

## I. Family 461

### Chapter 461: The Pitiable Pair of Sisters\_3

Li Xingruo dragged her weary body toward her family's shop.

“Without a Second Rank Alchemist presiding, not only has business dwindled greatly, but we also can't pass the triennial shop assessment.”

“Dad, Mom, what should I do?”

Li Xingruo looked at her deserted ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’ and heaved a deep sigh.

She was born into a cultivation family.

...

Her father was a Foundation Establishment Cultivator and a Second Rank Alchemist.

Her mother was also a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Under these circumstances, she could be considered to have been born with a silver spoon in her mouth.

Thus, she was like a star cherished by all from a young age.

But a year ago, everything changed.

Her parents encountered a heretic cultivator during a trip and both perished.

Leaving behind her and her younger sister.

Confronted with such a situation, their family did not offer concern or aid, but even tried to snatch the properties under her parents' names and force her sister into marriage.

Luckily, thanks to her parents' connections, the family did not push them too hard.

So she abandoned many of the family assets, took her sister, and came to Jiuxiao Immortal City, relying on this 'Treasure Elixir Pavilion' for a living.

Originally, after being run by her parents for so many years, the elixir shop had already established a solid customer base and reputation in Jiuxiao Immortal City.

As long as they could hire a Second Rank Alchemist, even if business couldn't return to its former glory, it wouldn't be too bad.

But the family outright cast them out as renegades.

Not only did they stop supplying spiritual medicine, they also recalled the apprenticeships of the alchemy from their shop to the family, and forbade any other alchemists from collaborating with their shop.

As time passed, their ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’ business got worse and worse.

Many corporate partners also gradually ceased their cooperation.

Half a month ago, she heard that a Second Rank Alchemist appeared in BaisHan Workshop.

Without stopping to rest, she rushed over, hoping to offer a high price to invite the person to her shop to become the presiding alchemist.

Just promoted to Second Rank Alchemist, he readily agreed to the terms and was ready to sign a Spiritual Contract.

But upon finding out about her situation, he immediately chose to renege, sending her home defeated and disheartened.

“Sister, you’re back.”

Inside the shop, Li Xingyu, dressed in a pale yellow gown and with a lovely countenance, saw her sister return and immediately brightened up, her small face beaming with a smile as she called out.

“Xingyu.”

Li Xingruo, looking at her sister's cheerful demeanor, squeezed out a smile on her somewhat weary face.

A year ago, she was just like her sister, carefree, happily helping their parents manage the business every day.

But since the death of their parents, a series of incidents taught her the coldness of the secular world.

"Sister, how did it go with the alchemist from BaisHan Workshop? Is he willing to come to our place and be our presiding alchemist?"

Seeing her sister's fatigue, Li Xingyu brewed a cup of Spiritual Tea for her and spoke up.

"He's not willing."

Li Xingruo picked up the Spiritual Tea, took a sip, and gently shook her head.

"It's alright, Sister."

"If it really comes down to it, we could sell the 'Treasure Elixir Pavilion'. That way, you wouldn't have to be so busy every day,"

Li Xingyu pursed her lips, holding her sister's hand in comfort.

Despite her young age, she was very sensible.

She knew the ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’ was the hard-earned business left to them by their parents, so her sister was reluctant to give up.

Yet over the past year, she watched her sister tirelessly toil for the ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’.

Now altogether worn out, there was no time left for cultivation.

“Xingyu, I’m okay.”

Li Xingruo responded with a smile.

Selling the shop was indeed the best choice.

But this shop was not just their parents’ hard work,

it also held beautiful memories of her and her parents.

Once, her father taught her alchemy here, while her mother tutored her in techniques.

“By the way, Sister, a few days ago a Senior Ye came to our shop asking if there was a Pill Furnace and an Alchemy Chamber for rent.”

“I thought Senior Ye seemed trustworthy and he is a Second Rank Alchemist, so I rented them to him.”

“We could talk to him later, maybe he would be willing to be our shop’s presiding alchemist.”

At this, Li Xingyu spoke up.

She had agreed to rent out the Alchemy Chamber, with a lease period of ten days, thinking to wait for her sister to come back from her trip.

If her sister had not secured a Second Rank Alchemist, then they would try to convince this Senior Ye to become their shop’s presiding alchemist.

“Senior Ye? A Second Rank Alchemist? Renting the Pill Furnace and Alchemy Chamber?”

Li Xingruo was immediately startled upon hearing this.

It was not a pleasant surprise,

but one of alarm.

Because upon hearing her younger sister's words, her first thought was of swindlers.

A Second Rank Alchemist, what need would they have to rent an Alchemy Chamber from someone else?

Even if they did need to rent an Alchemy Chamber, who would need to rent a Pill Furnace?

What kind of Second Rank Alchemist doesn't own his own Pill Furnace?

Only alchemy apprentices, who can't afford Pill Furnaces, use cast iron pots to concoct Elixir Medicines.

"Which Second Rank Alchemist needs to rent a Pill Furnace from someone?"

"Xingyu, where is this alchemist? Still in the Alchemy Chamber?"

Li Xingruo immediately stood up and asked anxiously.

This Pill Furnace was one of her father's heirlooms.

It was also the most precious item in the shop at the moment.

Thus, she normally kept the Pill Furnace put away, stored in the third-floor depository.

She didn't expect her younger sister to actually rent it out to someone else.

If this Senior Ye turned out to be a con artist and either blew up the furnace through reckless alchemy,

or swapped it with a fake and ran off with their actual pill furnace, the loss would be tremendous.

“Ah, surely not. I thought Senior Ye was quite amiable; he didn't seem like a swindler.”

Li Xingyu began to feel nervous after hearing her sister's words.

It didn't occur to her that her goodwill might have backfired.

She was also aware of the dire situation at home.

Her sister had been out trying to recruit a Second Rank Alchemist.

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That's why the alchemy chamber was rented out externally to retain Lu Changsheng.



Now hearing her elder sister's words, she felt that was indeed the case.

Where would a second-rank alchemist not even have a pill furnace of his own?

Moreover, this senior Ye, seemed quite unfamiliar with her family's earthfire array and the starfire sand.

Immediately, the two sisters quickly went to the backyard.

"Xingyu, you ask."

...

Li Xingruo, seeing that the person was still in the alchemy chamber, let out a sigh of relief and asked her younger sister to call out.

Although she suspected that Lu Changsheng was a fraudster,

she had not yet resorted to barging into the alchemy chamber directly.

After all, it was only a suspicion.

What if Lu Changsheng really was an alchemist?

What if he was at a critical moment in his alchemy process?

As an alchemist herself, she knew that one should not be disturbed during the process of alchemy.

Furthermore, in her heart, she hoped that this Senior Ye was truly a second-rank alchemist.

Because a second-rank alchemist who had fallen on such hard times that he had no pill furnace indicated that he was in a dire situation.

If she could just offer generous terms, maybe she could persuade him to become the resident alchemist at her family's store.

"Senior Ye..."

Li Xingyu took out a token and called out into the alchemy chamber.

"Miss Li, is there something the matter?"

Lu Changsheng, who was in the midst of alchemy and talisman making, asked without raising his head.

"Are you available right now, my sister has returned and would like to see you?"

Li Xingyu bit her lip and spoke out.

She felt that Lu Changsheng had a kind temperament and couldn't believe he was a fraudster.

"Come in."

Lu Changsheng, hearing this, guessed that it might be the young girl who had rented the alchemy chamber, and now a family elder had returned and came over to check in person.

"Giggle—"

The large stone door of the alchemy chamber slowly opened.

A wave of heat spread out from inside the room.

The sisters walked into the alchemy chamber.

They immediately smelled a strong fragrance of medicine.

In the center of the room, the fire in the pill furnace blazed vigorously, with spiritual light flowing around it, clearly in the process of concocting some extraordinary elixir medicines.

Lu Changsheng was seated to one side, busily writing something.

“What!?”

