Martial 3841

Chapter 3841 – Life Is Hard, And I Have No Choice

However, the scorching heat was a little too severe, and the discomfort could only be resisted by exerting some power. No wonder the people in the Worker's Room would hide inside their houses every time they came back to rest. Yang Kai initially thought that they were just cold, but it was not the case; they were just too tired from working in the orchard, and they really needed to rest and recuperate.

Because the few newcomers knew nothing about the orchard, Zhou Zheng guided everyone. First, he explained the details of caring for the Fire Spirit Fruit Trees, which Yang Kai was provided by Dié You previously, and the information was more or less the same and actually even more detailed than Zhou Zheng's.

Judging from the doubtless expressions of the other people, it was obvious that they had all gathered this information beforehand.

Zhou Zheng even brought them around to observe and emulate how some other people took care of the fruit trees, even pointing out some details that needed attention.

After wandering around for a long time, Zhou Zheng led the few people into the depths of the orchard and assigned them to different places.

Yang Kai was allocated three acres of land, which was planted with a total of thirty Fire Spirit Fruit Trees. Before leaving, Zhou Zheng handed him an Access Token, and left Yang Kai instructions to take good care of it, and then continued to lead the others away.

Standing in the middle of the small orchard plot, Yang Kai took a deep breath which scalded his stomach and lungs, but also filled him with energy. He was going to live here for a month. It was never fun to work for others, but what piqued Yang Kai's interest was the Fire Spirit Fruit Trees themselves.

If he had an opportunity, he could take one into his own medicine garden, and it would certainly bring him a lot of convenience when refining Open Heaven Pills in the future.

Each fruit tree had a fluffy crown, and red fist-sized fruits hung all over the branches of each of these ten meter tall trees. Yang Kai circled around his allocated three acres of land with his hands behind his back.

Dié You mentioned that every Spirit Fruit in the orchard was recorded precisely, and even missing one would be a big deal. Naturally, he had to keep count carefully.

It only took a short while to finish the job, and the number was consistent with what was recorded in the token. Yang Kai stood under a fruit tree, glanced left and right to make sure that there was no one around, before stretching out his hand and pulling a branch towards him. There were three Fire Spirit Fruits hanging on the branch. He took a sniff and the invigorating scent rushed to his mind, immediately sending a shock to his senses.

[So this is how a Fire Spirit Fruit smells like... I wonder what it would taste like,] Yang Kai smacked his lips, suddenly feeling a little hungry.

However, according to Dié You, it would take several dozen years for a Fire Spirit Fruit to ripen, and these fruits in front of him looked like they were still a little short, which meant that it would be a few years yet.

Due to his unfamiliarity with the task, Yang Kai was only allocated three acres of land. Other elderly Workers had at least several dozen or hundreds of acres of land, or even more.

There were at least a thousand people living in the Worker's Room in the entire Fire Spirit Land, so with some calculation, the estimated area of this orchard was clearly quite extensive.

And that was just Fire Spirit Land. Seven Wonders Land also had six other Spirit Lands.

Gently loosening the branch in his hand, Yang Kai sat cross-legged under the fruit tree, holding the Jade Token Zhou Zheng handed over to him, refining it silently.

This Jade Token was the key to taking care of the fruit trees. There were various Arrays in the Fire Spirit Fruit orchard, and these Spirit Arrays were controlled by this token. Nothing could be done without it.

One even needed to use the token to enter or leave the orchard.

To the Workers of Seven Wonders Land, this token was more valuable than their lives. Once lost, the consequences would be disastrous.

While he was refining the token, he suddenly heard the sound of rustling footsteps. Yang Kai opened his eyes to look, surprised by the arrival of the visitor, "It's you!"

The newcomer too, widened his eyes, and looked around in amazement, "Is this piece of land assigned to you?"

"En," Yang Kai nodded, got up and smiled, "Why are you here?"

The person turned around and pointed with a laugh, "My land is beside yours."

Yang Kai laughed too, "What a coincidence. We are neighbours in the Worker's Room, and we are also neighbours here. It's fate, Old Sir."

The visitor was none other than the old man who stayed one house away from Yang Kai. He was the one who asked for rewards when Yang Kai wanted to inquire information from him previously. Yang Kai ignored him and left, and they did not talk to each other for the next few days. Who knew that their orchard plots would actually be next to each other too.

The old man looked up and down at Yang Kai, his expression a little weird, and then he shook his head and sighed.

Yang Kai asked with a scowl, "What does Old Sir mean?"

"By the looks of it, you still don't know what's going on, but you're facing imminent disaster!" The old man pointed at Yang Kai with a heartbroken expression.

Yang Kai laughed angrily, "Old Sir, you and I have only met once before, and we don't know each other that well, yet today you came here to my site and make such an alarming statement. Does Old Sir think I'm an easy target to be bullied just because I am new here? Or have I offended you in some way?"

The old man shook his head, "You didn't offend me. Even if you offended this Old Master, what can this Old Master do to you? Everyone is a Worker in the Worker's Room, and no one is better than anyone, right?" He sighed again, "You didn't offend this Old Master, but have you offended someone else?"

Yang Kai was speechless, "I've only been here for three days, who can I offend?"

The old man wondered, "Then why were you assigned to this land? Out of so many places in the orchard, why this land plot?"

Yang Kai frowned, "Is there anything wrong with this land?"

"There's something wrong, something very wrong!" The old man remained in his position with his hands folded behind his back. He looked left and right, then lowered his voice, "To tell you the truth, the Worker for this piece of land has been replaced three times in the past ten years, you are the fourth person."

Yang Kai frowned, "Why did they change people?"

"The trees died!" The old man pointed in a certain direction, "Haven't you seen it? A few fruit trees over there are newly planted seedlings."

Yang Kai nodded in agreement, "I have. There are indeed a few new seedlings over there."

Yang Kai noticed that during the inspection before that three Fire Spirit Fruit Trees were obviously different from the others. It seemed that they had just been planted a few years ago. Based on the old man's statement, he understood that the fruit trees before had died.

The old man laughed, "As Workers, losing a single fruit is already a big deal, not to mention the occurrence of a dead tree. All of these happened within the past ten years."

Yang Kai was startled, "What was the punishment for the three people before?"

The old man shook his head, "I don't know, I haven't seen them since the fruit trees died."

Yang Kai's face suddenly darkened, "Do you know what caused the fruit trees to die?"

"How would I know that? Although my plot is nearby, this place is not under my management. If you want to know the reason, you have to work hard to investigate, and you have to be fast, otherwise, you might just follow in the footsteps of the previous three." After speaking, the old man shook his head in a sigh, and cried out as he walked away, "Fate!"

As he watched the old man leave, Yang Kai had lost all intentions of refining the Jade Token. Zhou Zheng's figure flashed across his mind, and he gritted his teeth and cursed.

He suddenly recalled Ah Sun asking him if he wanted to send Zhou Zheng a gift when she visited him last night; after all, he was the Manager of the orchard, and Yang Kai would be working as his subordinate. A

gift would help to form a good relationship, and she even mentioned that several others from their group seemed to have done the same.

Yang Kai did not take it to heart at the time, and Ah Sun did not insist.

Now it seemed that sending a gift was not a bad idea after all, at least this particular plot had not fallen to the other newcomers.

He thought of Dié You's evaluation of Zhou Zheng again and had a sudden realization. It indeed was necessary to guard against others. Yang Kai had only met Zhou Zheng twice, and there was no conflict between them, yet this terrifying piece of land was assigned to him.

Although the old man did not say what happened to the three previous owners of this plot, since the fruit trees died, there was no doubt about what happened to them.

It was probably too late to go to Zhou Zheng now, and the only way out was to save himself.

At the very least, it was necessary to find out why the fruit trees were dying in order to find a solution.

Thinking of this, Yang Kai sat down cross-legged again and continued refining the Jade Token. Only after refining Jade Token could be connect with the orchard's Grand Array to find out everything about his small plot.

The token was not difficult to refine fortunately and half a day later Yang Kai was finished. He wanted to try to care for the fruit trees by watering, fertilizing, and providing World Energy for them, but was afraid that he might not do it correctly, so he simply got up and headed out.

After a short while, he came to a thatched hut. Yang Kai raised his hand and knocked on the door.

The door opened, and the old man who had gone to Yang Kai before looked at him with a stunned expression, "Is there something wrong, Little Brother?"

Yang Kai cupped his fists and expressed, "I have come to ask Old Sir for guidance on caring for the fruit trees. This is my first time and it's never bad to be careful. I'm afraid that something will happen. It would be better if Old Sir could teach me carefully."

The old man said, "I can, but what benefit could this Old Master get?"

"None!" Yang Kai shook his head.

The old man laughed, "Why would this Old Master do something that won't benefit him? The warning earlier was already a kind gesture from this Old Master. Don't take it for granted! Do leave." He waved his hand continuously.

Yang Kai grinned, "There's no benefit to guiding me, but it's definitely bad to not guide me."

The smile on the old man's face suddenly disappeared, "Little Brother, are you threatening this Old Master? After living for so many years, this Old Master is not afraid."

Yang Kai shrugged, "Then it's up to Old Sir. If any tree dies on my small plot, I will come here first and destroy one of Old Sir's trees, if two of mine die, I will destroy two trees, three for three... In any case, if

something happens, the consequences will be disastrous, so it would be good to have someone to accompany me in my fate."

Yang Kai turned around and left as soon as he finished!

"Stop!" The old man yelled.

