

L. Wyatt 1081

Chapter 1081: Divided into Three

"Young Master, I've heard something,"

The old man saw that his Young Master was again deeply reminiscing about the past and quickly changed the subject.

"Does it relate to Wyatt Barnes?"

The gray-clothed young man was Kartier Gagnon, the eldest son of the Gagnon Family; his eyes flashed and his gaze intensely focused on the old man as he asked solemnly.

"Yes."

The old man nodded.

"Speak."

Kartier commanded.

"Today, the family head ordered a reward to be issued across 'Northumberland' and even the 'South Outlands,'"

the old man stated.

"A reward? But, what does the family head issuing a reward have to do with Wyatt Barnes?"

Kartier frowned as he inquired.

"What if the family head issued the reward on behalf of that Wyatt Barnes?"

the old man countered.

"Oh?"

Upon hearing this, Kartier was instantly intrigued, "What reward did the family head issue on behalf of Wyatt Barnes?"

"A search for a rare medicinal herb known as 'Soul-setting Grass.'"

The old man revealed what he had learned and raised his hand; a painting magically materialized in his hand, depicting a lifelike plant.

"This is a drawing distributed at the behest of the family head... it's to find this herb,"

he added.

"I've never seen this herb before."

Kartier glanced at the painting, shook his head and frowned, "Do you know what Wyatt Barnes wants this herb for?"

"I haven't heard,"

the old man shook his head, "But one thing is certain, it's of great importance to him; he urgently wants to acquire it."

"How so?"

Kartier looked doubtfully at the old man.

"Young Master, do you know what reward Wyatt Barnes promised to give to the person who finds this herb?"

the old man asked.

"Stop beating around the bush! How would I know that?"

Kartier replied impatiently, "Just say it."

"Wyatt Barnes has promised a 'Grade One Artifact' and ten 'Grade One Return-Life Pills' for this reward task!"

the old man stated slowly.

When he mentioned 'Grade One Artifact,' his eyes momentarily gleamed with greed.

Despite being a Martial Emperor, he only had a 'Grade Two Artifact' in his possession.

The Gagnon Family did possess a few 'Grade One Artifacts,' but with his current status, he was destined to never obtain one.

Unless his Young Master someday became the head of the Gagnon Family, he might benefit and receive a 'Grade One Artifact,' enhancing his strength further.

"A Grade One Artifact?!"

Upon hearing this, Kartier's pupils constricted, and he involuntarily snapped the wooden sword in his hand, seemingly oblivious to it.

His gaze fixed on the old man, "Are you certain it's a 'Grade One Artifact'?"

"Yes,"

the old man confirmed, nodding, "I've triple-checked."

"In our family, there are only four 'Grade One Artifacts'... And for that Wyatt Barnes, the family head is willing to part with one of them?"

Kartier's eyes flashed coldly, jealousy evident on his face.

"The reward's Grade One Artifact is not one of the family's Grade One Artifacts,"

the old man clarified.

"Not one of the family's Grade One Artifacts?"

Kartier paused, then asked, "Could it possibly belong to that Wyatt Barnes himself? I believe he can craft Grade One Pill Medicine...I doubt it, though. Across the South Outlands, only the president of the Artifact Refiners' Guild can create such artifacts."

"A Grade One Artifact, even considering the entire South Outlands, is an extraordinarily rare object... Many second-tier forces' Martial Emperors might not even possess one,"

Kartier observed.

His tone clearly expressed doubts about Wyatt Barnes's capability to furnish a 'Grade One Artifact.'

"Young Master, don't forget, Wyatt Barnes is also a 'Grade One alchemist'... If he wishes, he can entirely trade Grade One Pill Medicine for a Grade One Artifact,"

the old man remarked.

"You say that, and it seems possible... It appears Wyatt Barnes has quite the treasures with him."

Kartier nodded, his eyes gleaming greedily.

"Perhaps, this is our opportunity."

Then, as if recalling something, Kartier's lips curled with a hint of coldness, muttering,

"Opportunity?"

the old man questioned.

"Yes, opportunity... the opportunity to kill Wyatt Barnes!"

At Kartier's words, a chilling light shot from his eyes, which only softened when his gaze accidentally fell on the broken 'wooden sword' in his hand.

"Little Hazel, rest assured... Your big brother will definitely avenge you! If I don't tear Wyatt Barnes into ten thousand pieces, I would have failed you as your brother."

Kartier Gagnon said this while looking at a wooden sword.

The old man's eyes brightened upon hearing Kartier Gagnon's words.

He understood his young master well, knowing that if there wasn't full confidence, he would never make such a confidently stated remark.

Now, he was somewhat expectant.

"Young Master, about killing Wyatt Barnes... How do you plan to proceed?"

Eventually, the old man couldn't help but ask.

Facing the old man's inquiry, Kartier Gagnon didn't conceal anything and shared the 'plan' that had flashed through his mind just moments ago.

After speaking, Kartier Gagnon looked at the old man and asked, "What do you think of this 'plan'?"

"You are wise, Young Master!"

After hearing the entire plan, the old man's face lit up with a radiant smile, "It seems that this time we can not only avenge the young master but you might even make a fortune!"

Hearing the old man's praise, a smug smile involuntarily appeared on Kartier Gagnon's face.

"Wyatt Barnes, just you wait!"

Soon, as an image of a purple figure appeared in his mind, a murderous intent burst forth from his eyes, fierce and ravenous.

An intricate 'web' of conspiracy was forming invisibly towards Wyatt Barnes, waiting for him to step into it himself, leading to his ultimate doom.

All this, naturally, was unbeknownst to Wyatt Barnes.

Having consumed the Return-Life Pill and after several days of recuperation, the wounds Winnie had inflicted on Wyatt Barnes had finally healed, leaving behind a scar on his chest.

This scar could have been completely removed by the Return-Life Pill, but Wyatt Barnes had intentionally left it.

"Leaving it as a bittersweet memory," he thought.

While bathing, Wyatt Barnes touched the scar on his chest and a faint smile appeared on his face.

After bathing, he tidied up and then sat on the bed to begin cultivating.

Now, the room was empty except for him and that empty 'ice coffin'; as for Winnie, he had instructed the maids to arrange for her to stay in the neighboring room.

Nine Dragons War Sovereign, Roaming Dragon Transformation!

Unknowingly, Wyatt Barnes began to immerse himself in cultivation.

In his hands, he clearly held two different 'realm fragments', cultivating while trying to comprehend two different 'realms'.

"Hmm? Why does it still feel somewhat off?"

Soon, Wyatt Barnes opened his eyes, his face showing confusion as if encountering something puzzling.

"It's not the first time... Previously, when comprehending two 'realms' at the same time, I didn't feel this way."

Shaking his head, Wyatt Barnes once again closed his eyes and continued cultivating, continuing to comprehend two different 'realms'.

Quickly, he opened his eyes again.

"What exactly is the matter?"

Wyatt Barnes frowned, his face showing nothing but confusion.

Ever since he had left the Crimson Heaven Kingdom, whenever he used two different 'realm fragments' to comprehend two different 'realms' simultaneously, something felt off.

Whenever he comprehended a 'realm', he would always get slightly distracted.

Sometimes distracted while comprehending one 'realm', and other times while comprehending the other.

"This time, I must find the reason."

This was troubling Wyatt Barnes significantly and greatly affecting his efficiency in comprehending 'realms'.

As time passed,

Wyatt Barnes repeatedly experimented to find the cause of his distraction during 'realm' comprehension.

An hour later, he indeed found the reason.

"Can it really be this way?"

After realizing the reason, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but smile wryly.

If there was another person here, they would surely notice that Wyatt Barnes' hands contained three distinct 'realm fragments'.

Previously, Wyatt Barnes had experimented.

Now, he was able to simultaneously use three distinct 'realm fragments' to comprehend three different 'realms'.

Additionally, the speed of comprehending all three 'realms' was not slow.

Most importantly, that feeling of being 'distracted' was completely gone.

"It turns out, the reason I was distracted is because my 'consciousness' was split again... It must be a 'sequela' left from the second time the Demon Sealing Monument had a Devil Transformation on me back in the Crimson Heaven Kingdom."

This was not hard for Wyatt Barnes to guess.

He still remembered.

Initially, his ability to simultaneously comprehend two different 'realms' using two distinct 'realm fragments' was due to the 'sequela' from the first Devil Transformation by the Demon Sealing Monument.

That time, his consciousness was forcibly split into two.

And this time, his consciousness had been split into a third part, allowing him to use three different 'realm fragments' simultaneously to comprehend three different 'realms'.

"All in all, this 'sequela' isn't necessarily a bad thing... It's completely different from the uncontrollable emotional 'sequela' which only harms me; the former is actually helping me."

After guessing all the causes and consequences, Wyatt Barnes breathed a sigh of relief.

Knowing all this was better than not knowing.

"I never expected that the problem which troubled me for so long was due to my consciousness being 'split into three'."

Wyatt Barnes shook his head and chuckled bitterly.

"Now, my consciousness being split into three... I can use three different 'realm fragments' to simultaneously comprehend three different 'realms'! My speed of realm comprehension will double."

Thinking of this, Wyatt Barnes felt a secret thrill and once again closed his eyes to focus on cultivating.

In his hands, three 'realm fragments' helped him rapidly advance his comprehension of the three 'realms'.

Chapter 1082: Pill Formation Rate

At this very moment, Wyatt Barnes was completely immersed in cultivation, lost in the comprehension of "realm."

Simultaneously grasping three different "realms" gave him a novel feeling, a thrilling and exhilarating sensation.

It was a feeling he had never experienced before.

An evening's practice had not substantially increased his strength, but Wyatt was nonetheless delighted.

He was pleased that his consciousness could be divided into three, happy that he could now comprehend three different "realms" at the same time.

"Elder Barnes!"

After the third hour of daylight, just after finishing his morning routine, Wyatt heard the maidservant's call outside his door.

"Hmm?"

As soon as Wyatt opened the door, he saw a maidservant standing outside, handing him a "Storage Ring" and saying, "Elder Barnes, the Family Head asked me to give this to you."

"The Family Head has come?"

Wyatt was somewhat surprised upon hearing what the maidservant said and taking the Storage Ring.

"Yes."

The maidservant nodded, "The Family Head came early in the morning, but didn't wish to disturb your rest so he left after giving me this 'Storage Ring' to pass on to you."

Wyatt nodded, and after twirling the Storage Ring in his hand for a while, he returned to his room. After shutting the door, he pricked his finger and dripped blood onto the ring to claim it as his own.

"It seems the Family Head is quite anxious."

Without even checking what was inside the Storage Ring, Wyatt shook his head with a smile.

He had guessed why the Gagnon Family Head was looking for him.

Indeed, as he suspected, inside the Storage Ring were many herbal ingredients, as well as a list specifying several 'Grade One Pill Medicines' he was asked to help refine.

The requested quantity of the pills, however, left Wyatt somewhat speechless.

"Is that all they expect from me?"

After glancing at the mountain of herbs inside the Storage Ring and then at the quantities indicated beside the 'Grade One Pill Medicines' on the list, Wyatt couldn't help but smile wryly.

Based on the list, with the amount of herbs in the Storage Ring, only a 30% success rate was needed to achieve the task.

"I can use at most 30% of these ingredients to refine the quantity of 'Grade One Pill Medicines' noted on the list... Well, since the Family Head is so generous with the ingredients, I might as well accept them graciously."

Muttering to himself, Wyatt's face broke into a brilliant smile.

If Randy Gagnon, the Family Head, were here to hear Wyatt's words, he would surely be at a loss for words.

In Randy's view,

the quantity of 'Grade One Pill Medicines' specified on the list paired with the pile of ingredients he prepared in the Storage Ring was undoubtedly cutting it close.

For an ordinary 'Grade One alchemist', even using all the ingredients would not suffice to refine the listed amount of 'Grade One Pill Medicines.'

Normally, the success rate for a 'Grade One alchemist' would be between 20% to 30%, rarely exceeding 30%.

Even for the president of the Alchemists' Guild of the South Outlands, the success rate for refining Grade One Pill Medicine was just 25%.

In the Gagnon Family's thousands of years of history, the only person to exceed a 30% success rate in refining Grade One Pill Medicine was the 'Elder Ancestor' who founded the Gagnon Family.

The highest success rate among the dozen or so 'Grade One alchemists' in successive generations was only 28%.

The task he set for Wyatt required a 30% success rate to be feasible.

Of course, he wasn't trying to inconvenience Wyatt.