The sisters were stunned at the sight.

What is this?

The fire was roaring as it refined elixir medicines.

Yet here was Lu Changsheng holding a spiritual brush, writing something.

It looked as though he was making talismans.

Whoever heard of someone doing other tasks while also engaged in alchemy!

“Ladies, please wait a moment.”

Lu Changsheng said without raising his head.

He could divide his attention while making talismans.

But after all, he was crafting a second-rank spirit talisman.

He needed to keep an eye on the talisman paper to finish the drawing, unable to do so blindly.

A moment later.

“Hum—”

Lu Changsheng's brush, in his hand, completed the last stroke on the talisman paper, causing spiritual light to surge on it.

A second-rank talisman, made!

"Fellow Daoist, Miss Li."

Only then did Lu Changsheng stand up and raise his head, greeting the two women with a smile.

By their appearance and resemblance, he could tell at a glance that the two must be biological sisters.

Li Xingyu was around fifteen or sixteen, with clear eyes, a straight nose, an oval face, and a quiet disposition, charming and cute.

This woman appeared to be about twenty years old.

Her face had a seven or eight-tenths resemblance to Li Xingyu, with clear, refined features and bright eyes and white teeth.

She seemed a bit weary from busyness, showing a trace of fatigue on her face.

However, between her brows, there shone a transparent yet firm expression, like crystal.

"Senior Ye, you are also a talisman master?"

Li Xingyu, looking at Lu Changsheng, asked incredulously, her face full of disbelief.

The surge of spiritual light from the talisman paper confirmed that Lu Changsheng was indeed making a talisman, drawing a spirit talisman just a moment ago.

This left them so astonished they were at a loss for words.

You see, both alchemy and talisman making are immensely difficult tasks that cannot be influenced or disturbed by external factors.

Yet there was Lu Changsheng, clearly in the middle of alchemy in the pill furnace, while also making a talisman on the side.

And during the process of talisman making, he was still capable of holding a conversation with them.

This was simply astounding and beyond comprehension!

“Hehe, I know a little,”

Lu Changsheng replied with a smile.

“Senior Ye, I am Xingyu’s elder sister, Li Xingruo.”

“Just now, Xingyu mentioned that an alchemist had rented the alchemy chamber, so I came over to meet you. I apologize for disturbing Grandmaster Ye,”

Li Xingruo then spoke up, her voice respectful.

She was not like her sister.

She was much more precocious.

Having learned alchemy from her father since she was young, she was a first-grade, high-quality alchemist.

From the scent of the medicine, the fire in the pill furnace, and the medicinal liquid, she could roughly deduce that a second-grade elixir medicine was being concocted inside.

This Senior Ye was indeed a second-rank alchemist.

Not some scammer.

This made her almost at a loss for what to say.

To be concocting a second-grade elixir medicine while dividing his attention to make a talisman.

And.

The surge of spiritual light when the talisman was completed indicated it was not just any ordinary spirit talisman.

This excited her deeply.

She realized her younger sister truly had encountered a master.

The Senior Ye before them was a real expert.

If he could become the resident alchemist at their store, their shop could be saved.

“Hehe, no problem.”

“I came to Jiuxiao Immortal City and forgot to bring my pill furnace, so I had to find a place to rent both a pill furnace and an alchemy chamber. I owe it to your younger sister for providing me a place to conduct my alchemy,”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

He could tell that Li Xingruo was likely quite sharp and capable.

“Senior Ye, are you planning to settle in Jiuxiao Immortal City?”

“If you’re looking for a place to stay, our ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’ is currently lacking a resident alchemist. I wonder if Senior Ye might be interested?”

“As long as Senior Ye is willing to become...”

Li Xingruo’s eyes lit up as she immediately spoke out, her eyes full of hope.

“Miss Li, I came to Jiuxiao Immortal City to take care of some business and don’t have plans to settle here,”a

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“So there really is no way for me to serve as the resident alchemist for your esteemed pavilion,”

Lu Changsheng shook his head, voicing his refusal.

He wasn’t averse to the notion of being a shop’s resident alchemist.

If the shop were located in Red Leaf Valley Market or the markets around Qingzhu Mountain, he wouldn’t mind using an alias to serve as a resident alchemist.

Not only would that provide an additional income, but it would also create another channel for selling elixir medicines.

He could sell all the surplus elixirs that he had produced in the shop.

...

However, his main base was at Qingzhu Mountain.

After completing this purchasing trip, he would return and not stay long in Jiuxiao Immortal City.

“Where does Elder Ye reside? As long as you are willing to become our ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’ resident alchemist, you don’t have to come to the shop regularly,”

“Xingruo can visit you to discuss matters. You only need to take the trouble of coming over when there is a need,”

Li Xingruo was reluctant to give up and continued to speak.

“Li fellow Taoist, I reside in the Qingyun Region, which is truly far from Jiuxiao Immortal City,”

Lu Changsheng said, shaking his head.

From Qingzhu Mountain to Jiuxiao Immortal City, one would have to traverse half of Jiang Country Cultivation Realm.

“Qingyun Region,”

Upon hearing this, Li Xingruo felt somewhat disheartened.

She knew that with such a distance, the journey was indeed long.

Even by riding a spirit boat, it would take several months.

Biting her lip, she persisted, “May I ask when Elder Ye plans to leave?”

Her family’s shop was facing not just a decline in business.

There was another problem as well.

In Jiuxiao Immortal City, there was a regulation.

All pharmacy, talisman, and magic artifact shops in the Inner City District must have a Second Rank master in residence.

Therefore, every three years, Jiuxiao Immortal City conducts a shop assessment.



The resident Talisman Master of the shop is required to go to the ‘Hundred Arts Hall’ in the city for assessment and registration.

If they did not pass the assessment, the shop’s business license would be revoked.

Now, there were only three months left until the assessment.

If she could not secure a Second Rank alchemist who hadn’t registered in the city to pass the assessment within these three months,

then her ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’ would no longer be able to operate.

“About two months,”

Lu Changsheng said after a moment of consideration.

He planned to wait until the auction was over and then return home after exchanging the heads of the two robber cultivators from Red Leaf Valley.

The reason he was not immediately collecting the reward was that Lu Changsheng had learned something.

The rewards offered by the Heavenly Sword Sect could be exchanged for items of equivalent value.

Spirit Stones, elixir medicines, magic artifacts, cultivation techniques, and rare treasures were all options.

Therefore, he was not in a rush to claim the reward.

He intended to wait until his purchases were complete to see which materials he still lacked.

Only then would he use the heads of the two to select his reward, exchanging for the items he needed.

“Two months...”

Upon hearing this, a pleading look appeared in Li Xingruo’s eyes as she said, “I wish to request that Elder Ye act as the nominal resident alchemist for our ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’ and participate in the annual assessment.”

“This assessment is in three months’ time, and it will not take up much of your time, Elder Ye,”

“As long as you are willing, Elder Ye, any conditions you have can be discussed,”

Li Xingruo said, full of hope as she looked at Lu Changsheng.

Her sister Li Xingyu nodded along, looking at Lu Changsheng with hopeful eyes as well.

“Any conditions can be discussed?”

Lu Changsheng had not expected that an offer to be a mere shop’s resident alchemist could make the two women so determined and agreeable, willing to make such a significant commitment.

He looked at the two sisters with a somewhat strange expression.

The elder sister, Eighth Level Energy Refinement.

The younger sister, Fourth Level Energy Refinement.

At this age, with this cultivation level, it suggested that their Spiritual Root talents were quite impressive.

If he were to marry them and have children, it seemed it would be quite good.

However, he, Lu Changsheng, was not so desperate to propose that someone else’s young girl becomes his concubine over such a trifle.

“In Jiuxiao Immortal City, there should be other Second Rank Alchemists among the surrounding family powers, right?”

“Your pavilion manages to operate a shop here in the Inner City District of Jiuxiao Immortal City; it shouldn’t be that difficult to hire a Second Rank Alchemist, should it?”