Yang Kai turned around and looked at the old man with a smile, "Old Sir, what else can I do for you?"

"You, you..." The old man pointed at Yang Kai, his beard shaking with anger, "I have never met someone as unreasonable and shameless as you! You really irritate this Old Master!"

Yang Kai replied with a snicker, "Life is hard, and I have no choice!"

Chapter 3842 – Jade Fire Silkworm

The old man was gloomy, "Since you also know that life is hard, why do you have to make it difficult for this Old Master?"

Yang Kai turned his head to look around and stretched out his hand to draw a big circle, "Sir, even if it's not eighty acres of land here, I believe there should be at least sixty, yes?"

Without knowing Yang Kai's intention on sudden change of topic, the old man dared not to answer rashly, but just looked at him with a wary face.

"If you can easily take care of sixty acres of land, it doesn't matter if there are an additional three, right? It must be a simple matter for Old Sir. If Old Sir refuses to help me with this simple matter, don't blame me if anything happens in the future."

The old man glared at him, "Do you want this Old Master to take care of your three acres of land too?"

Yang Kai grinned, "Of course not. As long as Old Sir can take some time out to teach me, I won't bother you again in the future." After a pause, he pressed on, "Don't worry, I'm a quick study. I will probably master it within a few days."

The old man looked helpless, "This Old Master is fine with teaching you, but remember what you promised. If you dare to cause trouble again in the future, don't blame this Old Master for being impolite!"

"I wouldn't dare!"

The old man puffed with rage for a while before finally waving his arm wildly, "Let's go."

"No rush, no rush..." Yang Kai hurried up to support him.

The old man swung his sleeves and snorted coldly, "Enough with your false pleasantries! If this Old Master knew you were such a cunning brat, he would not have warned you out of kindness!"

Yang Kai chuckled, "Old Sir, you said it yourself, how can someone as kind as you let this Junior suffer without at least warning him? Good advice doesn't cost you anything anyway."

Yang Kai walked together with the old man, smiling, and soon they returned to the three acres plot.

Although the old man was coerced into helping Yang Kai, since he had given his word, he did his job seriously. Of course, this was mainly because he was afraid of Yang Kai's delinquent attitude. If a tree died on Yang Kai's small plot one day, he might really come to sabotage his own territory.

For his own sake, the old man taught Yang Kai diligently.

Standing in front of a Fire Spirit Fruit Tree, the old man solemnly began, "Although we are mere Workers here in Fire Spirit Land, a Workers job is not easy at all. There are a lot of techniques and skills involved, especially in taking care of these fruit trees. It's hard to master all kinds of details without immersing yourself in the job for three to five years, or even more. Let me tell you first, I will only teach you for one month. It's your own business on how much you can absorb in that time. Don't bother me again after that."

"Good!" Yang Kai nodded seriously.

The old man sneered. Obviously, he thought that Yang Kai had overestimated himself; however, he was glad that Yang Kai had agreed. And so, he pointed to the fruit tree in front and asked, "Look for yourself. What does this fruit tree require?"

Focused, Yang Kai examined it up and down with his Divine Sense, but after a long while, he replied, "No idea!"

The old man continued patiently, "Put your hand on it and feel it carefully."

Yang Kai followed the instruction and placed his hand on the trunk. After a moment, he questioned with his head tilted, "Does this fruit tree need to be fertilized?"

The old man rolled his eyes, "This is a healthy fruit tree. You don't need to do anything."

Yang Kai was infuriated, "Since it's healthy, why do you still ask me what it needs?"

The old man stroked his beard with a look of deep wisdom, "This Old Master just wants you to remember what the state of healthy fruit trees is. Based on this, you will know what to do compared to other fruit trees."

Yang Kai pondered for a while and had to admit that his words were somewhat reasonable. Although the old man clearly intended to mess with him, Yang Kai could only endure it, taking it as a payback from scamming him just now.

"I'll remember." Yang Kai nodded.

"Then let's move on!" The old man beckoned.

A short while later, they came to another fruit tree, and after examining it for a long time, Yang Kai came up with an uncertain deduction, "Compared to the fruit tree earlier, this one seems slightly parched, so it needs watering?"

The old man glanced at him and nodded, "En."

Yang Kai grinned, "Old Sir teaches well. En, so about how to water it... let me see the instructions." He took out his own token, surging his Divine Sense to connect to the Grand Array in the orchard. Without any strong effort, a cloud soon gathered on top of the fruit tree.

"That's not enough, keep going!" The old man shouted, "This place is rich in Fire Element Power and the environment is hot. If you gather too little Spirit Water, it will evaporate directly and become useless."

Without further prompting, Yang Kai increased his power and gathered a larger and richer cloud above the fruit tree.

"Better." The old man nodded.

Hearing this, Yang Kai immediately stretched out his hand and pointed. The cloud immediately enveloped the fruit tree, and it obviously became much more hydrated than before.

Yang Kai asked eagerly, "How is it?"

"So-so." Of course, the old man would never praise him, and continued to lead him forward.

Taking care of the fruit trees was meticulous and difficult work, especially for newcomers like Yang Kai. A tiny mistake may cause disaster. While checking the fruit trees, he watered, fertilized, and extracted World Energy accordingly.

The three seedlings were the top priority, and were the toughest to take care of; however, under the guidance of the old man, Yang Kai did a fair job. Seeing him like this, the old man seemed to be quite satisfied, and even his manner eased slightly.

Soon, Yang Kai finished working on his thirty fruit trees, but it was not enough for him. It was not because he was fond of this kind of work, but rather because he was planning for the future when he would begin refining Open Heaven Pills. As an Alchemist, one could not refine a pill well without understanding the characteristics of its ingredients.

Working hard to care for the Fire Spirit Fruit Trees today laid a solid foundation for the Alchemy he would perform in the future; therefore, Yang Kai was quite enthusiastic about it.

"Come on, let's go to your side." Yang Kai beckoned.

The old man raised a brow and asked, "What are we going to this Old Master's side for?"

Yang Kai rubbed his hands in excitement, "So I can help Old Sir take care of his fruit trees!"

The old man was appalled, "It's alright! Many thanks for your good intentions Little Brot..."

"Enough nonsense! Let's go!" Yang Kai did not wait for him to finish talking, and dragged him towards his own plot directly.

Begrudgingly, the old man followed Yang Kai with a worried face. Yang Kai shuttled through the old man's several tens of acres, honing his own skills. Whenever he made any mistake, the old man would tremble with rage...

"Old Sir, this tree is infested. Is it a Jade Fire Silkworm?" Yang Kai suddenly peeped into a hole on the tree trunk. Seeing the hole, he instantly remembered that he had promised Ruler of the Dawn Great General five Jade Fire Silkworms.

"Is there a worm in it?" The old man suddenly became interested and pushed Yang Kai aside before continuing eagerly, "Let me see, let me see..." He checked the small hole and beamed, "There really is one!"

Head tilted, Yang Kai looked at him with a frown, "Why are you so happy?"

"You know nothing." The old man was too busy to explain to Yang Kai as he took out a green box, and drew an incense fragment out of it. He lit the incense, and gently waved it in front of the wormhole.

Looking at his posture, he should be attempting to lure the worm out. He was even well-prepared with the special tools. This was certainly not his first time doing this given his skillful action. A burning scent followed after igniting the incense. Yang Kai had no idea what material it was made of, but it was extremely strange.

Yang Kai had many questions, but he was afraid of disturbing the old man, so he simply held his tongue and observed quietly.

Given that the old man cared so much about this Jade Fire Silkworm after being here for many years, there must be some important reason for it. Moreover, Dié You mentioned before that if he ever caught a Jade Fire Silkworm in the orchard, he needed to keep it, so it must be of some value.

Needless to say, the old man was skilled at catching these worms. Just after burning the incense for a short while, a small scarlet head popped out of the wormhole. Yang Kai saw the Jade Fire Silkworm too, and he immediately recognized that it was the same worm Dié You fed Ruler of the Dawn Great General before.

After all, the Jade Fire Silkworm was only a worm. It was baited by the scent of incense to crawl out of the wormhole, and was immediately captured by the old man into the box.

The old man extinguished the incense, and smiled delightfully at the box in his hands.

Only then did Yang Kai question, "Old Sir, what's the use of this Jade Fire Silkworm?"

The old man glanced sideways at him, and shook his head, "I can't tell you..."

"Do you think I won't uproot your tree!?" Yang Kai grabbed the Fire Spirit Fruit Tree in front of him.

"You..." The old man's air of superiority was immediately snuffed out when he saw Yang Kai's big hand grab the tree, "Let go first."

"I'll let go when you explain to me."

"Alright, alright!"

He waited for Yang Kai to withdraw his hand before he began to explain, "This worm is useless to us, but do you know Ruler of the Dawn Great General? Jade Fire Silkworms are his favourite food."

"I know, so what? Is a chicken worth your flattery?" Yang Kai looked at the old man with disdain.

The old man shook his head, "Ruler of the Dawn Great General is not an ordinary chicken, he is Venerable's pet. In this Fire Spirit Land, he stands at the highest position other than Venerable."

"So what? Will it speak good words for you if you feed it? Can it help you to get rid of your status as a Worker?"

"Of course not..." The old man chuckled, "But it's always wise to have a good relationship with Ruler of the Dawn Great General."

"That's all?" Yang Kai looked at him suspiciously.

"What else can it be?"

Yang Kai looked at him seriously for a while, and then he grabbed the Fire Spirit Fruit Tree again, "Do you really think I won't uproot your tree!?"

