president's apprentice?"

The old men were green with envy or shocked by the turn of events, but some people did not forget to rebuke Xu Xiaoshou. They loudly reminded him:

"Young man, don't be penny wise and pound foolish..."

Shi Ti looked at those green-eyed old men who had not forgotten to remind him and smiled. He also looked forward to Xu Xiaoshou's change of heart.

The guy who had caught the eye of Old Man Sang and resorted to using Mu Zixi, an alchemy genius, as a cover to divert the attention of others...

How phenomenal would his art of alchemy be?

Could it be as terrifying as Yun He claimed?

Xu Xiaoshou felt the scorching gazes of the audience on him and could not help but give it another thought. After a long time, he slowly asked, "Is it true that you can agree to anything?"



Shi Ti smiled and nodded, trying to exhibit a superior demeanor.

“Yes.”

‘Come on, be my apprentice! I need you!’

Xu Xiaoshou no longer hesitated and said, “Well, then I have decided. I want three favors!”

Crack!

Shi Ti’s expression instantly froze.

Fu Yinhong’s eyeballs almost fell out.

The old guys who were observing the events beat their chests and stamped their feet in disapproval after recovering from the shock.

“What a fool!”

“He’s so stupid, really so stupid!”

“As the saying goes, rotten wood cannot be carved, nor a wall of dried dung be troweled. What use is there in scolding him anymore?”

“...”

Scorned, Passive Points +36.

Ridiculed, Passive Points +32.

“...”

Shi Ti’s face was dark as he asked, “Are you serious?”

Xu Xiaoshou looked at the Information Bar with a wry smile. What did these guys know? This bunch of... Forget it, he would just regard it as a contribution to his Passive Points.

“Yes.”

He nodded. “Three favors aren’t too much, right?”

Shi Ti closed his eyes heavily and nodded slowly.

Xu Xiaoshou saw that he agreed so quickly and could not help but inwardly regret appearing too eager.

“Why don’t I change it again, four...”

Brush!

Shi Ti glared at him in anger. His gaze was so piercing that it was as though two fiery flames burst out from his eyes.

The phantom of a letter floated above his head, and the Way of the Heavens mantra fell upon them.

‘Tolerance is...’

'What bull!'

Shi Ti exploded on the spot, roaring angrily.

"Now, immediately, get your ass to the alchemy room!"

"If I don't see the eighth-grade magic pill today, don't you dare dream of leaving this Pill Pagoda standing!"

### **Chapter 308: Reassessment**

Alchemy room...

Stray rays from the sun poured down from the skylight and fell on Xu Xiaoshou's exceptionally handsome face.

The young man opened his hand and curled his fingers close. He glanced at the door with some awkwardness and spoke with dissatisfaction.

"I say, with so many of you watching, I will be very stressed."

In front of him were Shi Ti, Yun He, and the others while the old guys who wanted to watch the show gathered at the destroyed door.

Mu Zixi waved her hand at his side and said encouragingly, "Xu Xiaoshou, come on, make eighth-grade pills at one go."

Xu Xiao did not take this well. He turned his head and looked at the little girl, who had squeezed in beside him.

"You should get out of here quickly. It's too crowded. If there is an explosion later, can you run away?"

Fu Xing shouted from the other side, "Big Brother, don't be afraid, I am here! Even if this furnace blows up 10 times today, it will not hurt you!"

As he spoke, he took a jade pendant from his waist and handed it over.

Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback. He swiped the jade pendant, saying, "You also should quickly leave. The air is too stagnant with everyone squeezed in here."

"No, Big Brother, I want to see you become a god before my own eyes!"

Fu Xing held his hand excitedly.

'He accepted the jade pendant!'

'There is hope for my 10 Sections of the Finger Sword!'

Shi Ti said with a black face, "You guys, get out of here. Why is there a need to squeeze like sardines here? In the first place, the alchemy examination is not for you to observe."

"We've already made an exception by letting you watch, yet you still want to squeeze around."

He shushed everyone out of the door.

It was a pity that was not even a door in this ruined place. People were still going to crowd around. He did not dare change the venue to another room. What if Xu Xiaoshou caused another explosion? The Pill Pagoda barrier could no longer suffer this kind of damage.