Even if Wyatt used all the ingredients in the 'Storage Ring' and still couldn't refine the quantity of 'Grade One Pill Medicines' requested on the list, Randy would not feel the slightest dissatisfaction.

He did this merely to test Wyatt's alchemy skills.

After all, prior to this, he only knew Wyatt could produce 'Grade One red flame' and was a 'Grade One alchemist' with profound knowledge in the art of alchemy.

As for Wyatt's actual alchemy skill level, he didn't have a clue.

If only Wyatt knew Randy's thoughts, he certainly would've scoffed.

Wondering if his success rate in refining Grade One Pill Medicine was 30%?

Such an assumption practically underestimated him!

Wyatt knew that, having merged with the entire lifetime of alchemy techniques and experience of the reincarnated Martial Emperor, his pill refining was practically no different than that of the Martial Emperor reborn.

As long as he remained focused, the success rate would definitely be 100%.

100%, that is, a perfect success rate!

"These herbs are all for the refinement of Grade One Pill Medicine, and they are extraordinarily valuable... However, after today, 'seven-tenths' of them will belong to me."

Before starting to refine the various Pill Medicines, Wyatt looked at the herbs piled up like mountains inside the Storage Ring once again, his smile deepening with each glance.

After a short while, once he had calmed his emotions, he began preparing to refine the 'Grade One Pill Medicines' that Randy had listed on the paper.

Among them was the Grade One Return-Life Pill.

The other Pill Medicines, each with a refining difficulty comparable to the Grade One Return-Life Pill, had more niche uses and were not as widely employed.

It made sense.

The Grade One Return-Life Pill was a healing Medicine Pill, needed whenever someone was injured.

As for the other Pill Medicines, their applications were not so widespread.

"What purity level should I aim for?"

Taking out the medicine tripod and getting ready to refine the 'Grade One Pill Medicine' requested on the list, Wyatt was suddenly struck by this consideration and became somewhat vexed.

With his alchemy skill level, refining a Grade One Pill Medicine with a purity of over 90% was undoubtedly an exceedingly simple task.

"If I refine a Grade One Pill Medicine with a purity over 90%... might that scare the Family Head?"

Wyatt had to ponder this question.

"Fine... I'll just suppress my strength a bit and concoct Pill Medicines with a purity slightly above '90%.'"

Wyatt Barnes quickly made up his mind.

This decision was based on his consideration of the many favors the Gagnon Family had done for him.

Of course, the main reason was that he wanted to keep a low profile himself.

Otherwise, concocting Grade One Pill Medicines with a purity above '95%' would not be difficult for him at all.

The various 'Pill Medicines' requested on the list, in Wyatt's view, were very basic and common 'Grade One Pill Medicines.'

If he so desired, he could without fail concoct them into Pill Medicines with a purity above '95%.'

"Pill Medicines with a purity just above '90%' should probably be enough to scare the family head... If I concocted ones with a purity above '95%', it wouldn't be good if the family head got a heart attack from the shock."

Aside from being low-key, Wyatt also took the Gagnon Family head, Randy Gagnon, into consideration, deciding not to concoct the several types of Grade One Spirit Pills on the list to a purity above '95%.'

A purity just above '90%' was about right.

Just as Wyatt spent a long time pondering and finally made up his mind to start concocting the several types of 'Grade One Pill Medicines' on the list,

inside the spacious central hall of the Gagnon Family estate, it was filled with people.

Seated at the head of the room was none other than the Gagnon Family head, Randy Gagnon.

Seated to Randy's right were two elderly men, one fat and one thin. Aside from their differences in body shape, their height variance was also quite substantial.

The fat one was short, resembling a 'ball.'

The thin one was tall, like a 'bamboo pole.'

They were two of the Gagnon Family's Three Great Protectors and elders, Kaizen Gagnon and Elio Gagnon.

Both were Martial Emperor powerhouses!

Beneath Kaizen and Elio stood a group of Gagnon Family elders, including Zen Gagnon, and all of these elders shared one thing in common: they were focused on the path of 'alchemy.'

Aside from a few 'Grade Two alchemists,' nearly all were 'Grade Three alchemists,' with not even a single 'Grade Four alchemist' among them.

In the Gagnon Family, to become an 'elder,' one must meet at least one of two conditions.

The two conditions:

One: If not an alchemist, must be focused on the path of 'martial arts' with cultivation reaching 'Transforming Void Realm ninth layer' or above.

Two: If an alchemist, must be a 'Grade Three alchemist' or above.

Therefore, ordinary Grade Four alchemists of the Gagnon Family, unless they stepped into the 'Transforming Void Realm ninth layer' or above in their personal cultivation, would not be qualified to become a Gagnon Family elder.

Currently, of the people present, only 'Kaizen' and 'Elio' were not alchemists.

Today, according to what they said,

they were simply there to join in the excitement!

"Family head, which Pill Medicines did you ask Elder Barnes to concoct?"

Kaizen squinted his small eyes and asked Randy.

As soon as Kaizen spoke, all the eyes of the Gagnon Family elders present sharpened, and they uniformly turned toward Randy, equally curious about his answer.

Randy smiled lightly and revealed the several types of 'Grade One Pill Medicines' he listed for Wyatt to concoct.

At first, everyone felt there was nothing improper.

But after Randy mentioned the quantities of the 'Grade One Pill Medicines' he marked on the list, as well as the amount of medicinal ingredients he had placed in the Storage Ring for Wyatt,

"Family head, the medicinal ingredients you prepared for Elder Barnes, to concoct the quantities of 'Grade One Pill Medicines' you've indicated on the list... would at least require a '30%' success rate, right?"

Zen Gagnon took a sharp intake of breath as he asked.

A '30%' success rate... In the history of our Gagnon Family, it seems that only the 'Elder Ancestor' who established our family was capable of achieving that!"

"Family head, this is somewhat unfair to Elder Barnes."

"Elder Barnes won't become dissatisfied because of this, and decide to leave our Gagnon Family in a huff, right?"

...

The gathering of Gagnon Family elders buzzed with discussions, most showing concern, deeply fearing that Wyatt Barnes would become enraged by Randy's intentional difficulties and leave the Gagnon Family in a rage.

At that time, it would be their Gagnon Family that suffered the loss.

"Family head, although I'm not an alchemist, having been in the family for many years, I've learnt that it's quite rare for a Grade One alchemist to achieve a '30%' success rate in concocting Grade One Pill Medicines."

Elio Gagnon said, frowning.

"Family head, if Elder Barnes really becomes angry because of this and even leaves our Gagnon Family, it would be a significant loss for us... How about I send some more medicinal ingredients over?"

Kaizen also suggested.

"All elders need not worry. My actions were merely to test Elder Barnes's abilities; there was no intention to trouble him whatsoever."

Facing the concerns of the group of Gagnon Family elders, Randy smiled unconcerned: "Moreover, based on my interactions with Elder Barnes, he is definitely not someone so petty..."

"Family head!"

Before Randy could finish speaking, his words were interrupted by a deep, resounding voice that suddenly came from outside.

"Elder Barnes asked me to deliver to you the 'Pill Medicines' you asked him to concoct."

The voice continued to carry over.

Chapter 1083: Not an Ordinary 'Grade One Alchemist

"What?!"

When Wyatt heard the words coming from outside, the smile on his face completely solidified, and his eyes revealed a mix of shock and disbelief.

Snap!

A soft sound came when Wyatt inadvertently exerted force while gripping the armrest of the chair, breaking it, but he seemed not to notice at all, his expression blank.

"Gulp..."

Sitting beside Wyatt, Kaizen Gagnon and Elio Gagnon both swallowed hard almost simultaneously and then turned to look at Wyatt together.

"Master... didn't you just send the ingredients and the list this morning and ask Elder Barnes to help with making the Pill Medicine?"

Kaizen asked with a stunned expression.

"Yeah... it's only been one morning; how could Elder Barnes possibly have finished making the Pill Medicine?"

Elio added.

As for the rest of the Gagnon Family elders, as they regained their composure, they too looked at Wyatt with questioning expressions, wanting to know what was going on.

"I do not know."

Facing the questioning gazes of the Gagnon Family elders, Wyatt shook his head, his brow furrowed.

After a moment of pondering, Wyatt seemed to think of something, his furrowed brow relaxing as he muttered, "Perhaps Elder Barnes already had some of the Pill Medicine listed on the sheet I gave him... Thus, he let someone deliver that part of the Pill Medicine to me first."

Wyatt's voice was low, but still clearly reached the ears of the group of Gagnon Family elders around him.

"That must be it."

"It can only be that way... The several types of 'Grade One Pill Medicines' listed on the sheet given to Elder Barnes, those cannot be completed without ten days to a half month."

"Elder Barnes is a 'Grade One alchemist,' he certainly wouldn't lack 'Grade One Return-Life Pills'... Maybe, he had someone deliver the ready-made 'Grade One Return-Life Pills' to the Master first."

...

A group of Gagnon Family elders murmured among themselves, each voicing their own opinions.

"Come in!"

At this moment, Wyatt called the Gagnon Family member who brought the Pill Medicine into the hall.

"Master."

After entering, the Gagnon Family member respectfully handed the 'Storage Ring' to Wyatt, then turned and left.

Once the Gagnon Family member left, everyone's gaze fell on Wyatt, the head of the Gagnon Family.

To be exact, it fell on the 'Storage Ring' in Wyatt's hand.

"Elder Barnes is a learned and knowledgeable 'Grade One alchemist'... The purity of the Grade One Pill Medicine he produces, who knows how pure that might be."

"It should be stronger than Chairman Keller of the South Outlands Alchemist Guild."

"That's not necessarily true... you know, Chairman Keller's Grade One Pill Medicines occasionally reach a purity of '30%' or more."

...

A group of Gagnon Family elders once again whispered among themselves, but their eyes never left the 'Storage Ring' in Wyatt's hand.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Wyatt pricked his finger, and a drop of blood fell, using the blood to claim ownership of the Storage Ring.

The next moment, his mind moved, and he looked inside the space of the Storage Ring.

When he saw neatly placed rows of densely packed Pill Medicine bottles inside the Storage Ring, his pupils suddenly narrowed, "Why are there so many Pill Medicine bottles? Could it be that Elder Barnes has a habit of using one Pill Medicine bottle to store one Pill Medicine?"

On the Cloud Skies Continent, some alchemists were quirky and liked to use one Pill Medicine bottle for each Pill Medicine.

He had heard about this before.

"Such a waste."

Although he felt it was wasteful to use one bottle per Pill Medicine, Wyatt still took out a Pill Medicine bottle and opened its stopper to look inside.

Already mentally prepared and thinking there was only one Pill Medicine inside the bottle, his pupils narrowed again when he saw what was inside.

"Ten 'Grade One Return-Life Pills'?"

Wyatt discovered that there were ten Pill Medicines inside the bottle, the rich fragrance emanating from it assailing his senses, making him feel refreshed and pleased.

If it were a usual day, he would have immediately noticed the difference in the Grade One Return-Life Pills from the rich fragrance.

However, his mind was not focused on that at the moment.

"The other Pill Medicine bottles..."

He hurriedly replaced the stopper of the bottle in his hand and checked the other Pill Medicine bottles, eventually finding that each bottle contained ten Pill Medicines.

Most importantly,

These Pill Medicines were all those listed on the sheet he had given to Elder Barnes!

The types and quantities of these Grade One Pill Medicines matched exactly what he had listed on the sheet.

"This..."

Upon confirming this, Wyatt was dumbstruck.

This caused Kaizen and Elio Gagnon, who were sitting beside him, to be puzzled, and the elders standing in the great hall were itching with curiosity as to why their leader was acting so unusually.

"Master, is something wrong?"

Kaizen and Elio asked in unison.

Hearing the words of these two, Wyatt finally snapped back to reality. After taking a deep breath, he looked at the people present, drawing their gazes.

"The several 'Grade One Pill Medicines' that I marked on the sheet this morning... Elder Barnes has completed them all. Whether it's the type or the quantity, not a single thing is amiss!"

Looking at the group of Gagnon Family elders, Wyatt spoke with a solemn face and an extremely complex gaze.

Boom!

As soon as Wyatt's words fell, it was as if a bolt of thunder had struck, causing everyone, including the Gagnon Family protectors Kaizen and Elio, and all the Gagnon Family elders, to be struck dumb, frozen like statues.

The Pill Medicines that the Master had listed on the sheet, Elder Barnes had completed them all?