"Stop stop!" The old man shouted loudly, his beard trembling violently. Yang Kai was unmoved, however, and gradually increased the strength of his grip.

"Good, you win!" The old man wanted so badly to slap Yang Kai to death, but with a hostage at stake, he resisted the urge and explained, "Great General has Open Heaven Pills, and if he is in a good mood, he may give you one. Why else do you think we catch these worms?"

"That damn chicken has Open Heaven Pills?" Yang Kai could not believe what he just heard.

"Can you keep your voice down?" The old man looked around and continued, "Great General is not an ordinary chicken. If anyone hears you defaming him, you will not end well!"

"Fine fine, I'll be quiet..." Yang Kai accepted the old man's advice and immediately lowered his voice with a sinister look on his face, "Has anyone ever gotten Open Heaven Pills from that dam... from Great General?"

Yang Kai asked because last time when Dié You fed the chicken, he did not give her any Open Heaven Pills.

Chapter 3843 – Old Fang

"Otherwise, why do you think this Old Master is willing to work so hard on catching worms?" The old man continued disdainfully.

Yang Kai rubbed his chin, "No wonder!"

As a Worker, one would receive three Open Heaven Pills every year. Although Yang Kai did not know how significant these three Open Heaven Pills were, he could infer from Dié You's tone and attitude before that it was a rather insignificant amount.

Now he learned he could get Open Heaven Pills easily if he could please Ruler of the Dawn Great General. Who would not pursue such a good thing? No wonder the old man was so happy to hear that there were worms on the tree just now.

Yang Kai's eyes could not help following the worm squirming in the box in the old man's hand.

"What are you planning to do?" The old man covered his treasure box, his beard flapping as he stared at Yang Kai, mainly because he had been threatened too many times by this bandit today. He already knew that the young man in front of him was nothing good. He could guess what Yang Kai was up to with just a look on his face.

"Old Sir..." Yang Kai reached out his hand and patted the old man on the shoulder, "There's something you don't know, I promised Ruler of the Dawn Great General two days ago that I would catch five Jade Fire Silkworms for him within a month, but you already know the situation of my land, there are thirty fruit trees in total, how can I get that many worms..."

"Scram!"

"If you don't want to give me the worms, you could at least give me a set of worm-catching tools. That incense seems to be somewhat useful, and this box seems to be specially made too."

The old man was silent, which confirmed Yang Kai's guess.

"Old Sir, you don't want me to haunt you day and night about this, do you?"

The old man sneered, "Do you really think you really can threaten this Old Master?"

Yang Kai quickly responded, "I wouldn't dare. You are a respected Senior, and I'm nothing but a newcomer, how could I be so daring as to be rude to you? But I really don't have any tools to capture worms, and I don't know where to acquire them. We're all in a foreign land, so we should help each other, no?"

The old man's face remained dark and unmoved.

Yang Kai continued, "It's not a big deal, I'll just buy a new set and return it to you in the future. Is that good enough for you?"

"I only have this set! I don't have any extra, so I can't give it to you even if I wanted to." The old man's expression softened a little.

"Then let me borrow it first..." Yang Kai snickered and pointed at the box in his hand, "Lend me that worm too. I'll give you any Open Heaven Pills if I get them."

The old man was moved, "Really?"

Yang Kai put his arm around the old man's shoulders affectionately, "We are neighbours, and we'll see each other regularly as we work together in the future. What's the benefit of me lying to you? It's because I made a promise to Ruler of the Dawn Great General, and I'll be in trouble if I can't complete the task within a month."

"Seems you're at least a bit sincere..." The old man pondered for a while, "If that's the case, this Old Master can lend you this."

Yang Kai quickly noted, "I should mention this, I can't guarantee that Ruler of the Dawn Great General will give me any Open Heaven Pills."

"Naturally." The old man nodded, "I also want to remind you that it is difficult to even catch five Jade Fire Silkworms within a month. We might not get that number even if we combined the worms of both our orchards."

"Even five is difficult?" Yang Kai was stunned.

"There are not many Jade Fire Silkworms to begin with, and we also need to leave some behind to help nurture the Fire Spirit Fruit Trees, so we can't capture them all."

Yang Kai chuckled, "We just have to work hard together for one month. When the time comes, I will be able to complete the task and the Open Heaven Pills will be yours when we are rewarded by Ruler of the Dawn Great General."

"Deal!"

Yang Kai reached to grab the box, and the old man did not refuse this time, and the box went directly into his hand.

Yang Kai extended his hand again, "The incense."

The old man handed over the incense fragments.

Yang Kai asked while examining the object, "Where did you get this thing? I'll have to prepare a set for myself in the future."

The old man replied, "You're new, so of course you wouldn't know. You can buy it at the shopping district when we go back."

Yang Kai nodded. Dié You did mention that she would take him to the shopping district in the future. It looked like this trip to the shopping district was a must.

Yang Kai became much more enthusiastic when he received the new tools. He checked the trees one by one, searching for Jade Fire Silkworms, but as the old man said, there were not many, and some needed to be left behind.

He did not manage to find any worms that day, but Yang Kai had now gotten a hang of caring for the fruit trees.

The days went by smoothly as Yang Kai worked hard in his little plot of land as well as the old man's under the latter's guidance. In their free time, the two of them would play games together.

The old man was excellent at chess, and defeated Yang Kai many times, but Yang Kai was not discouraged. Since he was not able to cultivate for the time being, it was a good way to kill some time.

After getting along for more than ten days, their relationship had become a little more cordial.

On the stone table next to a thatched hut under a fruit tree, black and white chess pieces were deployed in formation. Yang Kai sat on the stone bench, staring right in front of him dauntlessly, "Old Fang, it's your turn."

After more than ten days of getting along, Yang Kai learned that the old man's surname was Fang, but he did not know his full name. The old man did not disclose it, and he did not seem to mind when Yang Kai repeatedly addressed him as Old Fang either.

On the opposite side, Old Fang smiled when he heard the words, picked up a chess piece, and taunted, "Smelly brat, you play chess too aggressively. Your killing intent is too strong!"

He placed the chess piece down, and the encirclement that Yang Kai had worked so hard to set up fell apart in an instant, allowing the black dragon to open up a bloody path.

Yang Kai could not help gaping.

Just when he was thinking hard, he heard a pop, and a figure appeared next to him.

Old Fang immediately got up and saluted respectfully, "Manager Zhou!"

The visitor was Zhou Zheng.

Yang Kai also stood up and cupped his fists, "Greetings, Manager Zhou."

Zhou Zheng glanced at the two of them, and frowned, "What are you doing here when you're supposed to be tending the fruit trees?"

Yang Kai replied, "I have already taken care of them. I have nothing to do, so I came to spend some time with Old Fang."

"You're done taking care of them?" Zhou Zheng smiled, "How can you be so confident as a newcomer?"

Yang Kai explained, "Although I am a newcomer, I have benefited a lot from Old Fang's teachings, and already learned how to take care of the fruit trees. If Manager Zhou is doubtful, I can accompany you to inspect them."

"There's no need. This Manager is in charge of the entire orchard, and I don't have the time to investigate each and every plot of land, but I want to remind you that a few fruit trees have died in your land over the past few years. You'd better pay more attention. If something goes wrong, no one can protect you!"

"Many thanks for Manager Zhou's reminder!" Yang Kai sounded grateful, but in fact, he was disgusted. Why did he not inform Yang Kai at the beginning when he was assigned to such a piece of land? However, Zhou Zheng's seemingly kind expression did not allow him an opportunity to complain about it. Furthermore, Zhou Zheng was the Manager of the orchard, and he was only a Worker. It would only put him at a disadvantage if he really started a conflict with him.

Zhou Zheng nodded and continued, "Be more diligent in your work. The Fire Spirit Fruit will mature in three years. It will benefit us a lot if we can complete the tasks assigned by Venerable." He pointed at the chessboard, "You better not do such activities anymore, if the Chief Manager calls for an inspection and sees it, you will be in deep trouble."

"Yes!" Old Fang nodded respectfully.

Without another word, Zhou Zheng took off into the sky. It seemed that he was going to visit other places.

When he was far away, Old Fang finally sighed, "Get an opportunity to send something over to him. It seems that you really offended him."

Yang Kai wondered, "Why do you say so?"

Old Fang explained, "This is not the first time he has seen me play chess with others, but he has never said anything about it before, only today. Why do you think he did that?"

Yang Kai found it funny and infuriating at the same time, "I'm a newcomer, what do I have to give him? This person is really too petty." He wondered what happened to Ah Sun as she probably did not send him anything either.

Old Fang pointed at him and lectured, "Smelly brat, if you want to live a good life, you can't be stingy, you know? We are his subordinates after all."

Yang Kai did not want to continue the topic, so he changed the subject and asked, "He mentioned a Chief Manager, who is that?"

"The orchard in each Spirit Land has a Manager just like him, but there is also a Chief Manager above them, who reports directly to Heavenly Monarch. The Chief Manager is Heavenly Monarch's right-hand man, so even Venerables have to pay him respect."

Yang Kai nodded in acknowledgement.

"By the way, what's wrong with your land, have you found anything yet?" Old Fang asked again.

"There's no problem!" Yang Kai frowned, "I have checked the entire land inside and out more than ten times, but there's nothing wrong with it! You can see how healthy the fruit trees are now. If there is a problem, the fruit trees would be the first to react to it."

Old Fang sighed, "Actually, Manager Zhou also checked the place himself, but he found nothing, yet still the trees died somehow. You better pray for yourself."