Lu Changsheng asked out loud.

This store’s ability to operate in the Inner City District of Jiuxiao Immortal City indicated that it had some strength.

Nowadays, not only was the business sluggish, but the shop was also manned by just two young girls.

It seemed it wasn’t merely due to poor management.

Therefore, Lu Changsheng speculated that there must be other reasons.

“Senior...”

Li Xingruo bit her lip and recounted the reasons.

“So that’s how it is.”

After listening to Li Xingruo’s words, Lu Changsheng sighed softly in his heart.

He thought to himself that the two sisters were pitiable.

Otherwise, considering the original family situation of the two sisters, they were indeed better off than many others.

But such was the Cultivation World, full of uncertainties.

“Senior...”

Li Xingyu’s eyes reddened with memories flooding back as her sister recounted their parents’ story, her face filled with sadness and misery.

“If that’s the case, I can help you with the assessment three months from now.”

“But how do I know what you’ve told me is true and that I won’t offend the Li Family behind you?”

Lu Changsheng spoke out.

He, Lu Changsheng, was a father himself, with a heart full of love, always soft-hearted, and unable to bear seeing such things.

If he could help, he was more than willing to lend a hand.

As for the Li Family behind the two women, he was not afraid.

According to what Li Xingruo had just described, the Li Family was only a Foundation Establishment Family.

After the death of her parents, the family had a total of four Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

But he could not simply believe whatever he was told.

“The senior may inquire a bit in the Immortal City,”

“For example, the Hundred Dawn Chamber and Heaven Knowledge Tower within the city deal in all kinds of intelligence and news.”

“Senior may purchase information about our Li Family and our shop through the Hundred Dawn Chamber, and then you’ll know if it’s true.”

Li Xingruo said softly.

Just recounting the past had made her feel somewhat depressed.

“Alright, how about I give the two young ladies a response later tonight?”

Lu Changsheng glanced at Li Xingruo and nodded.

He had also realized that after this procurement trip, there would certainly be a need for future purchases in the Immortal City.

If the young women were good, he could maintain this relationship and channel.

In the future, through the two women, he could purchase and acquire some rare materials in Jiuxiao Immortal City.

Then have Xiao Xiyue ask for the Spiritual Vessel from Qingyun Sect to bring them back.

This way, he could avoid the trouble of running around himself.

“Thank you, Senior Ye!”

“Thank you, Senior Ye!”

Upon hearing Lu Changsheng’s words, the two sisters exchanged a look, their eyes filled with joy.

Chapter 464: The Dao Soldier of the Mysterious Corpse, Witness the Divine Skills of a True Person!\_1

Blackwater Pool.

“Boom, boom, boom—”

“Whoo, whoo, whoo—”

One after another, the Spirit Boats, with cultivators taking turns attacking the Xiahou Family’s ‘Myriad Corpses Profound Ghost Formation,’ were causing a tremendous uproar and noise, accompanied by waves of ghastly wails and howls of wolves.

However, it was apparent that the Qingyun Sect’s army’s attack had significantly slowed down, nowhere near as ferocious as it had been at the beginning.

“Reporting to Caiyun True Immortal, the Earthshaking Formation is ready!”

...

Just then, an Array Master came aboard the giant Spiritual Vessel suspended in the void.

He respectfully addressed a breathtakingly beautiful woman robed in colorful palace attire who exuded a regal and unparalleled elegance.

“Break the formation!”

Yun Wanshang, from her elevated position, gazed down upon all beings, slightly parted her red lips and uttered the words coldly and authoritatively.

“Yes!”

The nearby Array Master immediately acknowledged, taking out an Array Plate and manipulating it.

Suddenly, the mountain ranges around Blackwater Pool—where the ‘Mountain-suppressing Formation,’ ‘Mountain-shaking Formation,’ ‘Inverted Mountain Formation,’ ‘Earthshaking Formation,’ and ‘Mudstone Formation’ were set up—all activated at once.

Under the direction of each Array Master, Spiritual Light surged, array flags fluttered in the wind, and bursts of light shot up into the sky.

The light connected to the local earth's energy and spiritual energy, merging to form the 'Earthshaking Formation.'

The entire Great Formation displayed a yellowish-brown color, resembling an Earth Dragon stretching between heaven and earth, its presence astounding.

The Earthshaking Formation had the power to overturn mountains and lakes and to shake Spirit Veins.

A Third Rank Great Formation was hard to break, with no weaknesses, because a formation of this level was already capable of perfectly connecting with the Spirit Veins, forming a world all its own, thus making it impregnable.

But the Earthshaking Formation's ability to invert mountains and lakes directly damaged the Great Formation's Spirit Veins, turning the Third Rank Great Formation into a castle in the air that would collapse without being attacked.

"Break the formation!"

Aboard the Spiritual Vessel, the Array Master channeled with both hands and shouted aloud.

He immediately threw the Array Plate in his hand, which transformed into a streak of light and flew into the 'Earth Dragon's' eyes.

"Roar!"

The Earth Dragon seemed to fully awaken, letting out a roar and charging towards the bottom of Blackwater Pool with a thunderous noise.

"Boom, boom, boom—"

In an instant, everyone felt the ground tremble violently, followed by shaking lands and chaotic spiritual energy.

The Second-tier Top-Level Spirit Vein beneath the Blackwater Pool, under the assault of the Earthshaking Formation, was immediately damaged, with countless spiritual energies spilling out.

A Second Grade Spirit Vein housing a Third Rank Great Formation was already straining to maintain operation solely through the countless Yin corpses and treasures of the Xiahou Family.

Now, with the Spirit Vein damaged by the assault of the Mountain Shaking Formation, its force was greatly diminished and it could no longer sustain itself.

“Dong, dong, dong—”

The east wind blew, and the battle drums sounded.

Aboard the giant Spiritual Vessel, thirty-six cultivators blew the attack horn and beat the war drums.

The sound of the horns and drums revived the spirit of every cultivator as if receiving an order, and they collectively bombarded the ‘Myriad Corpses Profound Ghost Formation’ around Blackwater Pool.

“Boom, boom, boom—”

The overwhelming offensive fell upon the ‘Myriad Corpses Profound Ghost Formation,’ causing the formation to instantly reveal cracks and flaws, and the true scene within Blackwater Pool was exposed.

“No!”

“Ancestor!”

Inside Blackwater Pool, amidst the shaking earth and gusty spiritual energy, buildings collapsed, and many of the Xiahou Clan’s people let out cries of pain and wailing.

They knew that at this moment, the Xiahou Family was finished.



“Ancestor!”

Xiahou Wuwo’s complexion turned unsightly at this moment as he called out to the patriarch of his family.

“The Earthshaking Formation, Qingyun Sect knew that a great war between two countries was about to start, so they spared no expense to decisively annihilate our Xiahou Family with a thunderous approach.”

“Wuwo, when I hold off the people from Qingyun Sect, you must seize the chance to escape.”

“Remember, after you leave, do not return to the Heavenly Corpse Sect!”

Within the depths of Blackwater Pool, Xiahou Jie, with a rigid face and ashen-gray skin, his eyes a dark red, spoke in an ice-cold voice.

“Ancestor.”

Upon hearing these words, Xiahou Wuwo’s voice was heavy.

He had long known of his family ancestor’s decision.

To attract the attention of Qingyun Sect, the family brought the elite members away from the Qingyun Region, escaping from Jiang Country.

If they couldn’t hold out until Jin Kingdom invaded, he was to escape at the first opportunity.

“Now that our Xiahou Family’s core descendants have been sent away, as long as you live, there is hope for the Xiahou Family.”

“Never forget the family feud and blood hatred!”

Xiahou Jie’s voice was cold, devoid of emotion.

“Ancestor, Wuwo dares not forget!”

Xiahou Wuwo looked at his family ancestor, suddenly knelt down, his forehead touching the ground in reverence, bowing deeply three times, his expression solemn, eyes slightly red.