Whether it's the type or the quantity, not a single thing is awry?

A group of Gagnon Family elders couldn't snap back to reality for a long time.

When they all snapped back to their senses, they started discussing fervently, making the Gagnon Family's main hall as noisy as a bustling marketplace.

"Did Elder Barnes make all the Pill Medicines the family head requested?"

"There's no way! Just in one morning, how could he possibly have made so many alchemical products?"

...

"It should be that he already had those types of Pill Medicines, and in sufficient quantities, so he simply had someone bring them over."

A group of Gagnon Family elders debated, and finally, one person's guess turned the conversation.

"Apart from this possibility, I can't think of any other."

"Those Pill Medicines, even if Chairman Keller of the 'South Outlands' Alchemist Association were to personally make them without any sleep, I'm afraid it would still take ten to fifteen days to make them all."

"One morning to make them? Impossible!"

...

The Gagnon Family elders quickly came to a conclusion.

The Grade One Pill Medicines that the family head asked Elder Barnes to make were precisely those that Elder Barnes already had prepared, and in sufficient quantities at that, so they were casually sent over.

"If Elder Barnes were to make them with the medicinal ingredients given by the family head, he might not be able to make enough Pill Medicines."

One of the Gagnon Family elders said.

His words resonated deeply with the others.

After all, that required a '30%' or higher success rate in pill creation.

"No, wait!"

However, at this moment, a voice full of shock rang out, drowning out the discussion of the Gagnon Family elders.

Suddenly, all the Gagnon Family elders turned towards the source of the voice.

The one who spoke was none other than the family head seated in the highest seat, Randy Gagnon!

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Randy's hands moved swiftly, as fast as lightning.

Then, one by one, bottles of Pill Medicine appeared in his hands, and he opened each bottle's cap, revealing the pills inside.

At the same time, a rich fragrance of medicine permeated the entire Gagnon Family main hall, making the elders feel refreshed and delighted.

Some of them even took a deep breath, comfortably closing their eyes, fully enjoying the aromatic fragrance hitting their noses.

Quickly, some of the Gagnon Family elders regained their senses, their faces showing shock.

"This kind of medicinal fragrance... It can only be emitted by 'Pill Medicines' that have been made less than a day ago and just left the medicine tripod!"

A Gagnon Family elder couldn't help but exclaim.

He was one of the few 'Grade Two alchemists' among the Gagnon Family and knew the characteristics of 'Pill Medicines' very well.

The Pill Medicines freshly made in less than one day had a completely different fragrance compared to those made more than a day ago.

This fact, including Pill Medicine bottles and Storage Rings, can be affected by nothing.

"All these Pill Medicines have this kind of fragrance."

Randy Gagnon said gravely, his expression still somewhat dumbfounded, not fully snapped back to reality.

"How is this possible?!"

"These Pill Medicines, they were all made less than a day ago?"

"The fragrance doesn't lie!"

...

Very soon, the whole Gagnon Family main hall was abuzz, each one of the Gagnon Family elders staring in disbelief, unable to believe that all this was real.

In their view, this was almost an impossible occurrence!

"So, it means... these Pill Medicines were all made by Elder Barnes within a single day?"

Kaizen Gagnon swallowed hard, looking at Randy, asking in astonishment.

"Although I also can't believe it's real... the facts are right in front of our eyes, and I have no choice but to believe. Elder Barnes is not an ordinary 'Grade One alchemist'!"

Randy Gagnon fully regained his senses, took a sharp breath, and slowly said.

His words reached the ears of the completely stunned Gagnon Family elders.

For this, they deeply agreed.

"So, it means... not only is Elder Barnes's speed in making Grade One Pill Medicines almost defying the heavens, but his success rate in pill creation is also above '30%'?!"

"It seems so."

"Monster!"

...

The Gagnon Family elders caused yet another uproar.

Fast in making Pills was one thing.

But such a high success rate in pill creation too!

How could anyone compete with that?

"Most importantly, Elder Barnes is just a young man in his twenties... Old guy like me, I thought becoming a 'Grade Two alchemist' and having a decent talent in alchemy was good, but compared to Elder Barnes, it seems I've just been wasting my years!"

One of the Gagnon Family elders sighed.

He was also one of the few 'Grade Two alchemists' in the Gagnon Family.

His words made the other elders shamefully lower their heads, feeling utterly disgraced.

"How is this possible?!"

Soon, another exclamation sounded, startling all the Gagnon Family elders.

They recognized it as the family head's voice again.

Before even raising their heads to look towards 'Randy Gagnon', their hearts thumped.

"Could the family head have discovered something new?"

Chapter 1084: The Demon Among Demons

Boom!

Just as a group of Gagnon Family elders were all looking at the family head, Randy Gagnon, a loud sound erupted, startling their hearts to jolt.

Randy stood abruptly from his seat in total loss of composure, and the chair shattered behind him as it crashed to the ground.

"What on Earth happened to make the family head lose his composure like that?"

"To cause the family head to lose composure like this, it must be no small matter... We need to brace ourselves mentally."

"I think so too."

...

A group of Gagnon Family elders whispered among themselves, but their gazes never left Randy's side.

Meanwhile, they nervously tensed up, preparing themselves to be shocked.

Randy stood at the main seat of the great hall, holding a pill medicine that shimmered with a soft luster in his hand, having tucked away the others.

Now, Randy was staring intensely at the 'Pill Medicine' in his hand as if he were possessed.

"Is there something wrong with that pill medicine?"

Several Gagnon Family elders immediately felt puzzled.

Then, all the Gagnon Family elders' eyes were drawn to the pill medicine in Randy's hand, which glinted softly and emitted a pleasant fragrance.

"Grade One Return-Life Pill!"

At a glance, they recognized it.

"That is... how is that possible?!"

Soon, one of the elderly Gagnon Family elders, one of the Grade Two alchemists, widened his eyes in utter shock and disbelief, as if seeing something inconceivable.

This Gagnon Family elder was one of the few Grade Two alchemists.

The elder who earlier self-mocked that he had lived a lifetime as lowly as a dog.

"The purity of this Grade One Return-Life Pill might be over 'eighty-five percent'?"

Another Gagnon Family elder, also one of the Grade Two alchemists, wore an expression of astonishment and muttered to himself.

"No... not just 'eighty-five percent'! The purity of this Grade One Return-Life Pill should have reached 'ninety percent' or more!"

Besides the previous two elders and the family head, the last Grade Two alchemist elder of the Gagnon Family also spoke up, his expression extremely solemn.

Ninety percent!

"Purity... 'ninety percent' and above for a Grade One Return-Life Pill?"

As this Gagnon Family elder spoke, the entire Gagnon Family great hall fell into dead silence, every elder staring in disbelief, their faces showing incredulity.

Except for Kaizen Gagnon and Elio Gagnon, the two Protector elders primarily focused on Martial Dao.

The other Gagnon Family elders, who were all Grade Three alchemists, although they could tell the pill medicine the family head was holding had a high purity, they did not dare to speculate how high.

After all, that was a 'Grade One Pill Medicine'!

Now, hearing the words of that Grade Two alchemist elder, they were greatly alarmed.

"Three elders, take a look."

At this moment, Randy, standing in the first place, came to his senses, raised his hand, and tossed the Grade One Return-Life Pill to one of the Grade Two alchemist elders.

Immediately, the other two Grade Two alchemist elders gathered around.

"The purity is almost at 'ninety-one percent'."

Momentarily, after repeated observations by the three Grade Two alchemist elders, they confirmed the 'purity' of the Grade One Return-Life Pill in their hands.

Ninety-one percent!

The remaining group of Grade Three alchemist elders all gasped in astonishment, their faces and eyes filled with disbelief.

"I never expected that Elder Barnes was not only fast at concocting medicines and had a high success rate, but the 'purity' of the pill medicines he made is also so terrifying!"

Kaizen said, visibly shocked.

"Elder Barnes, is he really human?"

Elio's pupils constricted as he murmured to himself.

"If not human, could it be a 'demon'? It's nearly impossible for demons to become alchemists, let alone such a monstrous 'Grade One Alchemist'!"

Kaizen said.

"Family head, what about the purity of the other pill medicines?"

The three Grade Two alchemist elders looked eagerly at Randy.

"See for yourselves."

Randy took a deep breath, and with a gesture of his hand, he shot out three pill medicine bottles directly towards the three Grade Two alchemist elders.

After catching the pill medicine bottles, the three Grade Two alchemist elders eagerly opened them and poured out the pill medicines inside.

Their gazes landed on each of the pill medicines in turn.

"The purity of these pill medicines seems very high."

"Yes, it feels not lower than that of the Grade One Return-Life Pill."

...

The surrounding group of Grade Three alchemist elders whispered among themselves.

"These pill medicines... their purity is all 'ninety-one percent'! How is this possible?!"

Soon, one of the Grade Two alchemist elders was the first to examine the ten Grade One pill medicines in his hand, speaking in disbelief.

All 'ninety-one percent'?

The surrounding Grade Three alchemist elders were taken aback.

"These ten Grade One pill medicines in this bottle also have a purity of 'ninety-one percent'."

The crowd had not yet managed to recover their spirits when another grade two alchemist elder spoke.

"My pill is the same."

The last grade two alchemist elder then said.

Whoa!

As the three grade two alchemist elders' voices fell, a wave of amazement swept through the scene like a stone causing a thousand ripples.

"How is this possible?!"

Now, even Kaizen Gagnon and Elio Gagnon, these two outsiders, couldn't help but exclaim in surprise, "Isn't it very difficult for an alchemist to control the 'purity' when making Pill Medicine?"

"That's correct."

One of the grade two alchemist elders nodded, "When we alchemists make Pill Medicine, we often encounter some unforeseen circumstances...so, it's very difficult to precisely produce a Pill Medicine of fixed 'purity'."

"It's generally just possible to keep it within a certain range."

Another grade two alchemist elder continued.

"To fix the purity of the Pill Medicine at 'ninety-one percent'... That Elder Barnes, is truly a freak among freaks!"

After the last grade two alchemist elder put the ten Pill Medicines back into their bottle, he then continued, "According to the ancestral notes of our Gagnon Family, even the founder who established our Gagnon Family, at his peak, could only achieve a purity of 'eighty-two percent'."

"The high purity is one thing... but to fix the purity of all Grade One Pill Medicine at 'ninety-one percent' is simply incredible! If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't believe anyone could achieve this."

Randy Gagnon took a deep breath, saying solemnly.

Now, even he, who was known as the head of this 'alchemist family,' the Gagnon Family, couldn't keep his composure and completely lost his poise.

Just because what he was facing was too astonishing!

"Looking over the entire Cloud Skies Continent, it might be hard to find another Grade One alchemist as terrifying as Elder Barnes... Other Grade One alchemists, including the president of the 'South Outlands' Alchemists Guild, are like dregs compared to him!"

Randy Gagnon's breathing became incredibly rapid, his face full of excitement.

"I originally thought Elder Barnes was just an ordinary 'Grade One alchemist'... but I didn't expect him to be such a terrifying 'Grade One alchemist'!"

Kaizen Gagnon said with a face full of shock.

Now, from the mouths of all the alchemists present, he also realized just how 'terrifying' this young Grade One alchemist was.

"With Elder Barnes in our Gagnon Family, why worry about not prospering?"

Elio Gagnon's eyes shone brightly.

"Perhaps, it's also time for me to have a talk with our revered 'Elder Barnes.'"

Randy Gagnon gradually calmed down his excited emotions and murmured.

In the east wing of the Gagnon Family estate, in the back yard of a spacious mansion.

Boom!

A surge of flames shot up from the backyard, formidable in its intensity.

This flame originated from a woman in red, standing floating in the air, her body's flames surging along with her red garment fluttering, making her look like a sprite emerging from the fire.

Whoa!

As the woman's flames grew even more intense, the force between heaven and earth above her head churned, eventually coalescing into a celestial phenomenon.

One after another, the silhouettes of ancient Horned Dragons gradually appeared.

In the blink of an eye, the number of ancient Horned Dragon silhouettes increased to the thousands, but they were very unstable, sometimes decreasing to eight or nine hundred, as if restricted by something.

"Still not possible?"

A youth dressed in purple stood beside, watching the red-clothed woman intently and asked with a grave expression.

The woman, possessing a peerlessly beautiful face, her expression cold, did not speak, only nodded.

If one looked closely, they could see sweat beads continuously emerging from her forehead.

The sweat beads became more numerous, eventually converging into sweat that flowed down her strikingly beautiful face.