"Let's not talk about this, what matters now is the five Jade Fire Silkworms. What do you think will happen if I fail to fulfill the requirements of Ruler of the Dawn Great General?"

"It certainly won't be good."

"Could he have forgotten about it? After all, he's just a chicken!"

"Great General may forget other things, but he certainly won't forget about Jade Fire Silkworms."

"That's troublesome..." Yang Kai frowned.

Since he caught the first Jade Fire Silkworm that day, he had not found a second one. Although Old Fang's fruit trees did have Jade Fire Silkworms, they couldn't be removed. Old Fang told him that a

number of worms must be left behind as if all were caught, it would definitely have an undesired impact on the fruit trees, and a matter that affected the fruit trees was a matter of life or death to Workers.

Yang Kai believed that if he insisted on capturing the worms, Old Fang would go all out with him.

His eyes flickered, and Yang Kai immediately lowered his voice, "Do you think I can go to someone else's orchard to search for the worms..."

Old Fang smiled wryly, "No one in their right mind would agree with you doing that."

Yang Kai patted him on the shoulder, "So Old Fang, I'm counting on you to help."

Old Fang exclaimed, "What can I do to help?"

Yang Kai bent his fingers and motioned for the old man to lean over, and whispered for a while.

Old Fang's face became increasingly darker, and before Yang Kai could finish speaking, he burst out, "Scram! I can't believe you could come up with such a terrible idea! If we get caught, both you and I will be finished!"

"Don't exaggerate things," Yang Kai was stunned, "I just want you to help me distract them."

Chapter 3844 – Open Heaven Pill

"Be careful. Don't be too eager for quick success. Jade Fire Silkworms are timid and are easily scared away. If you let it run away, you will never catch it again," In front of a fruit tree, Old Fang sent Yang Kai a Divine Sense transmission quietly while monitoring his movements nervously.

Yang Kai held a box in one hand and a burning incense in the other. His expression was solemn, as if he was having a life-and-death battle with someone. Upon receiving the transmission, he replied impatiently, "I know. You've said it many times. Can you not just relax?"

Old Fang smacked his lips and kept his silence.

The scent of the incense permeated the air, and a small scarlet head slowly emerged from the hole in the tree, attracted by the scent.

When half of its body was out of the tree, Yang Kai swung his other hand, directly sending the long worm into the box, then slammed it shut with a laugh, "It's done!"

Old Fang looked sideways at him, "This is only the second worm. Why are you so happy? Don't forget, you promised to catch five for Great General!"

Yang Kai's laughter stopped abruptly, the corner of his mouth twitching, "What should I do?"

Old Fang sneered, "How should this Old Master know? There's not much time left."

"It's already been a month?" Yang Kai was stunned.

As he was talking, a bell rang all of a sudden. Without waiting for Yang Kai to question, Old Fang announced, "We can leave now. The next three days are our break time."

"Don't go!" Yang Kai grabbed him, and continued surreptitiously, "Let's wait for a while. Once the others leave..."

Before he could finish, however, he suddenly felt a strong and irresistible repulsion around him. A flash of light blurred his vision, and he was already outside the orchard when he regained his senses.

Yang Kai was dumbstruck.

Perhaps it was because he held on to Old Fang, so he found himself next to him.

"As soon as the time's up, no one can stay inside. You better pray hard for yourself." Old Fang explained.

When he finished, he turned around and rushed towards the Worker's Room.

Yang Kai scratched his head and watched the others depart in streams of light. He had no choice but to keep up with them. Although the past month as a Worker had been safe and sound, he failed to fulfil his promise to the Ruler of the Dawn Great General regarding the five Jade Fire Silkworms. In fact, he only had two right now.

He had no idea how the golden rooster would react when he found out.

However, it was useless to think too much at this point, so Yang Kai could only move forward and solve things as they came up.

In the orchard, he had to circulate his strength to resist the scorching heat at all times, so it was truly hectic for him, though he believed that it was just as exhausting for the others. When Yang Kai returned to the village where the Worker's Rooms were, he saw that every door was closed. Everyone was probably resting inside.

Returning to his own residence, he opened the barrier, sat cross-legged and adjusted his breathing, meditating for the whole night.

In the early morning of the next day, the golden rooster announced the breaking of dawn so loudly that even the barrier could not block out the sound. Knowing that he had three days off, Yang Kai did not bother to pay attention to it.

Beyond his expectation, a knock on the door came up a moment later, and continued without pause.

"Who is it?" Yang Kai opened his eyes and shouted.

There was no response outside the door, but the knock persisted in a steady rhythm.

He had no choice but to get up, and when he opened the door, he was dazzled by a burst of golden light. A half-man tall golden rooster stood as majestic as a statue outside the door

Their eyes stared into each other for a while, then Yang Kai closed the door with a slam.

After three breaths of time, the door was hammered viciously as if a volcano erupted. Not only that, but the Ruler of the Dawn Great General started to crow too.

Yang Kai understood that the situation was bad, and he knew that Zhou Zheng would be alarmed if he ignored things. Zhou Zheng intended to cause him trouble from the beginning, and if he had any excuse, Yang Kai would definitely suffer from it.

Without a choice, he opened the door again and put on a surprised face, "So it is Ruler of the Dawn Great General. What a rare guest!"

Great General seemed notably maddened and pecked at Yang Kai with its beak, which Yang Kai immediately dodged, and asked in shock, "What is the meaning of this, Great General?"

Great General blocked the door with its fat buttock and continued to crow as he flapped his wings.

Yang Kai cursed secretly in his heart, [This damn chicken has a good memory. It still remembers the agreement until now even if it was a month ago. I just came back to rest for a night and it already came to visit me.]

As its noise was getting louder and louder, many Workers had opened their doors to check what was going on. Therefore, Yang Kai had no choice but to take out the treasure box and announced, "Great General, do you want Jade Fire Silkworms? I've caught them for you. They're inside here. Please calm down."

As soon as he took out the box, the Ruler of the Dawn Great General immediately calmed down, its eyes locked on the box.

Yang Kai could not help complaining silently, [If you like to eat worms so much, why don't you just go to the orchard to catch them instead of requesting others to bring them back for you?]

Under the Ruler of the Dawn Great General's watchful eyes, Yang Kai took out a Jade Fire Silkworm from the box. The next moment, Ruler of the Dawn Great General extended its neck to peck, and the Jade Fire Silkworm disappeared.

"Eat slowly, no one will snatch it from you!" Yang Kai smiled, but he was thinking about what to say after he fed him the last Jade Fire Silkworm. The golden rooster did not seem to be fooled easily, and Yang Kai had no idea what would happen if he only produced two of the five promised worms.

[Why don't I just drag it inside and butcher it?] Yang Kai gave up as soon as the thought flitted across his mind. Given that so many people saw the golden rooster in front of his door, if anything happened to Great General, Yang Kai would definitely be suspected.

After delaying as much as he could, he fed the second Jade Fire Silkworm to Great General.

Yang Kai scratched his chin and probed tentatively, "Great General may not know about this, this Jade Fire Silkworm has a strong Fire Attribute Strength. If you eat too many at once, I'm afraid it will be bad for your health. How about this, Great General should go back and have a rest first before eating the remaining three worms?"

Great General ignored the advice and instead turned his head to the side and stared at Yang Kai with one eye, full of humanized mockery.

Yang Kai suddenly became angry out of shame as he felt he was despised by a chicken...

Before he could say anything more, a pleasant voice came from the outside, "Yang Kai, you forgot this with me."

When the words fell, an object was tossed into Yang Kai's face.

Yang Kai reached up to catch it, and when he saw what it was, joy filled his face.

It was a worm-catching box, and when he scanned it with his Divine Sense, he could tell that there were exactly three Jade Fire Silkworms inside.

He looked up and nodded at the visitor to show his gratitude, then shook the box in his hand as he continued, "Does Great General still want to eat?"

"Oh oh oh oh..."

Yang Kai did not want to waste time on him anymore, only hoping to send this scourge away as soon as possible, so he swiftly fed the three Jade Fire Silkworms to him before letting out a sigh, "Great General, five Jade Fire Silkworms, no more and no less. Fortunately, I did not fail my mission!"

"Oh oh oh..." Ruler of the Dawn Great General crowed at him again.

Yang Kai's face darkened, "Great General, what does this mean? We made an agreement a month ago. Do you want to renege on our deal now?"

Dié You, who leaned on the doorframe and watched the show, covered her mouth and smiled, "Great General says he is a man of his word, so how can he break his promise? Smelly brat, give him your hand, Great General is giving out a reward!"

"A reward?" Hearing this, Yang Kai raised his brow, but immediately understood what it meant and hurriedly extended his hand to the Ruler of the Dawn Great General.

The Ruler of the Dawn Great General opened its mouth and a mass of golden light floated out of it, falling on Yang Kai's palm. When the light dispersed, a Spirit Pill glowing in seven-coloured light sat on his palm.

[Is this an Open Heaven Pill?]

Although Yang Kai had not seen Open Heaven Pills before, he could still identify it from the information that he obtained in the previous conversation with Old Fang. This Spirit Pill in his hand was definitely an Open Heaven Pill.

He had heard that if the Ruler of the Dawn Great General was in a good mood, he might give out Open Heaven Pills, but he did not expect to get one so soon.

Yang Kai was overjoyed and quickly cupped his fists, "Many thanks, Great General!"

At that moment, the Ruler of the Dawn Great General had already turned around and walked out of the door with his wiggling butt.