“Qingyun Sect!”

Xiahou Jie suddenly looked up towards the Qingyun Sect members on the great formation outside, his gaze fixed on Yun Wanshang above on the Spiritual Vessel.

His dark red eyes gradually turned bloodshot, deep and somber like blood.

The ashen-gray skin took on the color of blackened iron, with threads of mysterious and malevolent deathly energy spreading around.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!”

Aboard the giant Spiritual Vessel, the big cannons, primed and ready, fired at this moment.

Columns of thunderous lightning, a dozen feet wide and capable of obliterating heaven and earth, bombarded the wavering Great Formation.

The entire heavens filled with gray and black energy, mountains of corpses and seas of blood, wails of ghosts and howls of wolves—all were turned to ash in an instant, vanishing without a trace.

The Xiahou Family’s ‘Myriad Corpses Mysterious Ghost Great Formation’ was completely shattered in this moment.

Inside Blackwater Pool, the Xiahou Family’s mountain fortress was revealed.

Within it, the city walls, houses, buildings, and spirit veins were already in ruins, a scene of utter devastation.

Nearly all the common folk of the Xiahou Family perished under the Earthshaking Formation, crushed beneath the buildings without even a chance to wail.

Only some cultivators, in the midst of the shaking earth and collapsing formation, somehow remained alive.

“The formation has broken, exterminate the Xiahou Clan!”

Aboard the giant Spiritual Vessel, Yun Wanshang with a noble and icy demeanor, her brows exuding dominance and authority, commanded sternly.

Suddenly, a golden magical sword appeared in her hand, and as she stepped forward, she stood suspended in the void, her presence like a rainbow, suppressing heaven and earth.

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

One after another, the Spiritual Vessels and each Foundation Establishment Ancestor, upon receiving the order, led their disciples to slaughter their way into Blackwater Pool.

Chapter 465: The Dao Soldier of the Mysterious Corpse, Witness the Divine Skills of a True Person!\_2

Now is the final time for harvest.

“My sons, follow this old ancestor into battle!”

In Blackwater Pool, Xiahou Jie looked up to the sky and let out a howl, his voice roaring like a wild beast, a lone wolf howling at the moon, captivating the soul.

“Bang, bang, bang—”

In an instant, endless gloom and the stench of corpses spread and surged.

One could see from the territory of the Blackwater Pool clan, countless dark coffins flying out, covering the sky, easily a thousand in number.

...

Numerous zombies broke out of their coffins, howled to the sky with blood-red eyes, and charged towards the people.

“Caiyun True Immortal, I, Xiahou Jie, today bring my Xiahou Family’s sons and Dao Soldiers of the Mystical Zombies to experience the might of your Divine Skills!”

Xiahou Jie stood on a bronze coffin and soared into the sky.

His skin was dark as ink, his eyes blood-red, and the aura of dark evil around him nearly materialized, like a fiendish deity, malevolent and fierce.

....

Jiuxiao Immortal City.

Treasure Elixir Pavilion, Alchemy Chamber.

“Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh—”

Eight miniature dragon heads breathed out purple flames, making the Spiritual Mechanism of the Pill Furnace pervasive and filling the air with the fragrance of medicine.

“Elder Ye, your elixir is about to be ready.”

Li Xingruo looked at the Pill Furnace before her, where the Spiritual Mechanism was in full flow, and spoke up to remind him.

“There’s no rush. This batch of Elixir Medicines is Second Rank Spirit-Nourishing Pills.”

“In order to enhance their effectiveness, I added some Red Lotus Powder, not only to lock in the efficacy but also to improve the quality of the pills during coagulation, though it requires a bit more time to refine.”

Lu Changsheng, who was drawing a Talisman nearby, didn’t lift his head as he spoke gently.

Previously, when the Li sisters invited him to be the resident Alchemist of ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion,’ he said he would consider it.

After purchasing information about the Li Family and the Treasure Elixir Pavilion from the Hundred Dawn Chamber and confirming that the sisters were telling the truth, Lu Changsheng accepted the role of resident Alchemist and took on the shop assessment.

As for the price, the sisters had to pay him a compensation of three thousand Spirit Stones.

Moreover, during this period, they would sell the Elixir Medicines and Talismans for him and procure all kinds of materials he needed.

Faced with this demand, the sisters agreed without hesitation.

So, for more than a month, Lu Changsheng was practically always at the Treasure Elixir Pavilion, refining pills and making talismans.

Excess Elixir Medicines and Talismans were all sold by the two sisters on his behalf, causing the Spirit Stones in his Storage Bag to swell.

He now had a huge sum of over forty thousand Spirit Stones.

And after spending this month in their company, the Li sisters had grown much closer to him.

Whenever Li Xingruo was free, she would come over to help him control the fire and watch over the furnace.

As for this, Lu Changsheng not only did not mind, but he also took the opportunity to instruct and teach this young girl the Skills of Alchemy.

“So that’s it. Second Rank Spirit-Nourishing Pills with added Red Lotus Powder lock in the efficacy.”

Li Xingruo, hearing this, nodded thoughtfully.

Alchemy, Artifact Refining, Talisman Making—it’s difficult to explore these fields by oneself without inheritance and someone to guide.

“However, doing so also demands much higher skill in the pill condensation technique.”

“It requires the condensation of water vapor during pill formation and integrating it into the medicine...”

Lu Changsheng spoke unhurriedly.

In the inheritance of Second Rank Alchemy Skills, there are many alchemical techniques included.

Although these Alchemy Skills are just common techniques, not some rare inheritances,

they are enough to deal with ninety percent of the Elixir Medicines on the market.

The Elixir Medicines he refined were of optimal effect, mostly exquisite or supreme in quality.

“Xingruo, watch closely.”

After drawing another First Grade Spirit Talisman, Lu Changsheng spoke to Li Xingruo.

When the Spiritual Mechanism surged inside the Pill Furnace, he clenched his hands together in an intricate seal.

“Washing Stream Transforming Cloud Technique, condense the pill!”

As clouds and mist filled the Pill Furnace, and the heat steamed up, a waft of water vapor spread towards the coalescing medicinal liquid.

“This water vapor will wash over the pill for a moment, then the furnace must be opened immediately, otherwise, it will affect the quality of the Elixir Medicine.”

“Open!”

Lu Changsheng spoke, his hands forming rapid seals, causing the red furnace lid to fly up.

Suddenly, many brown Spirit Pills, the size of lychee fruits, flew into Lu Changsheng’s hands.

This batch of Spirit-Nourishing Pills totalled over forty.

All of them were of exquisite or supreme quality.

Different Elixir Medicines have different methods and ingredients for refining, hence the yield also varies.

Like the Spirit-Nourishing Pills, they could be refined with a large quantity of Spiritual Medicine at once, which is a bit crude, so the limit for Lu Changsheng was about fifty pills.

“Store.”

Lu Changsheng took out a porcelain bottle and let the forty-plus Spirit-Nourishing Pills all enter into it.

He then turned to Li Xingruo, who stood beside him, bewildered, and asked, “How about it, Xingruo, did you understand?”

“Elder Ye, I understood,” Li Xingruo immediately regained her senses with a slight blush on her cheeks, nodding to Lu Changsheng.

Just now, watching Lu Changsheng's heroic face and kind instruction reminded her of the days when her father taught her alchemy here.

Though her normally kind father was very strict about alchemy, unlike Elder Ye's gentle approach.

"Let's stop here for today. You can also come to me if you have any questions about alchemy."

"With your talent, as long as you apply yourself, becoming a top-tier Alchemist is not far off, and there's hope for you to reach Second Rank in the future," Lu Changsheng said to Li Xingruo.

This girl indeed had a knack for alchemy, a solid foundation.

If her father had not passed away, leaving her without guidance and preoccupied with trivial matters, she would probably have already reached the pinnacle of First Grade Alchemists.

"Thank you, Elder Ye," Li Xingruo said, as if greatly encouraged, and nodded firmly.