Drip-drop! Drip-drop!

...

Drops of sweat fell, bursting into dazzling splashes upon hitting the ground.

"Take a rest."

The youth in purple, who was indeed 'Wyatt Barnes,' said to the floating red-clothed woman.

The red-clothed woman, who was 'Winnie Romero.'

To be precise, this was the amnesiac 'Winnie Romero.'

Still, contrary to what Wyatt Barnes had suggested, Winnie, drenched in fragrant sweat, stubbornly continued to increase the flames rising around her body.

Boom!

The flames soared, and the celestial phenomenon Above her head returned to a state of a thousand ancient Horned Dragon silhouettes.

But almost immediately, the number of ancient Horned Dragon silhouettes autonomously fell back to eight or nine hundred.

"Sigh."

Seeing this, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but sigh, "I didn't expect that the amnesiac 'Winnie' would struggle to control her Origin Force and 'mysteries'... The power she held before now feels foreign to her."

"Now, for her to completely master her own power, it seems it will also take some time," Wyatt Barnes thought to himself.

The current Winnie Romero was no longer the 'Fire Spirit Body,' or rather, she was what remained after a 'phoenix-like rebirth' of the former Fire Spirit Body.

Before, when the power of the Fire Spirit Body inside her erupted, it nearly tore her apart.

At the crucial moment, Wyatt Barnes, who had undergone Devil Transformation through the Demon Sealing Monument, infused her with a mysterious black force, subduing the power of the Fire Spirit Body inside her.

After the power of the Fire Spirit Body was subdued, it completely dissipated and then integrated into her body, serving her use.

At that time, the Origin Force within her body, driven by the power of the Fire Spirit Body, had undergone earth-shattering changes.

Chapter 1085: Do You Know the 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor'?

Transforming Void Realm First Level!

That was Winnie Romero's current cultivation level.

In the past, after the power of her "Fire Spirit Body" dispersed and merged into her Origin Force, it helped her Origin Force continuously advance, all the way to the "Transforming Void Realm First Level."

Besides the Origin Force of the Transforming Void Realm First Level, the "realm fragments" within Winnie had completely transformed into "mystic fragments."

Now, she was a Transforming Void Realm First Level practitioner who had mastered the mystic of fire!

Unfortunately, she, who had lost her memory, had not yet completely controlled her own power.

Of course, this was also a blessing.

Otherwise, the day she awoke from her deep slumber and thrust her sword toward Wyatt Barnes, the speed could have been many times faster.

If that were the case.

It wouldn't just be Wyatt Barnes unable to react in time, she might also not have been able to retract her sword in time to spare Wyatt's heart.

It could be said, fortunately, the amnesiac Winnie couldn't control her own power.

Otherwise, Wyatt Barnes would have definitely died!

Shoo! Shoo! Shoo! Shoo! Shoo!

...

Apart from Winnie adapting to her own power, there occasionally came a series of shrill sword cries not far away, clearly Fill Bear practicing his swordsmanship.

"Perhaps, it's also time to visit the family head... The spirit fruits, the mystic array, they are exactly what Fill Bear and I urgently need right now!"

Wyatt glanced at Fill Bear and muttered to himself.

"Elder Barnes!"

Just then, a voice like a yellow oriole's came closer from afar.

"Yesenia?"

Looking at the maid Yesenia, who rushed into the backyard in a fluster, Wyatt looked puzzled, "What's all the panic about?"

"Elder Barnes, the family head has arrived and is waiting for you in the main hall."

Maid Yesenia said respectfully.

"The family head?"

Wyatt's eyes lit up, then he laughed and said, "Speak of the devil, and he shall appear."

"Who is the devil?"

Maid Yesenia, upon hearing Wyatt's words, couldn't help but be stunned.

"Uh..."

Wyatt paused and then remembered this world did not have the 'devil.'

With a flash of inspiration and unsure how to explain, he blurted out, "The devil... is what we call 'the family head' back in our hometown. The devil, that is, the family head."

"It can be called that?"

Maid Yesenia appeared surprised, then quickly added, "Elder Barnes, you better hurry... keeping the devil waiting is not good."

Wyatt heard this, and the corners of his mouth twitched imperceptibly.

This girl, her learning ability was indeed strong.

Quick to learn and quick to apply.

The mansion where Wyatt resided had a main hall at the center, but Wyatt seldom visited it, as he rarely had 'visitors' here.

"Family head."

Upon arriving outside the main hall, Wyatt saw a familiar figure standing inside—it was the Gagnon family head, Randy Gagnon.

"Elder Barnes."

Randy's eyes brightened, and he stepped forward, personally welcoming Wyatt into the main hall.

"Did the family head want to see me for something?"

Although Wyatt guessed that Randy must have come because of the Grade One Pill Medicine he had sent over at noon, he still pretended to be ignorant and asked.

"Elder Barnes, I really didn't expect your alchemy level to be so strong! It has reached what can be described as 'defying the heavens.'"

Randy looked at Wyatt with mixed emotions, full of admiration.

The young Grade One alchemist before him not only had a remarkable speed in making medicines, but also had an incredibly high success rate.

A high success rate was already impressive, but the purity was even more exceptional, reaching an astounding 'more than 90%'.

In his memory, as far as he knew.

Throughout the history of the Cloud Skies Continent, there seemed to be only one person capable of producing medicines with a purity 'above 90%'.

That person was from ten thousand years ago.

The reason he knew about the individual from ten thousand years ago was because of the 'Elder Ancestor' who established their Gagnon Family.

The Gagnon family's Elder Ancestor had left behind a 'notebook' that had been handed down to this day.

That notebook could only be perused by the head of the Gagnon family, no one else was entitled to look at it.

According to the records in the notebook, their Elder Ancestor had once received help and guidance from that person, which enabled him to become an outstanding Grade One alchemist.

"According to the Elder Ancestor, the powerful figure he regarded as 'teacher' had skills in Pill Medicine far surpassing those of a Grade One alchemist!"

Randy Gagnon couldn't imagine what kind of existence that would be.

"According to the notes left by the Elder Ancestor, this person also seemed to be a Martial Emperor, and even one at the peak of the Martial Emperors in Cloud Skies Continent... known as 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor!'"

At this thought, Randy's heart leaped.

"The Elder Ancestor wrote in his notes... 'Reincarnation' was the honorific title of that Martial Emperor! The reason why his honorific title was 'Reincarnation' was because he practiced a heaven-defying technique."

"Unlike ordinary people who can only live one lifetime... this Reincarnation Martial Emperor could live three lifetimes through that technique! When the Elder Ancestor met him, he was living his 'Second Life.'"

At this moment, Randy seemed to think of something, snapping back to reality with wide eyes, staring fixedly at the purple-clothed youth before him.

His body began to tremble, not knowing when it had started.

It was a trembling of excitement.

"According to the records in the Elder Ancestor's notes... each reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor was separated by ten thousand years! According to calculations, it should now be time for the Reincarnation Martial Emperor to undergo his third reincarnation."

Unknown to him, Randy's breathing became rapid, looking at the purple-clothed youth before him, "Could it be... he is the third reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor?"

"If so, his 'genius' could be completely explained... The Reincarnation Martial Emperor himself was a powerful alchemist. Reborn, he would naturally know various potent medicinal techniques and possess extensive experience in alchemy!"

Randy became inexplicably excited at this thought.

Martial Emperor!

The young man standing before him could possibly be the reincarnation of a Martial Emperor, destined to become a Martial Emperor himself.

That is to say, the young man before him could potentially be a future Martial Emperor!

"Family head, are you... alright?"

Seeing Randy staring at him with glowing eyes, Wyatt Barnes felt a bit uneasy and couldn't help but frown and ask.

"Elder Barnes!"

After being startled by Wyatt, Randy took a deep breath, trying to suppress his excitement, and looked intently into Wyatt's eyes, "Do you... know about the 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor'?"

Reincarnation Martial Emperor!

Randy's words resonated like a thunderclap, causing Wyatt's heart to leap in shock.

"Reincarnation Martial Emperor? How would he know about the Reincarnation Martial Emperor? And why would he bring it up in front of me?"

At this moment, Wyatt was filled with shock and many questions emerged.

However, he did not show it on the surface.

Who knows if the Randy standing before him could be a descendant of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor's old enemy?

"The Gagnon Family has been passed down for ten thousand years... that is to say, the founder of the Gagnon Family, the Elder Ancestor, was from ten thousand years ago! Perhaps, he truly had some connection with the Reincarnation Martial Emperor."

"Moreover, he must have left notes or records... otherwise, a descendant like Randy, the current Gagnon Family head ten thousand years later, wouldn't know about the existence of the 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor!'"

In the blink of an eye, Wyatt thought a lot.

Because he thought much, he did not reveal any unusual emotions on the surface.

Ten thousand years ago, standing at the peak of Cloud Skies Continent as one of the top figures, the name 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor' resonated strongly throughout the Cloud Skies Continent and the Outer Land.

In that era, even a three-year-old child, hearing the words 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor,' would be scared to tears.

This shows how renowned the 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor' was during that era.

"Reincarnation Martial Emperor? Martial Emperor?"

Wyatt raised an eyebrow, feigning confusion, "I have never heard of it."

Although Wyatt did not show any flaws on the surface, Randy, as the head of the Gagnon Family, was no fool and did not believe Wyatt's words.

"Ameer Gagnon!"

Randy continued to gaze into Wyatt's eyes, slowly uttering two words, as if trying to confirm whether Wyatt was indeed the third reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor.

Ameer Gagnon was the one who founded their Gagnon Family ten thousand years ago, and was also an outstanding Grade One alchemist.

He believed that if the young man before him was truly the third reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor, he would definitely know about their family's Elder Ancestor.

"Ameer Gagnon?"

Hearing Randy's words, Wyatt subconsciously stiffened, having never heard the name before.

Seeing the perplexed look in Wyatt's eyes, Randy felt a bit disappointed, "It seems I was wrong... Elder Barnes is probably not the third reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor."

Ameer Gagnon!

Wyatt's mind stirred, subconsciously scouring the memories of the two lifetimes of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor, and indeed he found a memory related to this name.

During his second life, the Reincarnation Martial Emperor liked to wander, helping many people based on his own preferences, and guided quite a few.

Among them, one of the more memorable individuals was precisely called 'Ameer Gagnon!'

In the memories of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor, Ameer Gagnon showed great talent in the field of alchemy, hence, the Emperor particularly took the time to guide him for a while, and they shared a mentor-student relationship even though the Reincarnation Martial Emperor never officially took him as a disciple. Yet, Ameer Gagnon still respectfully addressed the Reincarnation Martial Emperor as 'Teacher.'

"Ten thousand years ago, the 'Three Lives Reincarnation Scripture' practiced by the Reincarnation Martial Emperor, and the methods of the 'Three Lives Reincarnation Scripture,' were known by many... Ameer Gagnon was one of them!"

With this thought, Wyatt could guess a lot, including why Randy suddenly asked him if he knew about the 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor.'

Randy, without a doubt, speculated that he might be the third reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor.

"It seems that the person who established this ten-thousand-year-old alchemist family 'Gagnon Family,' was that Ameer Gagnon... Additionally, that Ameer Gagnon left behind notes and records about the 'Reincarnation Martial Emperor' within the Gagnon Family."

All this was not difficult for Wyatt to guess.

Chapter 1086: Pretending

"If it weren't so, Randy Gagnon wouldn't have known about the existence of the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation! Nor would he have guessed that I might be the third reincarnation of the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation."

Wyatt Barnes thought to himself.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, the sound of the wind whistled by his ears, making Wyatt Barnes look up involuntarily.

He saw a drop of fresh blood soar into the sky, passing through the great hall and disappearing from his sight in the blink of an eye.

At the same time, a voice reached his ears.

"I, Randy Gagnon, swear on my own blood that if I do anything against the third reincarnation of the predecessor, the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation, I shall be struck to death by the 'Ninety-Nine Thunder Tribulations'!"

It was indeed Randy Gagnon who had sworn an oath on the calamity of the 'Ninety-Nine Thunder Tribulations.'

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

Nine thunders roared in sequence, as if responding to Randy Gagnon's oath.

"Family head, what are you doing?"

Wyatt Barnes was stunned.

Could it be that Randy Gagnon had already confirmed that he was the third reincarnation of the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation?

But that wasn't right.

He had always been extremely careful and, as far as he was concerned, hadn't revealed any flaws.