"Get home safe, Great General. Come and play again when you're free!" Dié You greeted with a smile.

After the golden rooster left, Yang Kai grinned and shook the Open Heaven Pill in his hand, "So lucky!"

Dié You rolled her eyes at him and revealed, "Every newcomer will be rewarded an Open Heaven Pill when they feed a Jade Fire Silkworm to Great General for the first time."

Yang Kai was surprised, "Is it for certain?"

Dié You shrugged her shoulders, "En, I haven't seen an exception for all these years."

Yang Kai was stunned for a long time before he began cursing through gritted teeth, "That old fox!"

It was no wonder Old Fang was so cheerful when he asked to borrow the worm-catching tools. It seemed that he knew about this custom too. Yang Kai thought Old Fang was a generous soul, but now it seemed that the old man had known about Great General's habits and had been aiming for this Open Heaven Pill since the beginning.

Just as Yang Kai understood this point, the old fox appeared.

Old Fang rushed into the house with a flicker, and nodded at Dié You with a smile, "Sister Dié You is here."

"Old Fang!" Dié You nodded.

"I'm here to find this little brat!" Old Fang pointed at Yang Kai and went straight to him, stretched out his hand, and continued, "Take it out brat. Don't tell me you have nothing."

Looking at his bright smile and his appearance of having achieved a great victory, Yang Kai really felt like taking out his Azure Dragon Spear and stabbing Old Fang to death!

"Hurry up, hurry up, what are you waiting for?" Old Fang urged, just like a predatory creditor.

Yang Kai clenched his teeth as he slammed the Open Heaven Pill on Old Fang's palm. Old Fang immediately beamed and put it away carefully. Then he stretched out his hand again, "How about my things? Give them back to me too."

"Lend them to me a bit longer!" Yang Kai turned his head away.

"What? How is this Old Master supposed to catch worms if he lends you the tools? Return them to me, or this Old Master will fight you to the death!"

"You can try!" Yang Kai glared sideways at him.

The old man turned to Dié You and complained, "Sister Dié You, be our judge. This shitty brat doesn't want to return what he borrowed. Isn't he too terrible?"

Dié You chuckled, "Since when did you two become so close?"

Old Fang rolled his eyes, "This Old Master is not close to him! It's just that his plot is next to mine. You have no idea. This Old Master has been used by him as a slave this past month. It was a true living Hell."

Dié You's face changed drastically at Old Fang's words and she questioned in a deep voice, "The plot next to yours? Isn't that 'that' plot?"

Old Fang nodded, "En, that one..."

Dié You frowned. After pondering for a while, she turned to Yang Kai, "Return the tools to him. Elder Sister will take you to buy a new set later."

Yang Kai was unwilling as he had only just gotten that Open Heaven Pill for a moment before it was taken away by Old Fang. He did not even have the time to study it carefully. Although he had made a promise earlier, he was still upset that Old Fang had set him up.

Chapter 3845 – Workers' Shopping District

However, since Dié You had already spoken, it was unreasonable if he did not return it, so Yang Kai reluctantly returned the box and the remaining half of the incense. Old Fang took it and left happily.

Glancing at Yang Kai, Dié You laughed, "Alright, stop sulking. Although I don't know what agreement you made with Old Fang, since it is an agreement, it has to be fulfilled. You feel that you are at a loss only because you know too little about this place. You will gain wisdom with every lesson, just be careful in the future."

Yang Kai nodded and acknowledged. He was actually not really angry. Although Old Fang did hide information from him, he did teach Yang Kai a lot in the past month.

"Many thanks for your assistance, Sister Dié You," Yang Kai thanked her with cupped fists.

If Dié You had not brought three Jade Fire Silkworms today, who knows what kind of commotion the golden rooster would have caused.

Dié You looked at him with a smile, "So, it's not Elder Sister anymore?"

Yang Kai wondered, "Since when did I call you that?"

Dié You pursed her lips, "Didn't you call me Elder Sister here, Elder Sister there back then..."

Yang Kai rolled his eyes and changed the subject, "So, did Sister come here on purpose because you knew that I couldn't get five Jade Fire Silkworms?"

Dié You nodded, "You're a newcomer, you don't even have anything to catch the worms, how could you collect five? I was also there when it happened, and since it was something I knew about, I couldn't just ignore it. I was even worried that I didn't bring enough, but good thing that you had already caught two on your own, and just managed to complete your task."

"No matter what, this Yang will remember the kindness Sister has shown today and will return the favour in the future."

"You better focus on getting over your current difficulties first," Dié You frowned.

"What difficulties?"

"There's something wrong with your plot." Dié You looked at him, "Didn't Old Fang tell you?"

"En, he said that three fruit trees have died in the past ten years, and three people have been 'replaced', making me the fourth!" Yang Kai rubbed his chin and continued, "But I have also checked carefully, and there is nothing wrong with the land, and I can't see anything wrong with the fruit trees either for the time being."

"It doesn't mean there's no problem even if you can't see it. The people before you had also investigated thoroughly, but it only takes one month from the discovery of a problem to the death of the fruit tree. If you really find anything, you must be careful."

"Understood," Yang Kai nodded sternly.

"Good, it's rare to have a chance to rest, do you want to go to the shopping district?" Dié You giggled at him.

"Yes!" Yang Kai suddenly became energetic, "I'm going to buy a set of worm-catching tools."

"Then come with me," Dié You beckoned and led the way.

Yang Kai closed the door and followed closely.

The two soared straight into the sky.

Yang Kai wondered, "Isn't the shopping district in Fire Spirit Land?"

Dié You shook her head and laughed, "The shopping district in Seven Wonders Land is for all Spirit Lands, so there are not only people from Fire Spirit Land there but also people from other Spirit Lands."

Yang Kai frowned in confusion, "Will it matter if we just left like this? Will someone stop us or something?"

"Although we can go out of Fire Spirit Land, the entire Seven Wonders Land is covered by a Grand Array, and there's no way to leave without an order and an exit pass, so don't even think about it." She suddenly whispered, "Seriously, don't even mention it, you won't end well if you get caught escaping."

Yang Kai gave her a thoughtful look, and replied softly, "I understand."

As Dié You mentioned, there was no hindrance when they left Fire Spirit Land. Dié You led him out easily, and the two of them zoomed towards a cloud-covered land, using only an hour to arrive right before the cloud.

Dié You sent him a transmission, "Follow me close and don't get lost!"

And she dived into the clouds, followed closely by Yang Kai.

Everything seemed to be isolated from him as they sped through the clouds, except for the graceful figure in front of him. After a stick of incense, the surrounding cloud and mist dissipated, and what welcomed Yang Kai's eyes was a world that was dead and still yet lively and noisy.

It was dead and still because there was not a single drop of World Energy or vitality here, and not even the slightest greenery could be seen.

The liveliness, on the other hand, was because of the packed crowds below that streamed back and forth. From a high altitude, buildings with different styles were arranged in a disorganized and unaesthetic way.

The area of the entire shopping district was not large, only about a hundred kilometres in diameter. One could see the end of the district at a glance, which was bordered by clouds and mist that rolled and churned with a sense of vitality.

Dié You explained beside him, "This shopping district is said to be a Universe World Fragment. Heavenly Monarch brought it back from a trip outside and put it here as a place for us Workers to exchange and trade."

Yang Kai nodded with comprehension, "No wonder it's so desolate." Since it was a Universe World Fragment, such a desolate scene did not come as a surprise. If the Star Boundary failed to stop Great Demon God's plan, it probably would fall apart into fragments just like this and be eaten by Ah Da, leaving nothing behind.

Suddenly curious, Yang Kai queried, "Where do the disciples in Seven Wonders Land do business?"

"They do it at another place, and the things we have as Workers generally would not pique their interests, but some Seven Wonders Land disciples are still needed here to maintain order. You should be careful if you see anyone wearing Seven Coloured Robes. There are of course a few stores owned by Seven Wonders Land that do business with us Workers here as well."

"Understood." Yang Kai nodded.

"The shopping district here is only open for three days a month, which are the three days when we get to rest, and it will be closed after that, so you have to come over during these three days if you have anything to buy. Let's go down first, we'll get you a set of worm-catching tools," Dié You beckoned and flew down first.

Yang Kai followed after her, looking around curiously. They were not the only ones as many other Workers flew down from every direction, obviously taking advantage of this free time to do trading in the shopping district.

The pair landed in the crowd and were immediately surrounded by the hustle and bustle from all directions. Yang Kai was thrown into confusion for a while as he felt as if he had gone back in time, suddenly overwhelmed by nostalgia.

The shopping district felt notably familiar to him, though the people around him were very different from before as they had all condensed their own Dao Seal. They were all considered Great Emperor level Masters in the Star Boundary!

In the shopping district, most of the stalls were set up in no particular order, each displaying all sorts of strange goods. While some stall owners sat in the back and rested, some others were busy bargaining with interested buyers; some were even shouting vigorously in an attempt to attract onlookers.

There were also some stores, but they were all built carelessly. They were far from beautiful and only slightly larger than the stalls set up everywhere else.

Only a few storefronts were built in a stately manner, all of which were obviously the Seven Wonders Land storefronts that Dié You mentioned.

Yang Kai was overwhelmed as he shuttled through the crowd. The people who came and went were from different Universe Worlds, and the things they had on them were basically unique to their respective homes, so most of the items placed on the booths were completely unrecognizable to Yang Kai.

However, after walking for a while, Yang Kai found that despite its liveliness, there were not many successful deals made. Even if there were any, they were all barter trades.