“Bear with it for a moment,” Shi Ti said.

Xu Xiaoshou retracted his gaze, nodded, and said, “Just don’t talk.”

“Besides... Mr. President, please stand back, just in case...”

“I am at the Sovereign Stage!”

“Sigh!”

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly remembered that his facilitator was not Yun He but Shi Ti this time.

He sat down on the spot and grasped the bathtub with his fingers.

Clang!

The force of the countershock immediately resulted in all the residue within the bathtub flying out from the vibrations. Everyone’s hearts trembled, only to witness Xu Xiaoshou’s snapping his fingers and raising the temperature in the room instantly.

“Infernal Heavens!”

Shi Ti raised his body upright, his face thunderstruck in recognition.

He thought that Xu Xiaoshou might be Old Man Sang’s apprentice. When he saw this familiar flame in person, he found it difficult to conceal the astonishment in his heart.

Infernal Heavens... Even though this kid seemed erratic and unsteady, he had endured the pain.

He surveyed the youth and seemed to see a shadow within in him of his former companion, who once ended up boiling the entire lake while practicing in Greater Goose Lake.

If it were not for the sleepless cultivating day and night, and if it were not for his determined persistence, maybe...

That old guy would not have had those deep dark circles under his eyes.

“Spiritual Cultivation Pill.”

Xu Xiaoshou spoke, bringing Shi Ti out of his reminiscence back to the present.

Shi Ti took out the spiritual ingredients from his spatial ring, handed them over, and said, “Ninth-grade, Spiritual Cultivation Pill. You have three chances.”

Xu Xiaoshou acknowledged with an “Oh.” He proceeded to dump all the spiritual ingredients into the pot as if he were making stew.

This action immediately triggered an uproar from everyone outside the door.

Some old guys just wanted to call out. Before they could say anything, Yun He interjected with an I-know-it-all face and generously proffered an explanation.

“Calm down. Don’t get too excited. This is a normal procedure.”

“I’m familiar with this process. It is just the beginning. This kid is very particular, so be quiet.”

“Shut up and take a good look, that’s all!”

“...”

Everyone looked at Yun He with dissatisfied expressions plastered on their faces. They seemed to be controlling their emotions to a point where they were almost boiling up and appeared immensely uncomfortable.

Since when did this old guy learn to shut others up before they could even speak? Could they not even voice their thoughts now?

Compared to the others, Shi Ti’s expression was collected and calm.

He saw Xu Xiaoshou’s familiar and proficient movements, and he thought that it was so.

Apart from the overbearing Infernal Heavens alchemy technique, few alchemists dared to perform such bold actions.

“Sizzle...”

A soft sound came out from the bathtub. On top of the overbearing Infernal Heavenly Flames, the spiritual ingredients were promptly refined into liquid without any effort.

Xu Xiaoshou entered the boring stage of controlling the fire, and his eyes began to wander around.

Flame control was a major feature from Cooking Expert.

This feature directly introduced Xu Xiaoshou to the art of alchemy and opened the door to a side career.

For other alchemists, when they thought of refining elixir and Pill Condensation Art, the former was more arduous and challenging to perform.

It was necessary to control the medicinal properties of the substance to refine elixirs. More importantly, the alchemist also had to maintain perfect concentration for an extended period without any hint of distraction.

It required a lot of experience and practice to achieve.

For Pill Condensation Art, no matter how difficult it was, it was only a spiritual skill.

As long as one was willing to learn it and accept the same level of Pill Condensation Art as a Spiritual Cultivator, it was generally simple enough to learn the ropes, though not easy to progress far.

On the other hand, Xu Xiaoshou compared to ordinary alchemy masters behaved the opposite.

It was due to Cooking Expert and one of its branches: flame control.

Because of this Passive Skill, he seemed to have practiced the knowledge countless times in his mind.

He was an absolute natural at alchemy.

Apart from controlling the flames a little and dealing with some minor accidents that may occur in the alchemy process...

There was no other obstacle in his alchemy process of refining elixir.

What really challenged him was the Pill Condensation Art.

He just could not learn it.