After spending over a month together, she recognized that the Elder Ye before her was a very potent Alchemist,

even more so than her own father.

Thus, she deeply trusted Lu Changsheng's words,

knowing that if he said she had prospects to become a Second Rank Alchemist, then she certainly did.

"The auction starts tomorrow; I hope it won't be disappointing," Lu Changsheng mused as he stepped out of the Alchemy Chamber and let out a breath.

He was ready to go back and get a good rest.



## Chapter 466: The Dao Soldier of the Mysterious Corpse, Witness the Divine Skills of a True Person!\_3

After several days of continuous alchemy and talisman making, he felt tired in both body and mind.

“Senior Ye, all the Harmonizing Energy Elixirs you made before are sold out,”

“Some people even came asking when new stock would arrive, saying that the elixirs you made have excellent effects,”

Li Xingyu, in the store’s lobby, excitedly said upon seeing Lu Changsheng.

Ever since Lu Changsheng arrived, their family’s elixir shop had been doing much better, making her very happy collecting Spirit Stones every day.

Even though these Spirit Stones weren’t hers.

...

But every time, Lu Changsheng would give her dozens of Spirit Stones as a reward.

“Hehe, I’ll make more when I have some free time,”

Lu Changsheng said with a chuckle.

“You are the resident alchemist of Treasure Elixir Pavilion, I wonder if Master Ye can refine a premium ‘True Essence Elixir’?”

A customer in the shop politely said after hearing this and glanced towards Lu Changsheng.

“If the friend here pays a deposit, Ye can refine a furnace, and you may collect it in a fortnight,”

Lu Changsheng replied upon hearing this.

The True Essence Elixir is an elixir taken during the middle and later stages of Foundation Establishment, to improve one's cultivation level.

If the other party wanted it, he was willing to refine a few bottles to sell.

After all, he would need them in the future as well.

"May I ask the price?"

The customer inquired.

"Thirty percent above market rate, two thousand three hundred Spirit Stones,"

Lu Changsheng responded.

"In that case, I'll trouble Master Ye,"

Upon hearing this, the customer thought for a moment, then took out one thousand two hundred Spirit Stones as a deposit and then took his leave.

"Wow."

Li Xingyu couldn't help but exclaim when she saw this scene.

The fact that someone was willing to place a deposit and pre-order elixirs just because they bought a bottle of Harmonizing Energy Elixir before made her marvel.

In her heart, she thought if Lu Changsheng could permanently reside in the shop, then their 'Treasure Elixir Pavilion' could prosper like never before.

"Xiaoyu, if the second rank elixirs in the shop are sold out, you can place the talismans in a more conspicuous spot, that will help sell them better,"

Lu Changsheng, looking at the Spirit Talismans beside him, said to Li Xingyu.

The Treasure Elixir Pavilion was, after all, an elixir shop.

The elixirs he put on sale in the shop basically sold out very quickly.

Talismans, on the other hand, were comparatively slower to sell.

But that didn't really matter.

If he had to sell them back to other shops, he could only buy them back at fifty to sixty percent of the value.

At the Treasure Elixir Pavilion, they sold for the market rate.

Plus, the quality of the elixirs and talismans was high, so he could charge a little more.

"Mhm, mhm, alright, Senior Ye,"

Li Xingyu immediately organized several talismans and placed them neatly in the center of the counter on hearing this.

"Oh, and Senior Ye, here are the Spirit Stones from the sales of elixirs and talismans over the past few days,"

She then took out a Storage Bag and handed it over to Lu Changsheng.

Lu Changsheng scanned it with his Divine Sense, eleven thousand three hundred and fifty Spirit Stones.

Exactly the amount from the elixirs and talismans he had made recently.

"You've worked hard,"

He took out fifty Spirit Stones and handed them to Li Xingyu as a reward.

“Thank you, Senior Ye,”

Li Xingyu immediately received them with a beaming smile.

Fifty Spirit Stones were not a small amount for her.

Moreover, during this period, Lu Changsheng had already given her more than three hundred Spirit Stones.

“Alright, you should get some rest early,”

Seeing the girl’s smiling face, Lu Changsheng subconsciously rubbed her little head.

...

Thousands of miles away from Jiuxiao Immortal City, there was a spiritual mountain called Great Cliff Mountain.

The one in charge of this Great Cliff Mountain was the Li Family.

“You’re saying that Treasure Elixir Pavilion got a second-rank alchemist, and this alchemist is a second-rank superior Alchemist!?”

The Patriarch of the Li Family was somewhat astonished upon hearing a subordinate’s report.

A second-rank superior alchemist, even within Jiuxiao Immortal City, was not common.

This caused some doubt in his mind about where his two nieces had found such a second-rank alchemist.

“Yes, Family Head, this person produces elixirs of exceedingly high quality, definitely a second-rank superior alchemist,”

“As for his background, this subordinate hasn’t investigated any relevant information; perhaps he’s a newly arrived alchemist in Jiuxiao Immortal City, that’s why he settled at the Treasure Elixir Pavilion,”

The reporter spoke respectfully.

“Prepare a gift and go meet this alchemist,”

“Test the waters to see what the relationship is like between the alchemist and Xingruo and the two of them,”

“If their relationship is ordinary and he’s only temporarily residing at ‘Treasure Elixir Pavilion’, ask if he’s willing to come to our Great Cliff Li Family as a Guest Elder. Our family is willing to welcome him with open arms,”

“If their relationship is good, then apologize profusely, saying there has been some misunderstanding and conflict between the families and see his attitude. Be sure not to offend him,”

The Patriarch of the Li Family tapped the table and contemplated.

Even a second-rank superior alchemist, without any background, could quickly build connections through his alchemy.

Therefore, the Li Family was not willing to offend an alchemist of such caliber.

If his two nieces had made acquaintance with such an alchemist, it indeed wasn’t good news for their Li Family.

After all, the Li Family’s previous actions towards the two sisters were not exactly honorable.

“Yes, Family Head!”

The reporter bowed and complied.

## Chapter 467: Special Monster Core, Minor Forbidden Formation!\_1

The next day.

Lu Changsheng went out and headed towards the Jiuxiao Mountain auction venue.

Today was the biannual auction day in Jiuxiao Immortal City.

But for Jiuxiao Immortal City, such a small auction was just a minor event.

It was a sale of some rarely seen exquisite items.

As far as Lu Changsheng knew, the real bustling auctions in the city occurred once every three years and once every ten years.

...

Items like Foundation Establishment Elixir, along with many rarely seen Spirit Pills and elixirs, Cultivation Technique inheritances, and heavenly and earthly treasures, could all be found in these big auctions.

After arriving at the Jiuxiao Mountain auction venue, Lu Changsheng took out the invitation he had bought early.

“Esteemed cultivator, you hold a box invitation, please follow me!”

A maid with a fair and delicate face and a cheerful smile invited Lu Changsheng to the second floor of the venue.

“Inside the box, the privacy of the guests is absolutely confidential, and after you win an item, it will be sent directly to the box for the transaction...”

The maid led the way while introducing the facilities and rules of the auction venue.

“Hmm.”

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly.

He had understood these aspects earlier.

The box was not only much more comfortable, but it also guaranteed a degree of privacy.

“As expected of the Immortal City, even a small auction here is busier than the long-anticipated auction in the Red Leaf Valley Market back then.”

Lu Changsheng settled into his box seat, overlooking the entire auction and observing the packed positions on the first floor.

Mostly Energy Refining Late Stage cultivators.

And there were quite a few Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

“Dong——”

About an hour later, with the loud sound of a gong, a tall woman dressed in red, mature and alluring, stepped onto the stage.

“Thank you all for your presence... The auction now begins, and I wish all fellow cultivators here can acquire their desired items...”

“The first auction item—a lower grade Spiritual Artifact ‘River Crossbow’, with effects such as attacking enemies, breaking spells, and breaking seals, and it can be activated with Spirit Stones without consuming mana... The starting bid is two thousand Spirit Stones.....”