He pondered for a while on this subject before he understood. As Workers, it was hard to earn just three Open Heaven Pills every year, so each one was an extremely valuable asset. Naturally, they would not use Open Heaven Pills as a currency for purchasing.

Yang Kai suddenly realized a problem and opened his mouth to ask, "Xiao Dié, what do I need to buy that worm-catching tool? Open Heaven Pills?"

"What did you call me?" Dié You turned to look at him.

Yang Kai snickered, "Dié You?"

Dié You glared at him, nodded, and replied, "That tool is made by Seven Wonders Land, and it can only be purchased with Open Heaven Pills."

"I don't have any Open Heaven Pills!" Yang Kai flailed his empty hands.

"I'll lend you some!" Dié You smiled, since she brought Yang Kai to this place, how could she not have considered this issue?

"There's no need to be so generous..." Yang Kai rubbed his hands.

"You'll have to return it with interest!" Dié You smiled slyly.

Yang Kai nodded happily, "Deal. I'll have to thank you in advance." Then he frowned, "In this case, how can newcomers buy worm-catching tools? What if the worms on fruit trees needed to be caught?"

Dié You led the way while explaining, "They ask for help from the others, just like how you found Old Fang. No one will refuse such a good thing."

Yang Kai suddenly understood. If someone else helped to catch the worms, the caught Jade Fire Silkworms would belong to them, and they could give them to the Ruler of the Dawn Great General, who may grant them Open Heaven Pills. Naturally, no one would refuse such a deal. One could even make an agreement with a newcomer just like Old Fang, by letting the newcomer feed the Ruler of the Dawn Great General, and receive the guaranteed Open Heaven Pill as a reward.

Clearly, it was not easy for a newcomer to gain a foothold here at all.

While they were talking, the two had already arrived at the door of a certain storefront. Although this storefront was not built very magnificently, it was somewhat more impressive than average.

Needless to say, this store belonged to Seven Wonders Land.

The staff in the store were Seven Wonders Land disciples, all of whom donned Seven Coloured Robes. There was a stark difference between them and the Workers.

When the pair entered the store, they were not received with any warm greetings. A young man sitting behind the counter with his head down asked casually, "What do you want to buy?"

Dié You stepped forward and smiled, "Senior Brother, I want to buy a Cyan Wood Box and two boxes of Refined Incense."

Hearing her sweet voice, the young man raised his head and replied with a smile, "Thirty Open Heaven Pills." His eyes swept up and down as he spoke, stopping on her voluptuous peaks.

Dié You frowned and asked, "Senior Brother, are you mistaken? It was only 25 pills before."

The young man leaned back on the chair and snickered, "The price has increased."

"When did that happen? The price hadn't gone up when I came here three months ago."

The young man replied, "This month, does Little Sister not have enough Open Heaven Pills? It's fine, do you want Senior Brother here to give you some? Not only that, I can give you an Open Heaven Pill every month!"

"Senior Brother's kindness is appreciated but unnecessary," Dié You shook her head slowly, then waved her hand over the counter, on which 30 Open Heaven Pills were placed.

Chapter 3846 – Workers' Way Out

The young man looked at the Open Heaven Pills on the table and asked, chuckling, "30 Open Heaven Pills is worth 10 years of pay as a Worker. It's quite a long time. Are you sure?"

Dié You pursed her red lips, "Many thanks for Senior Brother's concern. I can still afford 30 Open Heaven Pills."

"Good!" The young man nodded, reaching out with his hand and swiping the Open Heaven Pills into his pocket before he took out a wooden box and two boxes of incense. He then nodded and continued to work on his own business.

Dié You kept the purchases, said goodbye politely, and led Yang Kai away.

"Take your time to think about it when you go back. You can find me here at any time. I will be here every time the shopping district opens." The young man's voice came from behind.

Ignoring him, Dié You kept walking, and soon disappeared into the crowd.

Yang Kai, who had been following behind her, could not help looking back at the storefront and sighing lightly. He had been hanging out with Old Fang in the orchard for a month, but he still did not know much about the situation as a Worker here. However, he started to understand now.

He was not a child, and given that the young man was willing to give Dié You items for no reason and promised to give her an Open Heaven Pill every month, Yang Kai knew his motive. A pill a month would mean 12 pills a year. Compared to working hard as a Worker, it was 4 times the income. Dié You could have just nodded and agreed to serve him, and she would not have to suffer anymore. Who knows, she might even stand a chance to get rid of her status as a Worker with the help of this Seven Wonders Land disciple.

Nevertheless, Yang Kai was relieved that the young man did not force her. He wondered if it was due to the regulations of his Sect or other reasons; otherwise, Dié You had no way to resist him at all.

Then again, even if Dié You really agreed to it, Yang Kai would not judge her. Firstly, they were not that familiar with each other, and Yang Kai had no right to tell her what to do. Secondly, if she could find a way out for herself, Yang Kai would be happy for her too.

A Worker's life would remain unchanged even after a thousand years. How long would it take for her to shake it off through conventional means?

"You just arrived in the Outer Universe, but do you know how the power structure is divided?" Dié You suddenly turned to him and asked.

Yang Kai answered, "The Open Heaven Realm is divided into nine Orders?"

Die You smiled faintly, "Since you already know... There's no need to waste time on it. There are many materials to condense one's Yin, Yang and the Five Elements in this shopping district. It can be said that most of the stuff sold in this shopping district is related to that. You can look around more and maybe you can find something useful in the future."

"Really?" Yang Kai was excited and immediately looked around, soon finding something interesting and hurriedly rushing over towards it.

When Yang Kai came to a stall, the stall owner immediately welcomed him enthusiastically, "Little Brother, are you looking for something? Take a look here, and pick anything you like. My stuff has the best quality and the lowest price. I promise you won't be disappointed."

There were not many things on the stall, including several herbs that Yang Kai could not recognize, several weirdly shaped minerals, and a longsword.

What attracted Yang Kai's attention was a scarlet-coloured fist-sized crystal, which the colour was so pure that it did not have a trace of variegation. Yang Kai felt a scorching Fire Element reverberating from the crystal.

"Little Brother has good eyesight. This Fire Spirit Crystal is the best item here. It took me a lot of effort to get it back in those days. If Little Brother buys it, I'm sure you will be able to condense your Five Elements and be one step closer to the Open Heaven Realm. Heh heh, once you reach the Open Heaven Realm, you can get rid of your status as a Worker, and soar to success!" The stall owner spared no effort to promote his wares.

"Why sell such a good thing instead of using it for yourself?" Yang Kai played with the Fire Spirit Crystal in his hand and looked at the stall owner with a smile.

The stall owner put on a long face, "Little Brother, do you know that once you choose one of the Yin, Yang, and Five Elements, the order in which you must condense the rest is set? There will be endless trouble if you deviate from the path. To be honest, what I need now is a Water Element material, so this Fire Spirit Crystal is temporarily useless to me. I just want to sell it first and then use the money to buy the material I need. If not, why would I be willing to sell it? "

After listening to his reasonable explanation, Yang Kai nodded gently, "How much?"

The stall owner drew a number with his hands, "Since Little Brother seems to be a nice person, I won't quote any false price, and you don't try to bargain either. 150 Open Heaven Pills. Pay now and you'll have it, are you interested?"

Yang Kai turned to Dié You, and Dié You returned with a smile, "The price is reasonable."

The stall owner beamed, "See, even your companion says the price is reasonable. This Liu only engages in clean business and never supports scamming. If you think it's appropriate, we can make a deal now."

Yang Kai shook his head slowly and put down the Fire Spirit Crystal in his hand, "Sorry, I've only been here for a month and I don't have any Open Heaven Pill now."

"Ah..." Instead of being annoyed, the stall owner gave Yang Kai a smile, "It's alright. We can still be friends even if we can't make a deal today. It's not too late for you to save enough Open Heaven Pills to buy it later. Of course, only if my Fire Spirit Crystal has not met its destined owner by then."

It would require at least 40 - 50 years to earn 150 Open Heaven Pills. Anything could happen in such a long time.

"Then I wish Brother Liu a prosperous business and bountiful wealth!" Yang Kai cupped his fists.

"I shall take advantage of Little Brother's auspicious words!" The stall owner grinned.

When they were a good distance away from the stall, Dié You finally spoke, "If you're not in a hurry, save more Open Heaven Pills first. That Fire Spirit Crystal that you just saw is only a First-Order material. If you use that kind of thing to condense your Fire Element, your future achievements will be very limited."

"That Fire Spirit Crystal is only First-Order?" Yang Kai was shocked. There were nine Orders in the Open Heaven Realm so the materials that were used to condense the Yin, Yang, and Five Elements were also categorized into nine Orders, First-Order being the lowest while Ninth-Order was the highest. However, that was all Yang Kai knew, and without any reference, he was clueless about how to distinguish the Order of materials.

Still, even if Dié You did not mention it, he would have inquired about it.

"Yes, you can use First-Order materials to condense the required Elements before splitting Heaven and Earth apart within your body, but you will only reach the First-Order of the Open Heaven Realm."

Yang Kai frowned, "Is anyone going to buy something like that?"

"People with profound backgrounds and origins naturally are not interested in buying such materials, but for Workers like us, we don't really have a choice. Over the years, I've seen many Workers reach the

Open Heaven Realm and get rid of their lowly status, but they generally only reach the First or Second-Order. What's the point of escaping the status of being a Worker if they have to sacrifice their entire future for it."