Glancing at Shi Ti from the corner of his eye, he noticed that Shi Ti was carefully staring at his hand. Xu Xiaoshou waved more casually, which instantly puzzled Shi Ti further.

He looked out of the door again, and the crowd was even more at a loss.

Under the command of the Yun He, everyone's eyes were zeroed in until they almost bled. All they wanted was to understand his Profound Way of the Heavens alchemy hand gesture.

Unfortunately, no one could decipher his technique.

Xu Xiaoshou smirked. It would have been a surprise if they could see through it.

His alchemy technique was something that even he could not decipher.

Under the Infernal Heavenly Flames, the elixir refined very quickly. When it was almost time, he focused his thoughts and concentrated on the next step.

"Pill Condensation..."

Xu Xiaoshou whispered. He looked at the Passive Points Information Bar.

"Passive Points, +24,333."

Though it was not increasing fast enough, it was sufficient for him to improve his skill points.

Xu Xiaoshou did not originally plan to waste passive points on alchemy. After all, he had too many enemies, and they were too strong.

If he could refine eighth-grade magic pills, any one of the three favors promised by President Shi Ti could help him defend himself against the unknown killer.

Minutes passed...

The killer was at the Sovereign Stage...

As Xu Xiaoshou thought, his fingers moved faster unconsciously.

Under the influence of the Passive Skill Agility, if he did not control his hand speed, he could directly gesture out a phantom with his speed.

"How fast..."

Everyone stared even more intently. In the alchemy room, Shi Ti started pacing his feet unconsciously. Gently, step by step, he did not even notice that he was already remarkably close to Xu Xiaoshou.

‘What a magical technique. It’s really as Yun He said! It closely resembles cooking!’

‘It’s too messy and disorderly. It’s almost like simply waving, but is it possible?’

‘He is the apprentice of Old Man Sang, could it be that this is the latest development by that old man?’

As Shi Ti thought, he proceeded to bend his knees, squatting directly by Xu Xiaoshou’s side.

### **Chapter 309: Run!**

‘Ooh... Ooh... Ooh!’

With fingers as quick and agile as fluttering butterflies, the air was filled with melodious movements.

The crowd outside the room was staring intensely into the room while the old president squatted at a side of the room with his attention totally drawn.

Meanwhile, Xu Xiaoshou was totally focused on the Passive Points Bar.

‘Come on!’

He thought for a while and finally decided that the benefits outweighed the costs if he were to use his Passive Points now.

As such, he stopped hesitating and exchanged some for two skill points.

Out of his Expertise Passive Skills that had reached the Innate Stage, his Sword Technique Expertise skill level had been raised twice and was already at the limit.

Considering that he still had to perform alchemy, he wanted to be very cautious.

To ensure that his cauldron would not explode, Xu Xiaoshou used his skill points.

Cooking Expertise, Innate Level 1.

Cooking Expertise Innate Level 3.

Immediately, his mind was filled with a large volume of knowledge. Different from leveling up during Acquired Stage, the experience that was entering his mind now was more of...

The way of the Cooking Expert...

As well as an understanding of food and ingredients.

While leveling up of Cooking Expert in the Acquired Stage, Xu Xiaoshou received almost all of the knowledge there was about lower-level spiritual medicines.

Now, that knowledge had been updated to include food and ingredients.

‘Meats and vegetables?’

Xu Xiaoshou's face darkened.

The highly expected Pill Condensation Art did not appear at all. He lost his focus for a while, and his hands shook a little.

The audience's heart tightened as they watched from the outside. They noticed that the temperature suddenly spiked. It was as if in the next moment, the spiritual liquid above the cauldron would turn into ashes.

However, they saw the young man grab the cauldron tightly. The surrounding air seemed to come become still

The accidental spike in heat coursed through his hands, entering his body.

'Breathing Technique!'

Xu Xiaoshou's eyes lit up.

It was almost as if it was an involuntary reaction, just like how leveling up Sword Technique Expertise was in the past. It brought him an unexpected surprise.

If the Breathing Technique could help lower the temperature, didn't that mean that from now on when he lost focus while performing alchemy, as long as he reacted in time, it could always be salvaged?