"It's nothing... I just wanted to prove something. However, you probably aren't the person I thought you were."

In response to Wyatt Barnes's question, Randy Gagnon shook his head and said.

He had made such an oath because he still harbored the last 'hope' in his heart, wishing to verify whether Wyatt Barnes really was the third reincarnation of the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation.

Even if he wasn't, Randy Gagnon had done what needed to be done and would have no regrets.

"How do you know I'm not?"

However, as soon as Randy Gagnon finished speaking, Wyatt Barnes asked in return.

" Hmm?"

Randy Gagnon was initially startled, then his gaze lit up and he started breathing heavily again, "Elder Barnes... you... do you mean... you truly are the 'Martial Emperor of Reincarnation'?"

"Sort of."

Wyatt Barnes nodded lightly, "Only by reincarnating through the Three Lives Reincarnation Scripture and cultivating back to the 'Martial Emperor Realm,' reclaiming the pinnacle of the Cloud Skies Continent, do I deserve to be called the 'Martial Emperor of Reincarnation.'"

Three Lives Reincarnation Scripture!

Hearing Wyatt Barnes mention the Three Lives Reincarnation Scripture, Randy Gagnon had no further doubts about Wyatt Barnes's identity, confirming without a doubt that Wyatt Barnes was the third reincarnation of the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation.

Over the span of ten thousand years, the number of people on the Cloud Skies Continent who knew of the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation was undoubtedly as rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn horns.

Let alone someone who could speak of the cultivation methods of the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation.

Had he, Randy Gagnon, not seen the notes left by the Elder Ancestor Ameer Gagnon of his family, he would not have known about the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation, let alone the cultivation method that required reincarnation three times to succeed.

"Randy Gagnon pays respects to the predecessor! I was ignorant of the predecessor's identity and was disrespectful. I hope the predecessor will not hold it against me."

Randy Gagnon tried to suppress the excitement in his heart and bowed respectfully to Wyatt Barnes.

" You should still call me 'Elder Barnes' as before."

Wyatt Barnes said indifferently.

"Yes."

After knowing that Wyatt Barnes was the third reincarnation of the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation, Randy Gagnon obeyed Wyatt Barnes's words without any hesitation or negligence.

Because he knew this was a future 'Martial Emperor powerhouse'!

If he could take good care of the young man before him, the Gagnon Family would be protected by a 'Martial Emperor powerhouse' in the future, and perhaps, he might even receive some other benefits.

As the head of the Gagnon Family, he looked to the long-term future.

"Additionally... are there many people in the Gagnon Family who know about the Martial Emperor of Reincarnation?"

Wyatt Barnes asked.

"Not many."

Upon hearing Wyatt Barnes's question, Randy Gagnon hurriedly replied, "The past... Elder Barnes, your past 'deeds' have all been recorded by our Gagnon Family's Elder Ancestor Ameer Gagnon in a set of notes, which only the head of the Gagnon Family is qualified to read."

"Hmm."

Wyatt Barnes nodded, then cautioned, "My identity is known by you alone... don't tell a third person."

"Yes."

Randy Gagnon responded respectfully.

"Furthermore, there are some things I'd like you to help me with."

Wyatt Barnes remembered what he had intended to discuss with Randy Gagnon and got straight to the point.

"Elder Barnes, please tell me! Whatever I and the Gagnon Family can do, even if it means facing fire and water, we will not hesitate!"

Randy Gagnon said solemnly.

Seeing his stance, even if he were to 'climb a mountain of swords or plunge into a sea of flames,' he seemed unlikely to frown.

"There's no need for you to face fire and water."

Wyatt Barnes looked at Randy Gagnon and asked, "Your Gagnon Family should have the 'Profound Mystery Formation,' right?"

"Yes."

Randy Gagnon nodded.

"That's good."

Wyatt Barnes's eyes flashed as he stated directly, "I need you to activate the 'Profound Mystery Formation' with a large number of 'realm fragments.' I need it to improve my 'realm'!"

"No problem!"

Randy Gagnon responded immediately without any hesitation.

Realms fragments were nothing to a 'second-rate power' like the Gagnon Family, which was close to being a top-tier force; they had as many as needed.

In fact, all the gifted and perceptive descendants of the Gagnons who cultivated in the Martial Dao were eligible to enhance their realms through the 'Tongxuan Formation'.

"Additionally, I need some spiritual fruits... any that can be consumed by warriors of the Void Realm, I want them all,"

Wyatt Barnes continued.

"Void Realm?"

Randy Gagnon was taken aback for a moment, then reminded him, "Elder Barnes, the 'Void Realm' is further divided into..."

"I know the 'Void Realm' is divided into four levels... What I want are spiritual fruits that can be consumed by warriors of the Peep Naught Realm, Enter Void Realm, Cave Void Realm, and Transforming Void Realm,"

Wyatt Barnes interrupted Randy Gagnon, saying, "For the Peep Naught Realm, Enter Void Realm, and Cave Void Realm, I only need one of each kind of spiritual fruit for the specialists... As for the Transforming Void Realm, I want as many as you have!"

The spiritual fruits for the warriors of the Peep Naught Realm, Enter Void Realm, and Cave Void Realm were for Fill Bear.

The spiritual fruits for the Transforming Void Realm warriors were for himself and Winnie Romero.

Of course, before long, Fill Bear, upon advancing to the Transforming Void Realm, would also need them.

Fill Bear had already grasped the 'advanced sword realm', so with enough spiritual fruits, he could quickly break through to the Transforming Void Realm and become a Transforming Void Realm warrior.

"Yes."

Though unaware of what Wyatt Barnes had planned for those low-level spiritual fruits, Randy Gagnon still agreed.

Set aside that Wyatt Barnes was the third reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor; even if he wasn't, with Wyatt's alchemy skills, Randy Gagnon would not refuse his requests.

"You go get ready... And don't forget about the matter concerning the Soul-setting Grass,"

Wyatt Barnes added.

"Understood."

Randy Gagnon respectfully obliged, then turned and left.

Watching Randy's retreating back, a flash of insight sparked in Wyatt Barnes's eyes, and a smile flickered across his lips, "This identity of the third reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor really comes in handy."

Even though he knew that even if he weren't pretending to be the third reincarnation of the Reincarnation Martial Emperor, Randy Gagnon would not have refused his requests,

Without such pretense, Randy definitely wouldn't be as attentive as he was at that moment.

"Now, in Randy's eyes, I am a future Martial Emperor powerhouse... Sucking up to me not only allows the Gagnon Family to receive my protection in the future, but it also brings plenty of benefits to him,"

Wyatt Barnes thought, deciphering Randy's motivations easily.

He would have thought the same if he were in Randy's shoes.

Who wouldn't want to cozy up to a Martial Emperor powerhouse?

It had to be said, Randy was efficient; in just one hour, he made another visit.

"Elder Barnes, these are the spiritual fruits currently possessed by our Gagnon Family... They are mainly for Peep Naught Realm, Enter Void Realm, and Cave Void Realm warriors. There's only one fruit for Transforming Void Realm warriors,"

"And additionally, I plan to issue an external bounty for spiritual fruits meant for Transforming Void Realm warriors."

Randy Gagnon respectfully spoke to Wyatt Barnes, presenting a 'Storage Ring' with no owner.

"Bounty? That's not a bad idea."

Wyatt Barnes took the Storage Ring, nodded, and asked, "What do you plan to offer as a bounty for those spiritual fruits for Transforming Void Realm warriors? You know, those fruits are valuable."

The higher the grade of spiritual fruits, the more precious they are.

The fruits for Transforming Void Realm warriors were particularly valuable.

"I plan to offer the 'Grade One Return-Life Pills' you've concocted as rewards... Given the 'purity' of the Return-Life Pills you've concocted, their astonishing medicinal power would make everyone desperate enough to fight over them,"

Randy shared his plan, "However, this may require you to concoct some more 'Grade One Return-Life Pills' afterward."

"No problem with that."

Wyatt Barnes quite liked Randy's plan.

Grade One Return-Life Pills were, without a doubt, something every warrior needed. At crucial moments, they might very well become a 'lifesaving charm'.

Especially the ones he concocted with over 'ninety percent purity', their medicinal effects were multiple times that of ordinary Grade One Return-Life Pills!

With such efficacy, although they might lack compared to 'reviving the dead or bringing flesh back to bone,' they weren't too far off.

"Elder Barnes, when do you plan to enter the 'Tongxuan Formation'? I have prepared all the realm fragments required for it,"

Randy Gagnon mentioned again.

"Hmm."

Wyatt Barnes nodded and quickly familiarized himself with the Storage Ring that Randy had just given him, and he soon saw the spiritual fruit for Transforming Void Realm warriors inside.

He hadn't consumed this fruit before, so there was no concern about diminished effectiveness.

"I plan to cultivate using these spiritual fruits first... Once I'm done with my cultivation, I'll seek you out to enter the 'Tongxuan Formation'."

Wyatt Barnes revealed his plan.

Of course, part of the reason he decided this way was for the sake of Fill Bear.

Fill Bear's current cultivation level was, after all, rather weak.

If he were to be brought into the 'Tongxuan Formation', with his current cultivation corresponding to his 'soul', he would hardly be able to withstand the 'realm force' pervading inside,

Not to mention to aid in elevating his 'sword realm'.

"Okay."

The current Randy Gagnon did whatever Wyatt Barnes said, following his instructions to the letter.

"In that case, I won't disturb Elder Barnes with your cultivation,"

Right after, Randy tactfully took his leave.

After Randy left, Wyatt Barnes also exited the main hall and went to the backyard.

In a moment, he unfettered the 'Storage Ring' that Randy had just given him and casually tossed it to Fill Bear, "Fill Bear, the spiritual fruits inside are separated... From left to right, they are for Peep Naught Realm, Enter Void Realm, and Cave Void Realm warriors, respectively."

Chapter 1087: Bounty

"Spiritual fruits?"

Fill Bear took the Storage Ring, and for a moment he was startled, but when he recognized it with a drop of blood and saw a pile of sparkling, transparent "spiritual fruits" inside, his eyes lit up.

Just like a hunter spotting his prey.

"Young Master... are all these spiritual fruits for me?"

Fill Bear's breathing quickened as he asked Wyatt.

It was his first time seeing so many spiritual fruits.

"If not for you, then for whom? Winnie and I have no use for these spiritual fruits."

Wyatt responded irritably.

"Thank you, Young Master, thank you, Young Master!"

Although Fill Bear had anticipated Wyatt saying this, he still couldn't help but feel inexplicably excited and hurriedly thanked Wyatt.

"Take the spiritual fruits and go back to your room to cultivate."

Wyatt instructed.

"Yes."

Already eager to return to his room and consume the "spiritual fruits" for cultivation, Fill Bear respectfully responded and left upon hearing Wyatt's words.

With these spiritual fruits, his cultivation level would rapidly increase in a short period of time!

"Once my strength improves, I will be able to help Young Master."

On the way back to his room, Fill Bear was filled with excitement.

If he didn't want to continue being a drag on the Young Master, he had to quickly enhance his cultivation level.

After Fill Bear left, Wyatt looked toward Winnie Romero, who was still trying to control her own power, "Winnie, I need to go into seclusion for a few days... During this time, stay within the estate and do not go out."

Upon hearing Wyatt's words, the coldness on Winnie Romero's face melted away slightly, and she nodded gently.

"After losing her memory, Winnie doesn't have a clue about how to control her powers... It's going to take her some time to regain the strength she had at her peak."

After receiving Winnie Romero's agreement, Wyatt looked once more at the flames rising from her body before he turned and left.

Back in his room, Wyatt took out a crystal clear "spiritual fruit."

This fruit was the only one among the pile given by Randy Gagnon that was meant for cultivators in the Transforming Void Realm.

"This fruit seems to be called 'Red Phosphorus Fruit.'"

Raiding the memory of the Martial Emperor, Wyatt quickly recognized the fruit in his hand, shimmering with a crimson glow, as if wrapped in "phosphorus fire."

"The Red Phosphorus Fruit, among the many fruits suitable for Transforming Void Realm cultivators, is only middling... Normally, for a Sixth-Order Transforming Void cultivator, it is difficult to break through to the Seventh Order."

Wyatt frowned slightly, then muttered to himself, "After all, the gap between the Sixth and Seventh Orders of the Transforming Void Realm is like a colossal ravine, extremely difficult to cross."