"There are Workers who reach the Open Heaven Realm?" Yang Kai was dumbfounded. If so, his previous estimation was wrong. He thought that there were around eight Open Heaven Realm Masters in Seven Wonders Land, but now it seemed that there could be more than eighty of them.

However, the strength that these First-Order and Second-Order Open Heaven Realm Masters could exert must be limited. Still, it should be superior to any Emperor Realm Master.

"If First-Order materials cost 150 Open Heaven Pills, what about Second-Order materials?" Yang Kai questioned.

"Generally, the value difference of the materials between every Order gap is tenfold!"

"Tenfold!" Yang Kai was startled. According to her, a Second-Order material would be 1500 pills, a Third-Order material would be 15,000 pills, a Fourth-Order material would be 150,000 pills, a Fifth-Order material would be more than a million, and a Sixth-Order material...

Yang Kai suddenly felt a little dizzy.

"The Open Heaven Realm has nine Orders, and these nine Orders are also categorized into three grades by others, which were the High-Rank Open Heaven Realm, Mid-Rank Open Heaven Realm, and Low-Rank Open Heaven Realm. The Seventh, Eighth and Ninth-Order belong to the High-Rank, the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth-Order belong to the Mid-Rank, while the First, Second, Third-Order belong to the Low-Rank. Among these, Fourth-Order and Seventh-Order are the two important dividing lines. If you want to be successful in this Outer Universe, you should at least achieve the Fourth-Order Open Heaven Realm."

Yang Kai nodded with a solemn face, "Understood!" Suddenly he whispered, "Do you know what the Open Heaven Realm Orders of Heavenly Monarch and the Venerables are?"

Dié You shook her head slowly, "No idea, but I once heard that Heavenly Monarch is either Fourth-Order or Fifth-Order Open Heaven Realm. The Orders of the Venerables are probably a little lower than Heavenly Monarch's."

"En..." Yang Kai nodded.

As they walked and talked, Yang Kai would stop in front of the stalls from time to time to view the Yin, Yang, and the Five Elements materials and inquired about the price.

It was exactly as Dié You disclosed, the price gap between every Order or material was tenfold.

Moreover, looking at the whole shopping district, the materials put out in the Workers' stalls were all just First and Second-Order, with nothing in the Third-Order and above.

Thinking about it, it was not surprising at all. All the Workers of Seven Wonders Land came from different Universe Worlds and were essentially the lowest of labourers in the Outer Universe. Even if they had anything good, they probably had no chance to keep it, for Zhou Zheng and others like him

would always be expecting gifts from them. It was exactly because Yang Kai did not give Zhou Zheng anything that he was assigned a plot of land with a history of dead trees.

The Workers were only able to preserve these First-Order and Second-Order materials.

"Have you condensed your Wood Element?" Dié You suddenly asked.

Without denying, Yang Kai nodded, "En." There was no point denying it. In any case, the Immortal Tree's power had been completely stored in his Dao Seal, and no one could tell what Order it was now. Furthermore, it was not surprising that Dié You noticed this since he had paid a lot of attention to any Fire Attribute materials along the way.

Dié You continued, "If so, next time when you go to the orchard, you can try using your Wood Element power to nourish the fruit trees."

"Wood sustains Fire?" Yang Kai raised his brow.

Dié You laughed, "Exactly. But remember to control the power well, even a good thing in excess can be bad."

"I see. I'll be careful."

At that moment, they came to a shop. It could be regarded as the largest building in the entire shopping district. The three-story building stood out among the scattered shops in the shopping district like a crane amongst chickens.

"Let's go in and open your eyes," Dié You smiled.

Chapter 3847 – Open Heaven Temple And The Black Bear

"What do they sell?" Yang Kai looked up and saw three characters embossed on a plaque right in front of the store.

"Open Heaven Temple!"

Upon entering the store, Yang Kai immediately understood what business Open Heaven Temple did. It was also a place that sold Yin, Yang and the Five Elements materials, but the scale and layout were far better compared to the messy booths outside.

He followed behind Dié You and the two of them walked around the first floor. Yang Kai was dazzled by the display counters, which were filled with Ying, Yang, Five Elements materials. There were multitudes of options; however, the prices were a little higher than the ones placed at the stalls outside.

Even so, from time to time, deals were made with the Seven Wonders Land disciples donned in Seven Coloured Robes.

"Are all these First-Order too?" Yang Kai asked in a low voice. On this shopping trip, he learned to deduce the Order of these materials, and after walking around, he found that the materials on the first floor were all First-Order.

Dié You nodded, "The items on the first floor are all First-Order, items on the second floor are Second-Order, and the third floor, Third-Order!"

Yang Kai's eyes lit up, "Are Third-Order materials for sale here?" According to his previous calculations, a Third-Order material required more than 15,000 Open Heaven Pills, which was an impossible number for a Worker.

According to the worker's wages, it would take at least 5,000 years to save up this much! But who would not spend a single Open Heaven Pill on anything else to eat or drink in such a long time? Not to mention that no Worker would really work here for 5,000 years.

"Want to see?" Dié You smiled at him.

Yang Kai replied, "Since I have come, naturally I want to."

"Let's go then," Dié You beckoned and led Yang Kai up the stairs.

They didn't stop at the second floor and went directly to the third floor. The area of the third floor was obviously much smaller than that of the first, and there was not nearly as much selection. Seven Wonders Land obviously knew it was extremely difficult for Workers to purchase Third-Order materials, so it was useless to display many of them here. Only some materials were laid out casually as a way to give the Workers some hope, and to motivate them to work harder.

Yang Kai could not help thinking that the items on the third floor to the Workers were just like carrots dangling in front of a donkey...

"See for yourself," Dié You laughed, "As long as you don't touch anything, no one will worry about you."

Yang Kai nodded and walked around with his hands folded behind his back.

There were also disciples from Seven Wonders Land on the third floor, but as Dié You said, as long as he did not touch anything, they didn't pay him any mind.

Yang Kai moved from one counter to another, slowly observing and memorizing the characteristics of each and every Third-Order material.

For a person who used the Immortal Tree to condense his Wood Element, Yang Kai was naturally not impressed by the Third-Order materials here. Although he was a newcomer to the Outer Universe, Yang Kai had set his aim high from the very beginning. For the sake of the Immortal Tree, he had to find other materials that matched its Order to advance to the Open Heaven Realm.

Otherwise, his excellent start would be wasted.

He came here mainly just to explore and expand his horizons.

The third floor was not big, so it did not take long for Yang Kai to finish viewing everything, after which he looked up and saw Dié You stopping in front of a counter and walked over.

Following her gaze, he saw a bundle of irregular-shaped objects filled with Metal Element aura placed on the counter. Dié You watched with longing at the objects that continuously twisted and contorted into eccentric shapes.

Yang Kai's brow twitched and whispered, "Do you want to buy this?"

Dié You turned to look at him and smiled, "Are you done looking at everything?"

Yang Kai nodded, "Done, there is nothing much to see." As soon as he mentioned this, Yang Kai felt a sharp gaze and when he looked up, a Seven Wonders Land disciple keeping the third floor threw him a sarcastic look, probably because what he said just now sounded a little like shameless boasting! After all, to any Worker, the price for all these objects was sky-high, and there were very few capable buyers. What Yang Kai said sounded ridiculous in this disciple's eyes.

They didn't know that for Yang Kai, the items here were really unattractive.

"How many Open Heaven Pills is this?" Yang Kai asked again.

"16,000!" Dié You replied. She obviously had already inquired about the price before, and it was a little higher than what Yang Kai had estimated, but there was little bargaining room as this was the only place a Worker could purchase Third-Order materials in the entire Seven Wonders Land. As the saying goes, what is rare will be more expensive, and the increased price was still within an acceptable range.

"Do you have enough?" Yang Kai tilted his head at her.

Dié You burst out laughing, "How is that possible? I don't even have thirty percent of that."

Yang Kai frowned, "But this is only a Third-Order material..."

Dié You tucked a strand of hair behind her ear and smiled, "I know what you want to say. I felt the same way when I first came to the Outer Universe, trying to find better materials to condense my Yin, Yang, and Five Elements. Even if I can't reach the High-Rank Open Heaven Realm in a single bound, I have to at least achieve the Mid-Rank, but ideas and reality are two different things. It's actually not too bad if I really reached the Third-Order Open Heaven Realm. Then I can consume Open Heaven Pills to increase my Order. If I'm lucky, I might even be able to reach the Fifth-Order Open Heaven Realm in this lifetime, and a Fifth-Order Open Heaven Master is already a hegemon in this vast world."

Yang Kai nodded when he heard her explanation, "Fair enough."

There might not be a single Fifth-Order Open Heaven Master in the entire Seven Wonders Land. Even if there was, it would most probably be the Heavenly Monarch only while the Venerable Protectors should not be Fifth-Order.

Yang Kai could not help but sigh, how many people's ambition and passion had time extinguished? If one's situation had not changed after a thousand years, could they remain as optimistic as they were before?

Yang Kai did not know...

"When I've earned enough, I'll buy it for you." Yang Kai declared.

Dié You covered her mouth and giggled, "Then Elder Sister will thank you in advance." Obviously, she did not take his words seriously. After staying here for a thousand years, she knew better than anyone how difficult it was for a Worker to earn 16,000 Open Heaven Pills.

By the looks of Dié You's longing for the Metal Element material, Yang Kai could not help but wonder if she had already condensed her Earth Element; otherwise, why would she act like that?