His Agility had already reached the Master Stage, which meant his reaction time would be godly.

'That's not right!'

This method should not be used on salvaging. Instead, was it better suited for multiple alchemizing?

Could he alchemize with two cauldrons at the same time?

As long as his reaction was fast enough, he could lower the heat before any cauldrons exploded, halting any impending explosions before they even started.

'F\*ck!'

'What an unexpected surprise!'

Xu Xiaoshou's face brightened up as he thought about it.

Raising the skill level of Cooking Expert by two points seemed to have gotten him useless things, but flame control's level was raised as well.

If he continued to raise the skill level, controlling multiple cauldrons at the same time was not an impossible dream anymore.

That seemingly useless meat and vegetable combination knowledge was actually subtly setting the foundations for one of Xu Xiaoshou's ideals of creating meat pills.

He didn't dare to try it now, but it didn't mean that he would not try it next time.

Xu Xiaoshou was so agitated that his hands shook again, causing onlooker's hearts to tighten again. He immediately tried his new discovery.

He did not use his nostrils to breathe. Instead, he used his hands to come into contact with the Infernal Heavenly Flames, achieving the results that he wanted.

Beside him, Shi Ti was already looking a little faint.

What kind of technique was this?

He had never seen these movements before nor the results that they brought.

Was it possible to salvage things when the cauldron seemed to be exploding?

Disbelief was written all over Shi Ti's face.

Alchemists were required to have high control over flames. Even the slightest mistake could cause all to be lost and unsalvageable.

With Xu Xiaoshou's technique, he was able to lower the temperature of the cauldron just by having his hands near it.

'Is this Elder Sang's new invention?'

'Did he purposely ask this lad to show off in front of me?'

Shi Ti felt his tooth hurt a little.

To be very honest, this technique, even for a person like him, was highly desirable.

Alchemists in the lower grades might not have been able to see the value of this technique, but once they entered the higher grades, every ingredient was very costly. Hence, it would be unbearable if they were lost due to a mistake.

If they were lost due to a small hiccup or mistake, that would be the most unbearable.

With this technique, there would be so many moments and ingredients that could be salvaged.

Shi Ti continued to squat to the side as he became totally fascinated.

Glancing at the young man beside him, the president opened his mouth with the intention to ask something, but he was not like Yun He.

He knew that these examinations were highly important to the youths, so he did not want to interrupt.

Xu Xiaoshou glanced subtly at him and smiled.

He intentionally wobbled his hands again, causing the flames to lose control. Under the shocking gaze of the president, he put his hands near the cauldron again.

Chh—

There was a soft sound as Xu Xiaoshou's reddened palms perfectly absorbed the heat.

Shi Ti could not hold back to know. He was really interested.

"Do you want to learn?" Xu Xiaoshou asked.



The president swallowed his saliva unconsciously and nodded.

“If you want to learn, what will you use to exchange? A favor?”

Shi Ti was speechless.

He looked at this young man with shock as huge waves rushed within his heart.

‘My God, what kind of a person is this. Why does he want a favor in exchange?’

‘Doesn’t he know that if he taught me this technique, the returns that he could get from me would definitely be more than that?’

Shi Ti’s eyes were filled with disappointment.

‘No matter how strong his skills may be, if his brawn cannot keep up, then he will not be able to go far in life!’

‘Sigh.’

Thinking about this, he could not help but feel a sense of pity for Elder Sang.

It was a pity because he was such a talented boy.

Xu Xiaoshou smiled as he shook his head. He had just asked casually.

Not to say that he would be able to learn it, but if he really had to teach him, just looking at the man’s physique made it clear that he would not be able to bear the amount of heat at all.

If his own Master Physique could only take as much as that one breath, how much could others take?

The reason he said that was just to encourage the old man to give up and not ask any more questions.

“Here it comes.”

The process of refining elixir was at last at its final step. After Xu Xiaoshou made the liquid backflow, it had become highly viscous.

His face was serious.

“Scoot further away!”

Yun He waved his arms as he hurriedly tried to usher the crowd backward.

When this lad compressed his pill, no matter if it succeeded or failed, the cauldron would still explode. It should not be underestimated.