"However, that is only for ordinary Transforming Void Sixth-Order cultivators... As for me, although I am also at the Sixth Order, consuming this Red Phosphorus Fruit could stimulate the tyrannical medicinal power of the Nirvana Pill hidden inside me, thus helping me easily step into the Seventh Order."

Of this, Wyatt had no doubt.

"Moreover, with the bounty posted by the Gagnon Family, it won't be long before I can obtain enough spiritual fruits to elevate my cultivation level to the Ninth Order of the Transforming Void Realm!"

"As for martial insights, as long as I have the 'Mysterious Array' and plenty of 'realm fragments,' I can comprehend each and every one to the 'Ninth-Order High-Rank'."

Thinking this, Wyatt's eyes shone brightly, as if he could already see himself reaching the pinnacle of the Void Realm.

"Once my cultivation level breaks through to the Ninth Order of the Transforming Void Realm, and any kind of martial insight progresses to 'Ninth-Order High-Rank,' I can use 'Mystic Pieces' to transform them into 'Mysteries'!"

"By that time, I just need to continue consuming spiritual fruits, and my cultivation level will burst through to the Martial Emperor Realm!"

"Once I break through to the Martial Emperor Realm and become a Martial Emperor... the medicinal power of the Nirvana Pill will truly show itself! At that point, my cultivation level will enter a period of rapid improvement."

The more Wyatt thought about the future, the brighter the gleam in his eyes became.

The Nirvana Pill, even now, had displayed limited medicinal power, with much more hidden within his body, occasionally releasing a burst of medicinal power to enhance his cultivation.

However, during this process, though his progress surpassed that of ordinary Transforming Void cultivators, it was still extremely slow.

But once his cultivation level broke through to the Martial Emperor Realm, the medicinal power of the Nirvana Pill would enter a new era of explosion...

By then, when compared with other Martial Emperor powerhouses, the difference would be stark!

"It's time to begin cultivating."

Taking a deep breath, Wyatt calmed his turbulent emotions and swallowed the 'Red Phosphorus Fruit' in his hand, allowing its medicinal power to integrate into his body.

Simultaneously, Wyatt could clearly sense a response from the Nirvana Pill hidden deep within his Dan Tian.

Soon, the medicinal powers of the Nirvana Pill and the Red Phosphorus Fruit merged, driving the Origin Force at a lightning-fast pace, circulating through his meridians throughout his body.

Nine Dragons War Sovereign, Roaming Dragon Transformation!

Without any hesitation, Wyatt circulated his cultivation technique, closed his eyes, and focused on cultivating.

Unbeknownst to him, three 'realm fragments' appeared in his hand.

If a second person were here, they would be amazed to find that the three realm fragments in Wyatt's hand were completely different.

Holding three different realm fragments, comprehending three different kinds of insights, and without any pressure.

If this were to spread, it would shock all cultivators across the Cloud Skies Continent!

For in the long history of the Cloud Skies Continent, there had never been such a 'human' or 'demon beast.'

Let alone using three different realm fragments to comprehend three different insights.

Even someone using two different realm fragments to comprehend two insights had never appeared in the history of the Cloud Skies Continent.

"Three realms..."

Wyatt Barnes's mind was deeply immersed in three different 'realm fragments,' fully sensing their mysteries, intending to master them in order to enhance his own understanding of the 'realm.'

At the same time, the Origin Force within his body was not idle. Under the dual effect of 'Nirvana Pill' and 'Red Phosphorus Fruit', it was improving at a very fast rate.

While Wyatt Barnes was cultivating, the whole Gagnon Family was in upheaval.

No.

Not just the Gagnon Family.

Centered around the vast residence controlled by the Gagnon Family, a shocking piece of news spread, astonishing everyone who heard it.

The Gagnon Family, after issuing a reward with amazing remuneration last time, had issued another reward with incredible remuneration.

A thousand miles north of the Gagnon Family's residence was a small village.

Though small, the village was extremely bustling.

Simply because, this village, within ten thousand miles north of the Gagnon Family's residence, was the only place that had an 'inn.'

Despite there being only one inn, it was always packed with people and extremely lively.

"Hey! Have you heard? The Gagnon Family has issued another reward with amazing remuneration."

A burly man who had just entered the inn and sat down at a table grinned as he spoke.

"The Gagnon Family? A reward?"

His words immediately attracted the attention of many people.

Most of these glances were filled with curiosity.

"What remuneration? What reward?"

Soon, someone couldn't help but ask.

"Hmph!"

Before the burly man could respond, someone snorted disdainfully, "The Gagnon Family's reward this time, though it promises amazing remuneration... in terms of difficulty, it definitely won't be much less than the last reward they issued."

"The last reward issued by the Gagnon Family, I heard about it too... it was to find a plant. However, that plant has extremely unique characteristics; I've not heard of anyone seeing such a plant before."

"For just an ordinary plant, the Gagnon Family even promised a 'Grade One Spiritual Weapon' and ten 'Grade One Return-Life Pills'... Many people in Northumberland were stirred and went mad searching for that plant."

...

Soon, many others joined the conversation.

"I don't know if the Gagnon Family is just playing a joke with this 'reward'... I know many people, including adventurers who have traveled far and wide, but none of them have ever seen that 'plant.'"

Suddenly, a middle-aged man spoke.

"Hmph! The Gagnon Family is one of the two most powerful clans in Northumberland, and a distinguished family of alchemists... Why would they play tricks on us for nothing?"

Someone quickly rebutted the middle-aged man.

"The Gagnon Family has a thousand-year heritage in Northumberland, and their reputation has always been good; they wouldn't trick us."

Many agreed.

"What's the reward this time from the Gagnon Family?"

Someone asked the burly man who had sparked the conversation.

"Ha! Speaking of it, the Gagnon Family's reward this time is much simpler than the previous one," the burly man said as he drank.

"Oh?"

Hearing the burly man's words, many people became interested.

They remembered that this burly man had said earlier that the Gagnon Family's reward this time also had amazing remuneration.

A remuneration called 'amazing' must be something good, enough to get them excited.

"This time, the Gagnon Family publicly seeks any number of spiritual fruits for consumption by warriors in the Transforming Void Realm, no matter the type."

The burly man didn't play coy and stated outright.

"Just this?"

The words of the burly man made everyone present momentarily stunned; they found it somewhat unbelievable.

In their view.

Spiritual fruits for the consumption by warriors in the Transforming Void Realm, though precious, were not very rare.

Even some of them had consumed such fruits recently.

"That's right, just this," the burly man nodded.

"What remuneration did the Gagnon Family promise?"

This was what the people present cared about the most.

"The Gagnon Family has declared that any warrior who presents a spiritual fruit for consumption by Transforming Void Realm warriors will receive a 'Grade One Return-Life Pill.'"

The burly man said.

As soon as the words of the burly man finished, there was a dead silence on the scene.

After a moment, the people present regained their composure, their faces showing sarcastic smiles.

Chapter 1088: Sitting at the Bottom of a Well and Looking at the Sky

"Grade One Return-Life Pill?"

Soon, someone with a face full of derision spoke, "What a move by the 'Gagnon Family', playing such a wishful game! A mere 'Grade One Return-Life Pill' to exchange for a spiritual fruit consumed by a Transforming Void Realm warrior?"

Although the Grade One Return-Life Pill was precious, if its value was truly assessed, it was still far from comparable to the spiritual fruit consumed by 'Transforming Void Realm warriors'.

This was common knowledge.

"The Gagnon Family actually announced such a 'reward'... Do they really think everyone else is a fool?"

"It's probably only a fool who would trade a spiritual fruit consumed by Transforming Void Realm warriors for a mere Grade One Return-Life Pill!"

"A spiritual fruit for Transforming Void Realm warriors, even if taken to the 'black market' of Northumberland City, could be exchanged for at least three Grade One Return-Life Pills!"

...

The tavern was filled with an uproar, as everyone felt that the 'Northumberland Gagnon Family' issuing such a reward was simply cheating people.

"Big guy, a mere 'Grade One Return-Life Pill' is your idea of an amazing reward?"

Someone looked at the burly man and said with ridicule.

"The Grade One Return-Life Pill, precious indeed, is still not considered 'amazing'."

Another spoke to the burly man.

For a moment, the burly man became the target of everyone's arrows.

"Hmph!"

Faced with the cold jeers and mocking comments of the people in the tavern, the burly man snorted with disdain, "What do you understand? If it was just an ordinary 'Grade One Return-Life Pill', would I call it an amazing reward?"

The burly man's voice overwhelmed the jeers and mocking comments in the tavern, causing the crowd to involuntarily pause.

"What do you mean by that?"

"That's right! What do you mean by just an ordinary 'Grade One Return-Life Pill'... Could it be that you are implying the 'Grade One Return-Life Pill' offered by the Northumberland Gagnon Family is not ordinary?"

"Hmph! Including the Northumberland Gagnon Family, aren't all the Grade One Return-Life Pills circulating in the entire South Outlands made by the hand of Chairman Keller of the South Outlands Alchemists Association?"

...

Many people voiced their opinions, refuting the burly man.

"Grade One Return-Life Pills circulating in the South Outlands all come from the Chairman of the South Outlands Alchemists Association?"

The burly man laughed, a brilliant smile, "I say... aren't you all a bit behind the times? Haven't you heard that the Gagnon Family recently added a 'Grade One Alchemist Elder'?"

"I remember now! The 'First Honorary Minister Elder' of the Gagnon Family, widely discussed just a while ago, is indeed a 'Grade One Alchemist'."

"With their own 'Grade One Alchemist' now, the Gagnon Family no longer needs to seek Chairman Keller to craft Grade One Pill Medicine."

...

Soon, some people caught on, only then remembering that the Gagnon Family already had their own 'Grade One Alchemist'.

"The Gagnon Family has a Grade One Alchemist now?"

Immediately, several people who had only recently ventured out showed shock, hearing this news for the first time.

"Hmph! So what if the Gagnon Family has their own 'Grade One Alchemist'? Can the 'Grade One Return-Life Pills' he crafts really be better than those crafted by Chairman Keller of the South Outlands Alchemists Association?"

"Chairman Keller's crafted Grade One Pill Medicine often shows a purity 'above seventy percent' ... It is no easy task to craft a Pill Medicine better than his."

"That's right! Even if the Gagnon Family has their own Grade One Alchemist, they couldn't possibly surpass Chairman Keller, let alone craft Pill Medicine better than what Chairman Keller crafts."

...

Again, many spoke, their words brimming with high regard for Chairman Keller of the South Outlands Alchemists Association.

"Frog in a well!"

The burly man looked coldly at the group in front of him that looked down on the Gagnon Family's 'Grade One Alchemist Elder', slowly opening his mouth to speak, articulating each word.

His voice resonated, easily drowning out the discussions of those present.

For a moment, everyone's gaze again shifted onto him.

Many looked as if they could breathe fire from their eyes.

"Frog in a well? I'd like to hear from you, how exactly are we 'frogs in a well'?"

A middle-aged man, enraged, stood up from his seat, glaring at the burly man and spoke sternly, "Today, if you can't justify your claim, I will make your blood spill three feet!"

No sooner had the words fallen than the oppressive aura of the middle-aged man swept out, bringing immense pressure to those around him.

"Void... A peak warrior of the Void Realm!"

Soon someone couldn't help but exclaim.

At that moment, those present looked at the middle-aged man with fear, seeing him as a flood beast, as if worried he would consume them.

However, their gaze quickly shifted from the middle-aged man, who possessed 'peak Void Realm' strength, back onto the burly man.

"This guy, he's probably in for it now."

"If he can't justify himself today, this peak Void Realm warrior surely won't let him go!"

"How dare he say we're 'frogs in a well', offending everyone right from the start, he's simply courting death!"

"I'm curious to see just what he can come up with."

...

The crowd was abuzz with discussion, all convinced that the burly man was going to be unlucky.

After sensing the clearly powerful aura emanating from the middle-aged man, revealing him as a pinnacle expert of the Void Realm, a look of apprehension couldn't help but appear in the burly man's eyes.

But soon, the apprehension vanished from his eyes, replaced by a look of fearless confidence.

"You go on and on saying that 'Elder Barnes' of the Gagnon Family is inferior to 'Chairman Keller'... but tell me, have you ever witnessed Elder Barnes himself crafting Pill Medicines, or have you gotten your hands on a 'Grade One Pill Medicine' crafted by him to compare with those made by Chairman Keller?"

The burly man looked around at the group of people as he asked.

The crowd was taken aback, and nobody voiced an answer.