The woman in red spoke with a soft and sweet voice, holding a small crossbow, introducing it.

Her voice resonated clearly in everyone’s ears.

“Two thousand one hundred Spirit Stones!”

“Two thousand five hundred Spirit Stones!”

...

Although this was a lower grade Spiritual Artifact.

Being able to appear in the auction meant it was indeed a fine piece.

Being able to be activated without consuming one’s own mana meant that Energy Refining Late Stage cultivators could use it.

“Two thousand nine hundred Spirit Stones.”

Lu Changsheng called out a price.

This Spiritual Artifact was naturally of no use to him.

But it was just right for Lu Miaoge, who was at the peak of her Energy Refining stage and practiced a water attribute Cultivation Technique, it would be suitable for self-defense.

Moreover, since he was out, he naturally had to bring small gifts back home for his wives and children.

After a few bids, Lu Changsheng won it for three thousand eight hundred Spirit Stones.

It wasn’t too expensive, but it wasn’t cheap either.

“Guest, here is the Spiritual Artifact you won.”

Shortly after, a maid came into the box through a hidden passage, carrying a tray.



“Hmm.”

Lu Changsheng picked up the crossbow and played with it briefly.

He knew that this Spiritual Artifact could be easily activated by Energy Refining Cultivators through the nourishment of Middle Grade Spirit Stones and regular care.

If the energy stored inside was depleted, it would be much more difficult to activate.

After paying the Spirit Stones, he put the crossbow away.

“Ice Heart Elixir can assist in breaking through bottlenecks in ice attribute Cultivation Technique practices and has the effects of suppressing Heart Demons and treating fire attribute injuries. There are a total of ten, with each starting at five hundred Spirit Stones...”

The coquettish voice of the woman in red continued to permeate the auction venue, ringing in everyone’s ears.

Lu Changsheng, lounging lazily on the soft chair, casually looked around.

Unless it was a Third Rank elixir or some rare medicines, he was generally uninterested.

“Ah, this...”

As Lu Changsheng was idly gazing around, he suddenly saw a cultivator in the corner of the first floor.

The cultivator was looking at the woman on stage with burning eyes, engaging in sleazy behavior...

“Damn...”

Lu Changsheng cursed under his breath, his face showing the expression of an old man concentrating on his phone.

He hadn't expected to see such an outrageous scene at an auction.

But this person was also incredibly bold and apparently unafraid of death.

After all, the woman on stage was not just for show.

She was a Foundation Establishment Cultivator!

And this man was only at the Energy Refining Late Stage.

"Perhaps this is what makes it thrilling for him."

Lu Changsheng didn't understand the man's thoughts, shook his head and quickly averted his gaze, looking back at the shapely and voluptuous woman in red on the stage.

The auction continued.

It must be said, the quality of this auction was indeed good.

Mostly it featured rare elixirs, magic artifacts, heavenly and earthly treasures, and young Spiritual Beasts not often seen.

During the proceedings, there were also some Cultivation Techniques and secret skills of Cultivation realms.

However, the techniques only reached High Grade Cultivation Techniques, and the skill inheritances were at most Second-tier Top Level.

"It seems that Cultivation Technique inheritances and advanced skills are tightly controlled everywhere, rarely leaking out."

Lu Changsheng mused internally.

As each item was auctioned off.

Finally, an auction item caught the attention of the languid Lu Changsheng, energizing his spirit.

“Purple Thunder Spirit Wood, this Spirit Wood ranks at Third Rank Middle Grade, can be used in medicine, formation, making Spiritual Artifacts, treasures, or crafting talismans... The starting bid is four thousand Spirit Stones.”

The seductive voice of the woman in red continued detailing the auction item, adding some color to the otherwise monotonous auction and keeping it from being too dull.

“Third Rank Middle Grade Spirit Wood, this auction trip wasn’t in vain.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the piece of Spirit Wood and sat up slightly.

His primary purpose in coming to Jiuxiao Immortal City was to purchase more Third Rank Talisman Making materials.

But Third Rank materials were very rare.

He had almost scoured the entire Inner City District and had only managed to buy about ten portions of Third Rank Lower Grade Talisman Making materials and a piece of Third Rank Lower Grade Spirit Wood.

Chapter 468: Special Monster Core, Minor Forbidden Formation!\_2

Now this piece of Third Rank Middle Grade Spiritual Wood, fashioned into Talisman Skin, used to nurture Treasure Talismans, could cultivate Third Rank Middle Grade Spirit Talismans, and he deemed it absolutely necessary to obtain.

“Four thousand and five hundred Spirit Stones!”

Inside the first floor of the hall, a Foundation Establishment Cultivator immediately placed a bid.

“Five thousand Spirit Stones!”

“Five thousand one hundred Spirit Stones!”

“Five thousand three hundred Spirit Stones!”

...

...

“Six thousand Spirit Stones!”

Noticing that fewer people were bidding, Lu Changsheng also called out an offer.

“Six thousand one hundred Spirit Stones.”

Inside a certain private box, a bid was called out.

“Six thousand five hundred Spirit Stones.”

Lu Changsheng continued to bid.

“Six thousand six hundred Spirit Stones!”

This voice seemed to be gritting its teeth.

Because the price of Third Rank Middle Grade Spiritual Wood was around five to six thousand Spirit Stones.

However, this piece of Spiritual Wood bore the attribute of lightning, making it quite rare, and happened to be suitable for him to refine a treasure.

“Seven thousand Spirit Stones!”

Lu Changsheng declared, unruffled.

Although it was a significant overbid,

for him, as long as he could craft it into a Talisman, it was all worth it.

Once this price was announced, nobody else in the other private boxes placed any further bids.

After all, among Foundation Establishment Stage cultivators like Lu Changsheng who were wealthy, there really weren't many.

Soon, a maid delivered a length of Purple Veined Spiritual Wood several feet long.

The Spiritual Wood was covered in purple lightning patterns and a faint Spiritual Light circulated within, extremely extraordinary.

“Not bad.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the piece of Purple Thunder Spirit Wood and revealed a faint smile on his face.

If the wood was made into Third Rank Talisman Skin, it could be used to draw some Third Rank thunder-aspect Talismans.

After paying the Spirit Stones, he continued to watch the items being introduced on the stage.

“Second Rank Middle Grade Formation ‘Wild Wind Fierce Fire Array’, Array Plate, one hundred and eight Array Flags all intact, simple to manipulate, can unleash wild winds and fierce fires. Even a Foundation Establishment Cultivator would find it very troublesome... suitable for defending a cave dwelling or trapping Demon Beasts. Starting bid, five thousand Spirit Stones...”

This Formation Tool caught Lu Changsheng's attention as quite decent.

However, the range of this Formation was too small, only a hundred feet.

Only suitable for guarding a cave dwelling or spiritual field.

It could not serve as a Family's Great Formation.

So he did not participate in the auction.

Nevertheless, this Formation Tool was auctioned off for a huge sum of nine thousand Spirit Stones.

"Next, we will introduce the highlight of today's auction."

Half a quarter-hour later into the auction, on stage, a woman in a red dress held up a Deep Blue Crystal Core and began introducing, "A Second Rank special Monster Core, can replace a Heavenly Spirit Fruit, to be used as a supplement in the Foundation Establishment Elixir... starting bid, eight thousand Spirit Stones."

"A Second Rank special Monster Core!?"

Upon seeing this Monster Core, Lu Changsheng's eyebrows raised, showing a bit of interest.

The rarity of Foundation Establishment Elixirs was due to the main ingredient 'Heavenly Spirit Fruit' being exceedingly scarce.

Besides the 'Purple Shadow Secret Realm', which opened every thirty years, there was no fixed output.

The occasional Foundation Establishment Elixirs that flowed out from the Three Great Immortal Cities were either because someone stumbled upon the Heavenly Spirit Fruit by chance, or they replaced the Heavenly Spirit Fruit with 'Second Rank special Monster Core' as the main ingredient of the Foundation Establishment Elixir.