The speed of Xu Xiaoshou’s hands increased again. Under the eyes of the crowd, he finally made a hand sign that everyone could understand.

” Pill Condensation Art!”

The Fire Seed under the cauldron burst into flames. The temperature in the room shot up immediately. Everyone had shocked expressions. In the next second, everything seemed to go dark.

Boom!

A loud explosion shot straight up, causing the ceiling window to widen a little more.

Shi Ti was already prepared. He wanted to see how explosive this lad's normal pill compression was.

The explosion that caused Yun He's body to be injured did not seem to do any harm to himself.

'Is that it?'

He sighed. He then saw the young man sitting beside the cauldron suddenly getting up.

"Run!"

Xu Xiaoshou blurted this word fearfully as he immediately disappeared.

Since the door was blocked by people, he escaped through the window.

The crowd was confused.

"Is this... his normal alchemy process?"

They all looked at Yun He, including Shi Ti.

Yun He was stunned.

When he was watching Xu Xiaoshou alchemize a while ago, this was not part of his normal alchemy process at all.

Unless...

### **Chapter 310: Broken Brows and Blackened Face, The Angry Old Alchemist**

"The cauldron exploded?"

When the crowd realized that, the alchemy room had already started emitting a layer of an appalling gas wave.

The wave was silent, but it easily sent those at the entrance of the room flying. As they were flying, they could clearly see it.

Under the cauldron, the condensed Fire Seed that had increased in temperature during the pill compression step had expanded.

Condensing Fire Seed was easy. Xu Xiaoshou had also experienced an expanding Fire Seed.

At most, it was just like one of his Lesser Fireballs.

This was a Fire Seed that had been compressed for a couple of hours and continuously gotten energy replenishment to be released at the last minute.

The amount of damage that it could bring could be seen from Xu Xiaoshou's skilled action of escaping.

Its expansion caused the surrounding gases to be evaporated, and the space around it to be a vacuum.

As the heat waves emitted from it, it eliminated all other elements within that space.

After that moment of emptiness, the air finally gushed through, causing the vacuum to disappear. A loud and frightening sound could be heard coming from the alchemy room, causing intense vibrations of everyone's eardrums.

Boom boom—

A grey mushroom cloud could be seen pushing through the ceiling of the tower as the huge blast was compressed toward the center, shattering all the walls of the Pill Pagoda.

...

Dead silence.

The streets were all silent.

The bustling streets and passersby were all speechless as if silenced by a god at the same time.

Those that had passed by a few times would know that Pill Pagoda was not peaceful at all on this day.

After some time, there would be a few sounds of explosions. Each was stronger than the previous one.

They still did not expect that the last blast would cause the seventh story to be damaged such that only half of it was left.

“Oh my god, what happened to the Pill Pagoda?”

“Is the Magic Pill Technicians Association under attack today? If that is the case, why are the City Guards not here yet?”

“Is this the effect of exploding cauldrons? Where is their big array barrier?”

“How could a big array have protected against an explosion of such magnitude? The Pill Pagoda is a respected place by both good and evil organizations. Why would they even need any strong arrays? Who would they have provoked to experience such suffering?”

“Could it be those organizations that are neither good nor evil?”

“...”

The crowd went silent for a while. Soon, everyone started to discuss and argue.

That was not the end. After the mushroom cloud, the crowd suddenly heard noises that sounded like “Poot, poot.”

“What’s going on? Who is farting?”

“Farting? Does your wife fart this loud at home? This sounds more like thunder!”

Some people started to panic as they could feel that the surrounding temperature rapidly rising.

Yet, to the naked eye, everything seemed to be normal.

“No!”

Suddenly someone stared at the Pill Pagoda and let out a shocking cry.

“The Pill Pagoda! Quick, look! Is the Pill Pagoda disappearing?”

Upon hearing this, the crowd turned to look and finally saw that the outer wall of the seventh floor of the Pill Pagoda rapidly melting.

Some alchemists noticed something amiss and used their spiritual senses to scan. They were terrified.

“Fire?”

“Is the Pill Pagoda on fire?”

“F\*ck! Who can tell me what is happening?”