While many present were hearing for the first time about an 'Elder Barnes' from the Gagnon Family,

it was easy for them now to connect 'Elder Barnes' to the Gagnon Family's 'Grade One Alchemist Elder' in their minds.

Thus, no one found it odd.

However, when it came to the question posed by the burly man, they collectively maintained a tacit silence.

Not a single one of them had met the Gagnon Family's 'Grade One Alchemist Elder,' let alone witnessed him crafting Pill Medicines.

Nor had they come into contact with the 'Grade One Pill Medicine' he crafted, so they had nothing to use as a basis for comparison.

"What's the matter? Cat got your tongues?"

The burly man let out a cold laugh, then said with biting sarcasm, "You know nothing, yet you blabber about how 'Elder Barnes' is this or that. Ridiculous!"

The words of the burly man caused the crowd's faces to turn various shades of green and white.

"Hmph! The way you speak, the Pill Medicine skills of that 'Grade One Alchemist Elder' from the Gagnon Family must be quite high... I'd like to hear just how miraculous the 'Grade One Return-Life Pills' he's crafted are, and why you're so highly reverent of them."

"That's right! There's a saying, 'All talk and no action is a charade.' If you're so capable, tell us about the 'purity' of the Grade One Return-Life Pills crafted by that Gagnon Family elder!"

"The Gagnon Family dares to brazenly offer it in exchange for a 'Transforming Void Realm' martial artist's spiritual fruit...could it be that the purity of the Grade One Return-Life Pills they've crafted is above 'seventy-five percent'?"

...

The crowd quickly recovered their spirits, unwilling to be outdone, and started questioning the burly man.

In their view,

even a single pill, whose value matched the spiritual fruit consumed by Transforming Void Realm martial artists—a 'Grade One Return-Life Pill'—should have a purity of at least 'seventy-five percent.'

Because only the Return-Life Pills with a purity above 'seventy-five percent' could surpass the effectiveness of those with 'seventy percent' purity or less, jumping to a higher level of potency.

Only such Return-Life Pills could be of equivalent value to a spiritual fruit consumed by a Transforming Void Realm martial artist.

Moreover, deep down they didn't believe that the Grade One Alchemist Elder of the Gagnon Family could craft Return-Life Pills with a purity above 'seventy-five percent.'

Across the Cloud Skies Continent, not to mention in the 'Outer Land' where they were located, even in the 'Inner Land,' Grade One alchemists capable of crafting Grade One Pill Medicines with a purity above 'seventy-five percent' were as rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn horns.

"A purity above 'seventy-five percent'?"

Upon hearing the crowd's words, the burly man first paused, then burst into a loud, uncontrollable laughter, his emotion seemingly completely unhinged, with his laughter lingering for a long time.

"Ha ha ha ha..."

"Ha ha ha ha... ha ha ha ha ha..."

His roaring laughter filled the inn, darkening the faces of everyone inside even more.

"Have you laughed enough?"

Finally, the stern-voiced middle-aged man with the strength of the Void Realm's pinnacle spoke, his voice booming like thunder, overpowering the burly man's laughter.

Only then did the burly man's laughter come to a halt.

"What are you laughing at?"

The middle-aged man's eyes flashed coldly as he asked solemnly.

"I'm laughing at their narrow-mindedness," the burly man said, glancing at the middle-aged man with a hint of apprehension, then turned impolitely to the others.

"Then I'd like to hear how they're being narrow-minded?"

While the crowd was visibly angry, the middle-aged man fixed his gaze on the burly man and asked deliberately, word by word.

"Do you think that when the Gagnon Family offers a 'Grade One Return-Life Pill' for a spiritual fruit consumed by the Transforming Void Realm, it is the person making the exchange with the spiritual fruit at a disadvantage?"

"Do you think that only a Return-Life Pill with a purity of 'seventy-five percent' or above can match the value of a spiritual fruit consumed by a Transforming Void Realm martial artist...is that what you believe?"

The burly man surveyed the surroundings, posing two consecutive questions to the people inside the inn.

Though the crowd didn't speak, their looks undeniably confirmed this belief.

"Good."

Seeing that no one denied it, the burly man's eyes grew sharp, and he shared the information he had learned without holding back, "Then let me tell you... the 'Grade One Return-Life Pills' that the Gagnon Family has offered for the spiritual fruit of Transforming Void Realm martial artists...according to the news passed from the Gagnon Family, have a purity of 'ninety percent' or more!"

Ninety percent!

Upon his utterance, the already quiet inn fell into a dead silence.

Even the steely middle-aged man who had been glaring at the burly man stood rooted to the spot, as if he had turned to stone, and could not return to his senses for a long time.

Chapter 1089: Seventh-Order Transforming Void Realm!

"90 percent!"

"90 percent!"

...

In the minds of the people inside the tavern, the robust man's voice echoed, stunning them into confusion, unable to recover for quite some time.

"A Grade One Return-Life Pill with 'ninety percent' purity?"

Soon, someone was the first to react, looking at the robust man and grunting, "You're not just bluffing, are you?"

"A Grade One Pill Medicine with 'ninety percent' purity? Even those 'Grade One alchemists' from the inland, I'm afraid, may not be able to produce it."

"More than 'ninety percent' purity? What a joke!"

"Whether you believe it or not, I certainly don't."

"I don't believe it either!"

...

One by one, the people in the tavern came back to their senses, all talking at once.

Hearing them, it was clear that none believed what the robust man had said.

Now, the Transforming Void Realm peak powerhouse who stood before the robust man also stared at him fiercely, his imposing aura sweeping out once again, pressing down on the robust man.

"Wow!!"

Unprepared, the robust man was overwhelmed by this force, causing his blood to surge and spit out a mouthful of congested blood, his face also turning extremely pale.

However, even though he was shaken, he dared not show any anger, fearing that it might enrage the Transforming Void Realm peak powerhouse in front of him. If the other party killed him, then he would have nowhere to seek justice.

"Is what you said true?"

The Transforming Void Realm peak powerhouse spoke, asking in a deep voice.

"Of course, it's true!"

Although the other party had hurt him, the robust man dared not fail to answer. He hurriedly said, "That 'bounty' came from the Gagnon Family, exchanging a Grade One Return-Life Pill with 'ninety percent' purity for a spirit fruit consumed by a Transforming Void Realm warrior!"

Upon hearing these words, the people in the tavern quieted down again.

They could tell.

The robust man did not seem to be lying.

"The Gagnon Family has been an ancient family in Northumberland for ten thousand years; logically, they wouldn't make false promises to deceive people."

After a moment, someone muttered.

"Indeed! For an ancient family like the Gagnon Family, reputation is of utmost importance... If they didn't have a Grade One Return-Life Pill with 'ninety percent' purity or higher, they probably wouldn't offer such 'compensation.'"

Many nodded in agreement.

In Northumberland, whether it was the alchemist family 'Gagnon Family' or the Artifact Refiner family 'Yez Family,' both were ancient families with a ten-thousand-year inheritance.

Both families had always valued their reputation highly, enjoying a good 'reputation' in Northumberland.

"That being said... but a Grade One Return-Life Pill with 'ninety percent' purity or above is still too exaggerated, isn't it?"

Someone bitterly smiled.

"Yes, it's too exaggerated!"

"As far as I know, even the 'Grade One alchemist' who established the Gagnon Family ten thousand years ago, recognized as the most outstanding alchemist in Northumberland throughout these ten thousand years... The highest purity of the Grade One Pill Medicine he produced was also about 'eighty percent.'"

"I've heard this too; the rumor goes like this."

...

The people in the tavern discussed animatedly, most still finding it somewhat unbelievable.

"If the Gagnon Family can indeed produce a Grade One Return-Life Pill with 'ninety percent' purity or above... The one who created such a pill must be the 'Grade One alchemist elder' who recently joined the Gagnon Family."

Suddenly, someone couldn't help speculating.

"I heard that the 'Grade One alchemist' is just a young man under thirty!"

Another chimed in.

Yet as soon as these words left his mouth, it was like throwing a stone in a pond, creating ripples.

"What?!"

"Under thirty years old?"

"A Grade One alchemist under thirty?"

...

For a moment, the entire tavern was in an uproar.

Most people present had only heard that the Gagnon Family had recently gained a 'Grade One alchemist elder' but did not know that this 'Grade One alchemist elder' was a young man under thirty.

A 'Grade One alchemist' under thirty, as well as a Grade One Return-Life Pill with 'ninety percent' purity or above, both were astonishing to the core.

"If you want to verify the truth of all this, it's actually not difficult... Just bring a spirit fruit consumed by a Transforming Void Realm warrior to the Gagnon Family to exchange, and everything will be clear."

Soon, someone suggested.

"That's right."

Others nodded in agreement.

Whether it's a donkey or a horse, you have to take it out for a walk to find out.

Gagnon Family mansion.

"Crackling..."

In the master bedroom of a spacious mansion on the east side, suddenly there was a crisp sound of bone friction, particularly pleasing to the ear.

It was a young man who had just gotten out of bed stretching his limbs, the sound coming from within his body.

The young man, dressed in purple robes, had sharp eyebrows and starry eyes, exceptionally handsome.

Currently, a faint smile was emerging on his handsome face.

If there was a second person here, seeing the smile on his face, they would undoubtedly feel warmth like a spring breeze.

"The bottleneck leading to the 'Level Eight of Transforming Void Realm' has emerged... I just need one more spirit fruit consumed by a Transforming Void Realm warrior, and I will definitely be able to break through to 'Level Eight of Transforming Void Realm'!"

"After breaking through to 'Transforming Void Realm Level Eight,' only one spirit fruit is needed to break through to 'Transforming Void Realm Level Nine'!"

The young man in purple raised his eyebrows and muttered to himself.

This purple-clad young man was none other than Wyatt Barnes, who, after consuming the Red Phosphorus Fruit, successfully completed his breakthrough.

"However, my realm has not improved at all during these past few days."

Wyatt stretched out and opened his hands while muttering to himself.

Suddenly, Wyatt's hands shook and clenched into fists!

Boom!

In an instant, a milky-white flame surged from his body, fiercely rising to the sky as if to pierce through the ceiling of his room.

As the milky-white flame ascended, rolling waves of air swept around, shaking the furniture in the room as if there had been an earthquake.

Whoosh!

At the same time, above Wyatt's head in the void, the power of heaven and earth stirred and then converged into a wondrous spectacle.

In a moment, the phantoms of a thousand ancient Horned Dragons appeared, winding down vividly.

With just Origin Force, comparable to the power of a thousand ancient Horned Dragons.

This was the hallmark of a 'Seventh-Order Transforming Void Realm Martial Artist.'

"In the past, when I used the 'Emperor Grade Spirit Sword,' exerting my full strength... my power was comparable to that of three thousand five hundred ancient Horned Dragons!" Wyatt recalled.

"Not long ago, my 'sword realm' escalated from 'Seventh-Order High-Level' to 'Level Eight High-Level,' and my power increased accordingly, comparable to three thousand eight hundred ancient Horned Dragons!"

"Now, my cultivation has broken through from 'Transforming Void Realm Sixth Level' to 'Transforming Void Realm Seventh Level'... Because there's a 'watershed' between them, my Origin Force underwent transformation, increasing by a whole two hundred ancient Horned Dragons' strength!"

"Plus the 'one-fold' amplification power of the Emperor Grade Spirit Sword... when I unleash all my techniques and exert full strength now, it's comparable to four thousand two hundred

ancient Horned Dragons' strength!" At this moment, Wyatt had a new understanding of his own strength.

"Now, even an ordinary 'Void Realm Pinnacle Expert' can be defeated by me!"

Somehow, a confident and radiant smile appeared on Wyatt's face.

"I wonder how Winnie is now in terms of controlling her power."

With that thought, Wyatt stepped out of his room and headed to the backyard.

"Uh? Winnie is not here."

Upon reaching the backyard, Wyatt did not see Winnie Romero and learned from a maid that Winnie had not been to the backyard since the day before yesterday and had stayed in her room.

"Elder Barnes."

As Wyatt was about to leave the backyard, he saw the maid Yesenia rushing over hurriedly.

"Uh?"

Wyatt looked at Yesenia, puzzled.

"Elder Barnes, Cao Cao... Cao Cao is waiting for you in the hall."

Yesenia finally reached near Wyatt, out of breath as she spoke.

"Cao Cao?"

Wyatt was initially taken aback and then realized—the 'Cao Cao' that Yesenia referred to was Randy Gagnon, the head of the Gagnon Family.