But such Second Rank special Monster Cores were also incredibly rare.

First of all, only some exceptionally rare and powerful Second Rank Demon Beasts possessed Monster Cores.

The Second Rank Green Wolf that Lu Changsheng had killed before simply did not have such a thing as a Monster Core.

Secondly, the Monster Cores used to concoct Foundation Establishment Elixirs had to contain energy that was neither too mixed nor too violent, and had to be of a gentle and pure attribute.

Otherwise, they would collide with the other ingredients of the Foundation Establishment Elixir.

For example, Monster Cores with attributes of metal, fire, lightning, ice, or multiple attributes did not meet the requirements.

Therefore, it was extremely difficult for someone to hunt Demon Beasts and obtain this kind of 'special Monster Core'.

One would have to venture deep into the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range.

However, deep within the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, numerous Demon Beasts lurked.

Even Third Rank and Fourth Rank Demon Kings were present.

Nascent Soul Immortals entering there would find it a headache, with one misstep potentially leading to their demise.

Therefore, ordinary Foundation Establishment Cultivators and Nascent Soul Immortals wouldn't specifically venture deep into the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range to search for special Monster Cores.

They would mostly rely on luck in the outer areas,

or encounter such Demon Beasts in other mountain ranges and obtain special Monster Cores.

“Using a Second Rank Monster Core instead of a Heavenly Spirit Fruit to concoct a Foundation Establishment Elixir requires only minor adjustments to the recipe and Alchemy techniques.”

“If I acquire this Second Rank special Monster Core, I could completely gather supplementary ingredients myself and concoct three Foundation Establishment Elixirs.”

Lu Changsheng mused internally, preparing to win this Second Rank special Monster Core.

Though he did not need a Foundation Establishment Elixir for himself,

nobody would consider a rare item like the Foundation Establishment Elixir to be too plenty.

Not only could it be used by his wives, concubines, and children,

but it could also be traded for rare treasures of heaven and earth.

In the Cultivation World, Foundation Establishment Elixirs could be considered top-grade currency.

“Eight thousand five hundred Spirit Stones!” A voice immediately made a bid.

“Eight thousand six hundred Spirit Stones!”

“Eight thousand eight hundred Spirit Stones!”

...

Many cultivators present were interested in this ‘Second Rank special Monster Core.’

Energy Refining Cultivators wished for this special Monster Core to hire someone to concoct a Foundation Establishment Elixir for them.

Foundation Establishment Cultivators had junior family members.



And before long, the price of this Monster Core exceeded ten thousand.

“Twelve thousand Spirit Stones!”

At that moment, an aged yet authoritative voice sounded, directly raising the bid by one thousand Spirit Stones.

Simultaneously, a window in this private box opened,

allowing people to see through the window an old man with grey hair, a square face, and a dignified appearance.

“So it’s Master He!”

“It’s said that Master He is exceptionally skilled in using Monster Cores to concoct Foundation Establishment Elixirs, capable of ensuring at least one Elixir per batch, and two Elixirs with normal performance.”

“If Master He purchases this Monster Core, there will be Foundation Establishment Elixirs available at the auction in two and a half years.”

“Greetings to Master He!”

Many in the crowd turned to look at the private box, recognizing this dignified elder.

They knew he was a famous Alchemy Master from the Jiuxiao Marketplace.

Chapter 469: Special Monster Core, Minor Forbidden Formation!\_3

“`

Master He truly commands great respect, with many Foundation Establishment Cultivators giving up the competition one after another.

Even quite a few people called out greetings, planning to visit Master He after the event, bringing along auxiliary materials in hopes of requesting a Foundation Establishment Elixir.

“Thirteen thousand Spirit Stones!”

But Lu Changsheng didn’t care in the slightest, showing no regard for Master He, he called out his bid.

The moment this voice rang out, the other people in the venue turned their gaze towards the private box where Lu Changsheng was seated.

...

“Thirteen thousand five hundred Spirit Stones!”

Master He also looked towards the private box where Lu Changsheng was, snorted coldly, and raised the bid by five hundred Spirit Stones.

The price of a Foundation Establishment Elixir is around twenty thousand Spirit Stones.

The price of this Monster Core, plus the auxiliary materials, comes to about twenty thousand Spirit Stones.

If it’s only used to refine a single Foundation Establishment Elixir, there’s hardly any profit to be made.

However, for Alchemists, many times being able to break even isn’t too bad.

After all, each alchemy session is also a chance to accumulate experience and improve proficiency.

“Fifteen thousand Spirit Stones.”

Lu Changsheng directly made a substantial increase to the bid.

With Second Rank alchemy skills at his disposal, he was confident that he could refine three Foundation Establishment Elixirs.

Even amongst the three Foundation Establishment Elixirs, one could be a Supreme Foundation Establishment Elixir.

Thus, he was determined to win this special Monster Core.

“Fellow Daoist, I am He Mao...”

Seeing Lu Changsheng bidding like this, Master He said coldly.

“What, can one use their status to oppress others at an auction?”

Lu Changsheng spoke indifferently.

At these words, He Mao’s face turned from green to white.

He was, after all, a prominent figure in Jiuxiao Immortal City.

Even revealing his identity, the price for this Monster Core was about at its limit.

Unexpectedly, Lu Changsheng was giving him no face at all.

He gritted his teeth and bid: “Sixteen thousand Spirit Stones!”

“Seventeen thousand Spirit Stones.”

Lu Changsheng spoke calmly.

“Eighteen thousand Spirit Stones.”

Master He continued to bid.

“Twenty thousand Spirit Stones!”

Lu Changsheng spoke out blandly.

Facing this situation, Master He stopped bidding.

Although he had a fifty percent chance of refining two Foundation Establishment Elixirs, collecting auxiliary materials and the time and effort spent on alchemy wasn't worth a higher bid.

Moreover,

Lu Changsheng's bids, which showed no regard for Master He's status, made him cautious, not wanting to offend him.

“Who is this person, actually spending twenty thousand Spirit Stones to buy this special Monster Core?”

“The price of a Foundation Establishment Elixir is just that, could this person also be an Alchemy Master, or perhaps he knows an Alchemy Master.”

“How is that possible, where would so many Alchemy Masters come from!”

“Right, there are only so many renowned Alchemy Masters in Immortal City.”

“Maybe he just needs this special Monster Core, like for helping a spirit beast to advance.”

In the venue, the high price fetched by this Monster Core stirred up quite a bit of discussion.

After all, usually, the price for a special Monster Core maxes out at fifteen thousand Spirit Stones.

Shortly after, the Second Rank special Monster Core was delivered.

After Lu Changsheng examined it, he stored it away in a jade box.

In the Cultivation World, many heavenly and earthly treasures must be stored in special treasure boxes; otherwise, they will leak spiritual energy.

After the auction of the Second Rank Monster Core ended, Lu Changsheng lost interest in the subsequent items and did not participate.

Besides, having spent more than thirty thousand Spirit Stones at this auction on three items and flaunting his wealth, he might attract unwanted attention.

“Fellow Daoists, the auction has now concluded, and next is the exchange meeting, the free trade segment.”

“Interested Daoists may head to the side hall.”

The woman in the red dress spoke, declaring the auction over.

Hearing this, Lu Changsheng spoke to the auction’s maid, expressing his interest in participating in the exchange meeting.

This was one of his reasons for attending the auction.

Within the Cultivation World, many cultivators obtain rare heavenly and earthly treasures and prefer not to sell them for Spirit Stones.

Instead, they engage in bartering to seek the items they need.

Upon hearing this, the maid asked Lu Changsheng if he needed to conceal his identity.

The venue provided capes and masks.

“Truly fitting of Immortal City, such thorough arrangements.”

Lu Changsheng, hearing this, picked up a cape and mask.

However, this set of mask and cape required three hundred Spirit Stones.