Suddenly, an old man wearing ragged clothes flew out of the window.

He looked extremely devastated. His hair and brows were burned off to a large extent. The most attention-grabbing thing was that his little belly was showing because pieces of his clothes were missing.

Yes, the old man’s clothes on the front had been burned off.

His body was not hurt, but the little hairs on his body were gone.

“President Shi Ti?”

The crowd on the streets was all shocked.

Was this still the highly revered and angelic president?

“F\*ck, I must be blind!”

“This can’t be real. My eyes...”

“Ahh! Help me, someone pinch me!”

“...”

“Xu... Xiaoshou...” Shi Ti gritted his teeth and growled lowly.

His eyes were filled with tears. He raised both of his arms and separated the Heavenly Infernal Flames from the outer walls of the Pill Pagoda before condensing them together.

This was too scary.

These flames could burn anything. Unless one used the Way of the Heavens to put it out and turn it back into the most fundamental spiritual element, there was no other way to put it out.

For those who did not have any spiritual powers yet, they could only beg for mercy in front of this Heavenly Infernal Flames.

‘If I were not in the Pill Pagoda today...’

Shi Ti dared not imagine what would have happened.

'Exploding cauldron... How can this be a f\*cking cauldron exploding? You are more terrifying than that Old Man Sang!'

While the crowd was still distracted, he immediately disappeared into the pagoda to change into a new set of clothes.

...

On the other side of the Pill Pagoda...

Xu Xiaoshou flipped down from the window and entered the Magic Pill Technicians Association again through the first floor.

He was hesitant.

'Should I go up or not...'

This question seemed simple, but it could actually be a matter of life and death for him. Thus, Xu Xiaoshou had chosen to temporarily escape.

With his eyes drooping, he hid in a dark corner as he recalled the aftermath of the explosion.

'It was really just an accident!'

Xu Xiaoshou first confirmed the nature of this incident, deciding not to increase the scale of it. An accident was an accident. There was nothing much else to say.

Secondly, it was just a normal cauldron explosion.

'Yes!'

'Extremely normal!'

Whenever he had any cauldron explosions in the past, it was like that as well.

Given the experience that he had, Xu Xiaoshou had already gotten a good grasp over fire control and would basically not cause any cauldrons to explode anymore.

'Why was it like that this time?'

Xu Xiaoshou's brows tightened as he started to ponder.

Throughout the entire alchemizing process, it had been extremely smooth. The only possible time where the accident could have happened would have been when he added two skill points to his Cooking Expert.

'Could it be the heat...'

Xu Xiaoshou squinted his eyes as he suddenly realized the root of the problem.

The flame control that came along with Cooking Expert raised his skill levels.

Even though it was something that appeared in his mind straight away, the first time he used it, Xu Xiaoshou was still not used to it.

His flame control's upper limits had been raised, which allowed him to maintain stable control even under extremely high temperatures.

The amount of strength that he put in during alchemy was still that of before he leveled up.

It was equivalent to a normal person wielding a large hammer and using all of one's strength to hit a piece of metal.

There was not much of a problem with that since that was how Xu Xiaoshou usually performed alchemy.

After leveling up Cooking Expert, the control he had over the flames had increased, which was equivalent to the metal forger becoming an experienced veteran instead of a normal person.

If he still used all of his strength to play with the flames, he was bound to burn himself.

Thinking about that, Xu Xiaoshou was not shocked. Instead, he was surprised.

The Pill Pagoda burning was a small matter to him but finding out how to stop cauldrons from exploding through this experiment was a big matter for him.

As long as his Cooking Expert leveled up, flame control would level up as well. When he was able to control the Heavenly Infernal Flames during high temperatures...

Wouldn't his cauldrons not explode ever again?

"Hehe, haha..."

Xu Xiaoshou could not control his laughter. As he raised his head, he realized something was amiss.

He saw a blackened face with burned eyebrows. It belonged to an angry old alchemist

A continuously burning flame was on his hand.

"President Shi Ti?"

Xu Xiaoshou found it hard to swallow his saliva. When he did, he realized that his throat was tight.

"Startled, Passive Points +1."