The corners of his mouth twitched imperceptibly.

"Could it be that the head has put a bounty on the spirit fruits for Transforming Void Realm fighters?"

Wyatt's eyes shone brightly, and he hurried out of the backyard to the great hall.

"I wonder how many spirit fruits the head has put a bounty on for Transforming Void Realm fighters; if there are two I haven't used yet, that would be awesome... With some time, my cultivation could make a breakthrough directly to 'Transforming Void Realm Level Nine'!"

While on his way, Wyatt thought this to himself.

Soon, Wyatt arrived at the great hall and met Randy Gagnon, the head of the Gagnon Family.

"Elder Barnes."

Upon seeing Wyatt in private, Randy respectfully bowed.

He was clear in his mind.

The young man before him, as long as nothing untoward happened on his path, was sure to become a 'Martial Emperor' in the future.

For this reason, he did not dare neglect him.

"Head, your reason for seeking me out, is it because there's news of the 'bounty'?"

Wyatt asked, barely containing his excitement.

"Yes." Randy nodded.

"How many?"

Wyatt's eyes lit up and he couldn't contain his excitement any longer, asking eagerly.

"What do you mean by how many?"

However, hearing Wyatt's question, Randy was taken aback and looked at Wyatt with a stunned expression, not understanding why he would ask that.

"Isn't there news about the bounty on the spirit fruits?"

Wyatt was also taken aback.

Hearing Wyatt's question, Randy finally realized and said, "Elder Barnes, it is not the bounty on 'spirit fruits' that has news; it is the very first bounty you had me announce that has received a response."

"The very first bounty?"

Wyatt was initially slow to react, but in a blink, he remembered and asked eagerly with excitement, "Head, do you mean... there is news about the 'Soul-setting Grass'?"

Soul-setting Grass!

It was indeed a heaven-sent treasure that could help Winnie Romero recover her 'memories.'

In Wyatt's eyes, the Soul-setting Grass was undoubtedly much more important than the spirit fruits meant for Transforming Void Realm fighters.

The latter was plentiful in the Cloud Skies Continent and not difficult to find.

The former, however, was a rare encounter.

Chapter 1090: Let's Go Together

"Yes."

Randy Gagnon nodded, "Today, someone visited our Gagnon Family, claiming to have seen 'Soul-setting Grass' in a remote mountain range."

"Did this person bring the 'Soul-setting Grass' with them? Where are they now?"

Hearing Randy's words, Wyatt Barnes's eyes shone brightly, and his breathing became involuntarily rapid,

"The person didn't bring the 'Soul-setting Grass'."

Facing an expectant Wyatt, Randy, however, shook his head.

His words were like a bucket of cold water splashed onto Wyatt, snapping him fully awake.

"They didn't bring the Soul-setting Grass?"

Wyatt frowned, a look of confusion on his face.

"Mm."

Randy nodded, "According to that person, there's a 'beast' that can transform into a human, guarding the 'Soul-setting Grass' in that mountain range... He couldn't defeat the 'beast', so he couldn't take the 'Soul-setting Grass'."

"A beast?"

Wyatt's frown deepened, "Is that 'beast' very strong?"

Soul-setting Grass, considered a rare treasure throughout the Cloud Skies Continent, it wasn't surprising to find a powerful guardian beast protecting its growth.

"According to that person, the beast's strength is about at the 'peak of the Void Realm'."

Randy nonchalantly continued, "A beast at the peak of the Void Realm is nothing much... I plan to send Elder Kylen with him to that mountain range to retrieve the 'Soul-setting Grass'."

Wyatt certainly knew who Elder Kylen Randy referred to was.

One of the Three Great Protectors of the Gagnon Family, Kylen Gagnon.

Back when Wyatt first arrived at the Gagnon Family, he had a brief encounter with Kylen.

But after joining the Gagnon Family, he hadn't seen him again.

"However, I haven't sent Elder Kylen with the person to retrieve the 'Soul-setting Grass' yet... to my knowledge, many herbal medicines are best processed into medicine as soon as they are picked; only then can their full medicinal properties be completely harnessed."

Randy spoke of his concerns, "Elder Barnes, is there such a requirement for the 'Soul-setting Grass'? If not, I'll immediately go find Elder Kylen, to have him accompany that person and bring back the 'Soul-setting Grass'."

"It's normal for you to be concerned. However, what you're talking about are just ordinary herbs... Soul-setting Grass can't be mentioned in the same breath as ordinary herbs."

Wyatt explained.

Soul-setting Grass, like the Immortal Spirit Grass he had obtained in the secret stash of the Martial Emperor long ago, was not a common herb.

Of course, Immortal Spirit Grass was more precious than Soul-setting Grass.

Immortal Spirit Grass was a legendary herb that not even the Reincarnated Martial Emperor had seen in two lifetimes.

On the other hand, the Reincarnated Martial Emperor had indeed seen Soul-setting Grass a few times.

"In that case, I'll go find Elder Kylen right now."

After speaking, Randy turned to leave.

"Family Head!"

Just at that moment, Wyatt stopped Randy.

"Elder Barnes, is there something else? If it's about the 'Soul-setting Grass', rest assured, with Elder Kylen in action, acquiring the 'Soul-setting Grass' should be an easy task."

Randy first looked at Wyatt with confusion, then reassured him.

"Family Head, I don't doubt Elder Kylen's strength... I just want to join Elder Kylen in retrieving the 'Soul-setting Grass'."

Wyatt revealed his plan.

He had stayed at the Gagnon Family residence lately and spent the previous days in cultivation, so he wanted to go out and clear his mind.

Of course, what was most important was that he wanted to see if there were other treasures where the Soul-setting Grass grew.

"According to the memories of the Reincarnated Martial Emperor, 'Soul-setting Grass' is extremely rare. The place where it grows must have excellent conditions... Such an environment is conducive to the growth of many precious resources."

Wyatt's heart stirred, his eyes sparkled, and his face showed anticipation.

In his view, his luck had been very good since coming to the Gagnon Family.

First, he obtained the 'Soul-stabilizing Root' in the Gagnon Family, and now there was news of the 'Soul-setting Grass'.

This time, going with Kylen Gagnon to retrieve the 'Soul-setting Grass', he might indeed come across other valuable treasures.

"Elder Barnes, you want to go too?"

Randy was taken aback.

"Is there a problem?"

Wyatt asked.

"Not much of a problem... I was just concerned about Elder Barnes's 'safety'. Unfortunately, just a few days ago, Elder Rupert and Elder Elio had to leave for some business, and they won't be back for another half a month."

Randy spoke with a look of concern.

"Isn't there Elder Kylen?"

As a sense of warmth rose in his heart, Wyatt shook his head and chuckled, "With Elder Kylen around, do you worry that I'll encounter trouble? Besides, in this 'Northumberland', who would dare to casually provoke the 'Gagnon Family'?"

Wyatt felt that Randy was worrying unnecessarily.

However, he could understand it.

After all, in Randy's eyes, Wyatt was not just an alchemist capable of refining 'Grade One' Pill Medicine with a purity exceeding 'ninety percent', but also a future 'Martial Emperor'.

He couldn't afford to take any risks.

"Indeed."

Hearing Wyatt's response, Randy nodded with some embarrassment, realizing he had been overly concerned.

In Northumberland, only the Yez Family was on par with the Gagnon Family, while other second-tier forces were not even enough to fill gaps between their teeth.

Those second-tier forces each only had one 'Martial Emperor' and none were as strong as any one of the Three Great Protectors of the Gagnon Family.

"I'll go with you."

Just as Wyatt and Randy were about to leave the grand hall, a cool voice reached their ears, causing them both to shiver involuntarily.

When they turned their heads to look, they discovered a figure standing not far away, like a sprite emerging from the flames.

This was a woman in red, with a beauty capable of toppling empires. The only flaw was that her face seemed to be covered with a layer of frost, and her whole person exuded an icy aura that repelled others from a thousand miles away.

Even the short sentence she had just spoken seemed to have the power to freeze the air.

"Winnie!"

With just one glance, Wyatt Barnes recognized the woman in red and asked in surprise, "Why have you come out?"

"I will go with you."

Winnie Romero did not answer Wyatt Barnes's question, repeating her previous statement with the same indifferent tone, but it was slightly less icy.

"If you want to go, then let's go together."

Wyatt Barnes smiled.

"Mhm."

Upon receiving Wyatt Barnes's consent, Winnie Romero, still radiating a cold demeanor, propelled herself forward and followed Wyatt Barnes like a shadow.

"You must be Miss Winnie, right? I'm Randy Gagnon, head of the Gagnon Family."

Randy Gagnon greeted Winnie Romero with a smile.

In the past, he had seen Winnie Romero, but she had been lying in an "ice coffin" and had no interaction with him.

Now, seeing Winnie Romero in person, he dared not neglect her.

For he had learned from the maid by Wyatt Barnes's side about some matters concerning Winnie Romero and knew that the Soul-stabilizing Root and Soul-setting Grass Elder Barnes was looking for were for her.

It indicated how much Elder Barnes valued this woman, so naturally, he dared not show any negligence.

This woman could very possibly become the woman of a 'Martial Emperor'!

Not someone he could afford to offend.

However, in the face of Randy Gagnon's friendly gesture, Winnie Romero did not acknowledge him at all; she did not even raise an eyebrow, completely ignoring his presence.

For a moment, Randy Gagnon felt somewhat embarrassed.

"Elder Barnes, let's go find Elder Kylen."

To cover his embarrassment, Randy Gagnon quickly greeted Wyatt, then led the way out of the estate.

"Winnie, let's go too."

Wyatt Barnes called to Winnie Romero and followed Randy Gagnon.

Winnie Romero did not respond and silently followed by Wyatt Barnes's side, much like his shadow.

Soon, under Randy Gagnon's lead, Wyatt Barnes met Kylen Gagnon, one of the Three Great Protectors of the Gagnon Family.

"Elder Barnes."

Seeing Wyatt Barnes again, Kylen Gagnon greeted him enthusiastically.

In the depths of the old man's eyes, there was a mix of respect for Wyatt Barnes.

He had learned a few days ago that Elder Barnes could refine Grade One Pill Medicine with a purity of 'over ninety percent,' and he held the utmost admiration for him.

"Elder Kylen."

Wyatt Barnes also greeted Kylen Gagnon with a smile.

"This must be Miss Winnie, right?"

Kylen Gagnon's gaze quickly fell on Winnie Romero, who stood beside Wyatt Barnes, and he greeted her with a slight smile.

Seeing this, Randy Gagnon's lips twitched slightly, forming a sly smile.

In his view,

Winnie Romero would ignore Elder Kylen just as she had ignored him, and Elder Kylen was destined to be slighted.

However, the smirk at the corner of his mouth quickly solidified.

"You, are very strong."

To his astonishment, Winnie Romero spoke! She spoke to Kylen Gagnon!

The scene before him completely shattered his inner delusion.

"Thank you for the compliment, Miss Winnie."

Hearing Winnie Romero's words, Kylen Gagnon replied politely, clearly aware of the deep relationship between Winnie Romero and Wyatt Barnes.

"Elder Kylen, this time you will accompany Elder Barnes and Miss Winnie on a trip..."

At this point, Randy Gagnon turned to Kylen Gagnon and clearly explained the situation.

"No problem!"

Kylen Gagnon agreed immediately, then turned to Wyatt Barnes, "Congratulations to Elder Barnes for finding the thing you're looking for."

"The item is not yet in hand."

Wyatt Barnes gently shook his head, then added, "We should set off as soon as possible, lest there be any changes."

"I can leave now."

Kylen Gagnon said.

"I will take you to that person, so he can lead you to the 'Soul-setting Grass.'"

Hearing the urgency in Wyatt Barnes's tone, Randy Gagnon hesitated no longer and got straight to the point, taking Wyatt and the rest to the place where the informant had been settled.

Before long, a middle-aged man with a short stature, sleazy appearance, and a missing front tooth appeared before Wyatt Barnes.

"Transforming Void Realm third layer."

Wyatt Barnes's spiritual power instantly probed the cultivation level of the sleazy middle-aged man.

"Wow! A beauty!"

The sleazy middle-aged man's gaze swept over Wyatt Barnes, Randy Gagnon, and Kylen Gagnon, and once it landed on Winnie Romero, it no longer moved, and he exclaimed loudly.

"Look again and I'll gouge out your eyes."

Winnie Romero opened her vermilion lips and her voice sounded as though it emanated from an extremely cold ice cave.