Lu Changsheng made his way to the side hall through a secret passage.

Upon entering the hall, he perceived that a certain formation was in place that could affect others' divine senses.

Combined with the mask and cape, one's identity could hardly be discerned.

However, in the side hall, only about half of the people had chosen to conceal their identities.

Many openly revealed their true appearances.

Presumably, these individuals either had lived in Jiuxiao Immortal City for a long time or weren't afraid of being targeted.

A quarter hour later, when the side hall gathered around forty to fifty people, the exchange meeting officially began.

The way of trading was straightforward: each person spoke in turn to present the resources they were selling or to specify what they wanted to buy.

“Foundation Establishment spiritual object ‘Earthly Gang Qi’ to trade for a Gold attribute Foundation Establishment Spiritual Object, ‘Radiant Primordial Gold Qi’ preferred, can also add Spirit Stones...”

“An Exquisite Level Qi Cultivation Technique to exchange for a Divine Consciousness Technique, or can be traded for another technique of the same level, of course, if someone offers enough Spirit Stones, I would sell...”

“Transforming Dragon Ginseng, a rare Second Rank Spiritual Medicine that can serve as an auxiliary for Foundation Establishment Elixirs, to exchange for a Youth-Preserving Elixir...”

One after another, people voiced their offerings.

“This exchange meeting surely has some good items on hand.”

Lu Changsheng gazed at the people and mused to himself.

For instance, that Transforming Dragon Ginseng seemed excellent to him as it is one of the main auxiliary ingredients for a Foundation Establishment Elixir; later, he would ask the other party if they were willing to sell for Spirit Stones.

Just then, a woman in a blue dress spoke up.

“Near Third Rank Formation inheritance, an Inverted Five Elements Formation set for a forbidding magic artifact, or I can set up a Second Rank Formation for someone, in exchange for Yin-cold attribute Spiritual Medicine, any heavenly or earthly treasures, the more the merrier.”

“~

Chapter 470: Purchase Completed, Dragon Roar Physique!\_1

As the lady in the blue dress spoke, many eyes in the hall turned towards her.

Lu Changsheng also showed surprise, looking at the blue-dressed woman.

An almost Third Rank Formation inheritance!

A complete set of the Inverted Five Elements Formation’s restricted artifacts!

Both of these items were incredibly rare.

Especially the artifacts for the Inverted Five Elements Formation!

...

This Formation was quite famous.

Even Lu Changsheng, with his limited knowledge of formations, had heard of it.

It belonged to the Second-tier Top Level Formations.

It was known as the “Miniature Forbidden Formation.”

Apart from its average coverage area and lack of offensive capabilities, it was first-rate in defense, concealment, illusion, confusion, restriction, and trapping enemies.

Logically, such a powerful Formation would decisively not be possible to set up with mere Formation artifacts.

It would require an Array Master skilled in this Formation to spend months at a location, consuming vast amounts of labor and resources to establish it.

Yet at this moment, the woman in the blue dress claimed to possess a set of restricted Formation artifacts for the Inverted Five Elements Formation, which was astonishing.

“This set of ‘Inverted Five Elements Formation Artifacts’ is just a simplified version. Relying on the Formation artifacts, it can only unleash one-tenth of the Formation’s full power,” explained the lady in the blue dress, seeing the many gazes upon her. Her eyes clear, her expression tranquil and elegant.

“No wonder.”

“That explains it.”

Upon hearing her words, many in the audience showed a look of realization on their faces.



However, there were also many with calm expressions, evidently already aware of this fact.

“It seems this lady is also a well-known Array Master in Jiuxiao Immortal City,” Lu Changsheng pondered inwardly as he looked at the woman in the blue dress.

His trip to Jiuxiao Immortal City wasn’t solely for purchasing goods.

He was also considering whether he could meet any Array Masters and obtain a Formation Path inheritance to solve the issue of his Family’s Great Formation in the future.

After all, obtaining Formation Skills through the system was unpredictable.

As for asking Xiao Xiyue to request an Array Master from Qingyun Sect, he had put that option last.

Because having a Qingyun Sect’s Array Master set up the Family Great Formation would surely result in Qingyun Sect understanding the inner workings of the Formation thoroughly.

Therefore, his preference was to set up the Formation himself or find an Array Master elsewhere to do it.

This lady in the blue dress held a nearly Third Rank Formation Path inheritance, was able to produce a simplified version of the ‘Inverted Five Elements Formation’ artifacts, and could set up Second Rank Formations for others. Her accomplishments in the Formation Path were probably out of the ordinary.

Lu Changsheng thought it would be worthwhile to establish a connection with her.

Putting aside anything else, just for the ‘Inverted Five Elements Formation’, in his view, it could serve as the Family’s internal Great Formation.

“Fellow Daoist, may we discuss this in detail?” Lu Changsheng inquired of the woman in blue.

“Certainly,” replied the woman in blue upon hearing Lu Changsheng’s words, nodding slightly, her demeanor graceful.

Immediately, the two of them moved to a private compartment.

“I’d like to ask if you are able to set up a complete Inverted Five Elements Formation and a Second Rank Family Great Formation,” Lu Changsheng asked aloud.

Formations are categorized as standard Formations, Advanced Level Formations, and Large Formations.

The several sets sold at the auction earlier were all standard Formations.

You don’t need to be well-versed in formations.

They can be used simply by following the instructions provided with the Formation artifacts.

Formations like the Inverted Five Elements Formation fall into the category of Advanced Level Formations.

They can’t be established with Formation artifacts alone; an Array Master must set them up.

As for Formations that envelop an entire Family Spirit Land, they are considered Large Formations.

These are the most difficult.

Many Second Rank Array Masters may not be able to set up even a Low Grade Second Rank Family Great Formation.

Even if they can set it up, the power and effectiveness are often quite average.

“I can set up both a complete ‘Inverted Five Elements Formation’ and a Second Rank Large Formation,” said the woman in the blue dress.

“But these two Formations require too much time, and now my life is less than a year, so I do not take on such Large Formations,” she said with a beautiful face, appearing somewhat surprised by the inquiry, and spoke softly.

She mentioned her life expectancy was less than a year with a calm and composed demeanor.

“Less than a year left to live?” Lu Changsheng replied with some surprise.

Upon closer inspection, he noticed that indeed the woman’s appearance wasn’t very healthy.

It seemed she had some health issues and needed Yin-cold attribute Spiritual Medicines or heavenly treasures to extend her life.

“Do you have any Yin-cold items?”

“If Fellow Daoist possesses some rare Yin-cold treasure that can extend my life, even a Second Rank Middle Grade Great Formation, I could set up for you,” the woman in the blue dress said to Lu Changsheng, her voice crisp.

“I don’t have any Yin-cold treasures, but I am an Alchemist capable of refining Second Rank Ice Cloud Elixirs and Ice Soul Elixirs,” Lu Changsheng responded.

“I wonder if those would help you?”

Both Elixir Medicines were of Upper Grade within the Second Rank.

If she needed Yin-cold Spiritual Medicine, these two Elixir Medicines should be helpful.

“Common Yin-cold Elixir Medicines I’ve taken too many of, and now they no longer work on me,” the woman in the blue dress uttered, shaking her head gently upon hearing Lu Changsheng’s words.

Her beauty was not stunning but could be described as elegant and graceful.

However, in every move she made, there was a sense of grace and serenity.

“Taken too many Elixir Medicines,” Lu Changsheng murmured, his brow slightly furrowed.

He knew that after consuming too much of a certain type of Elixir Medicine, Elixir Toxicity could occur, the body could build resistance, thereby diminishing the effectiveness of the medicines.

He initially thought to request her to set up a Formation or exchange for her almost Third Rank inheritance using Elixir Medicines.

Now it seemed that as an Array Master, she had likely tried many methods to extend her life to no avail.

“May I inquire what is the reason for your limited lifespan of less than a year?” Lu Changsheng asked.

He was willing to get to know someone with her level of formation expertise.