While the two were talking, a sudden sound of footsteps thundered from the stairs, and an imposing figure burst in from the stairwell, revealing a huge man, whose steps caused the entire Open Heaven Temple to tremble.

His copper-bell-like eyes swept across the floor and suddenly lit up. He walked towards them with a smile on his face, and greeted cheerfully, "Xiao Dié, you really are here!"

Hearing the voice, Dié You's face darkened all of a sudden and she turned her head aside without giving a response.

Yang Kai looked over, and could not help feeling a little surprised. This tall and mighty figure was well over two metres high and in just two or three strides, he reached right in front of Dié You with a grin on his face.

Dié You, who already had a tall figure for a woman, looked like a child standing in front of him.

Even Yang Kai had to raise his head to look up at this man. The person in front of him resembled a big black bear standing on its hind legs, permeating a strong sense of oppression.

The bear was smiling from ear to ear, but the smile immediately vanished when he saw Yang Kai next to Dié You. He pointed at Yang Kai with a big fan-like palm and demanded, "Xiao Dié, who is this little brat?"

However, before Dié You could reply, the Seven Wonders Land disciple who was tending the third floor barked, "Quiet down or I'll kick you out!"

The bear's head immediately shrunk a little at the reprimand, and he swiftly nodded at the Seven Wonders Land disciple, "Senior Brother, please calm yourself. This Little Brother lost control of his emotions just now and was a little loud. Please forgive me."

The Seven Wonders Land disciple snorted coldly but did not say anything more.

The bear threw Yang Kai a vicious look, then turned to smile at Dié You again, "Xiao Dié, have you come to see this Stainless Golden Dew again? You have been coming here every month just to see it. Let's just buy it together. You have saved a lot of Open Heaven Pills, and I have some too. If we sell some of our things, we should be able to accumulate enough to buy it. By then you can look at it all you want."

"No need," Dié You frowned and beckoned to Yang Kai. "Let's go, there is nothing else to see here." After saying that, she took the lead and walked away.

Just as Yang Kai was about to follow, he was shoved aside by the bear. Seeing him chase after Dié You downstairs, Yang Kai scratched his nose and followed them leisurely.

After leaving Open Heaven Temple, Dié You dove into the crowd. The bear continued to follow her like a shadow, and although he was burly, his movements were extremely flexible, managing to squeeze between the crowd, trying to engage in a conversation with his target. It was a pity that Dié You's response was nonchalant, apparently completely uninterested in speaking to him.

Even a blind man could tell that this bear-like man was interested in Dié You, but it was no surprise. With Dié You's curvy figure and alluring appearance, it was only natural that she would attract the attention and admiration of some men. Even the Seven Wonders Land disciple from the place where they bought the wooden box and incense took a fancy to her.

But unfortunately, Dié You did not seem to care much about any of these men. The big bear did not mind, however, and just kept laughing with her all the way, talking constantly to engage in a conversation with her while trying his best to be courteous.

Yang Kai saluted him too, for his skin was so thick that it could be compared to the Dragon Scales on his own body...

All of a sudden, Dié You stopped abruptly, then looked back at Yang Kai and said, "I'm going back first, do you want to stay here a little while longer?"

Yang Kai was stunned for a moment before he understood what Dié You meant and smiled, "En, I'll stay for a bit. Many thanks, Sister Dié You."

"No problem!" Dié You smiled, then soared into the sky.

The bear was a little slow to respond as he was still standing where he stopped, rubbing his chin. Stealing a glance at Yang Kai, he then quickly chased after Dié You, shouting, "Xiao Dié, wait for me!"

Watching the two leave, Yang Kai chuckled softly, learning that Dié You was indeed quite thoughtful.

She asked that earlier, not because she was in a hurry to get rid of him, but because she did not want the bear to cause him trouble. Although Yang Kai was not afraid of trouble, it was better to avoid getting into any in this place, and the bear did not seem to be a reasonable individual.

Wandering around alone in this shopping district was an eye-opening experience, but not very rewarding.

Chapter 3848 - No Comparison

It was getting late, and just when Yang Kai was about to leave, he heard someone calling his name.

Yang Kai turned around and saw a figure waving at him from a small teahouse in the distance. Yang Kai approached with a smile and called out, "Ah Sun, you're here too!"

Ah Sun replied cheerfully, "En, I heard that there's a shopping district here, so I came to have a look. I wanted to invite you to come along, but you weren't in your house."

He did not have the intention of inviting Ah Sun along with him earlier, but thinking that Ah Sun actually thought of him, Yang Kai could not help feeling a bit ashamed of himself.

Ah Sun was not alone in the teahouse as the several newcomers who came with the Venerable Protector were there too. It seemed that they came here together.

But what surprised Yang Kai was how these people got the money to have tea here. Although this teahouse looked simple and was also opened by a Worker, there was no way for them to drink tea for free. In other words, they needed to pay Open Heaven Pills in order to sit here and drink.

Yang Kai turned around and had a look at the price list of all kinds of Spirit Tea. The cheapest pot of tea cost 1 Open Heaven Pill, while the most expensive one was 10 Open Heaven Pills.

Everyone was new and poor. Even Yang Kai could only get 1 Open Heaven Pill all thanks to the reward of Ruler of the Dawn Great General, but he was robbed by Old Fang of that earlier. The question was, where did they get the Open Heaven Pill to pay for the tea?

Looking at the way they were seated, the burly fellow from the Black River World was sitting in the main seat, which obviously meant he was treating today.

"All of you are here," Yang Kai greeted with a smile. Although they were not too close, since they had spent some time together in the Small Universe of the Venerable Protector, they were not strangers to each other either, and they had already exchanged their names and backgrounds.

The dignified woman Su Nian Yi, the Male Monster Shi Hao Cang, and the naive boy Qian Yu got up and greeted Yang Kai in return. Only the burly man Fang Tai remained seated on the main seat, giving just a small nod.

Yang Kai was astonished because Fang Tai was not so arrogant before. What changed him so much in this past month? However, Yang Kai did not have a deep relationship with these people, and Ah Sun was the only one he interacted with slightly more. It was impossible to judge a person's heart from his face, so without getting along with them for some time, Yang Kai would not know their true nature.

In any case, he did not care too much about it and simply returned the gesture with a smile before asking, "Why are all of you here? Is the Spirit Tea here free?"

Su Nian Yi smiled, "How can it be free? This pot of tea cost one Open Heaven Pill." She turned to glance at Fang Tai as she continued, "But since Brother Fang insisted on treating us, it would be impolite if we refused him. Brother Yang, would you like to sit down and try it? Although this Spirit Tea is a little expensive, it's really good."

"Since Brother Yang is here too, let's drink together. We have something to discuss too." Fang Tai invited.

"Many thanks then," Yang Kai cupped his fists and sat down.

Ah Sun quickly poured a cup of tea for Yang Kai, who took a sip and tasted it carefully. The tea was exceptionally good and he emptied the cup in just a few sips, leaving him wanting for more.

Nevertheless, there was not much tea left in the pot. The few of them had drunk some of the tea before, so there was only one cup left for Yang Kai.

Yang Kai queried, "What did you want to discuss?"

Fang Tai answered, "After a month of being here, we managed to have a grasp of the general situation. Since Brother Yang could find this shopping district by yourself, you must have gathered some information from others as well. You should know how difficult it is for newcomers like us to gain a foothold here."

Yang Kai nodded and sighed, "I know indeed!"

Fang Tai smiled faintly, "As such, this Fang thought that we should form an alliance and help each other. Everyone else has already agreed to it. How about you, Brother Yang?"

Hearing the proposal, Yang Kai answered, "Sure, we are all newcomers from the same batch, so if we don't help each other, no one will."

Fang Tai's face turned serious, "That's what this Fang means. United we stand, divided we fall. Everyone here must have been an overlord in their own Universe Worlds, but although we are a little suppressed in this Outer Universe, we will be able to achieve something in the future if the five of us work together."

Yang Kai turned to glance at the others and found that they indeed had no objection, so he asked, "I have no problem with this alliance, but how should we go about it specifically? Since we are forming our own group, it can't be just empty words. Let's say Sister Ah Sun is bullied..."

Ah Sun pouted, "Why would I be the one being bullied? Do I look easy to bully?"

"It's just an example..." Yang Kai chuckled.

Fang Tai answered, "Without violating the rules of Seven Wonders Land, we naturally have to seek justice for Sister Ah Sun!"

There's nothing wrong with this answer, so Yang Kai naturally would not refute it.

Fang Tai added, "For another example, regarding the Jade Fire Silkworm that grows on the Fire Spirit Fruit Trees that we're taking care of, if we catch them and give them to the Ruler of the Dawn Great General, we might be rewarded with an Open Heaven Pill. In this regard, this Fang can also help everyone. Feel free to call me to help at any time to catch worms for Ruler of the Dawn Great General. If you really get the reward, this Fang will only claim half of the share."

Yang Kai asked curiously, "Does Brother Fang have worm-catching tools?"

Shi Hao Cang interjected with a buzzing voice, "Brother Yang has no idea. Brother Fang successfully made a contribution as soon as he was assigned a plot in the orchard, and was rewarded with 30 Open Heaven Pills by Manager Zhou."

Yang Kai blinked at Fang Tai while the latter continued modestly, "It was just good luck. If it were anyone of you, you could have done the same."

Yang Kai kept smiling, but inside almost exploded from fury. The plot he was assigned had a history of dead trees and the same problem could happen again at any time; on the other hand, Fang Tai benefited from the plot he was assigned. There was simply no comparison between them.

Given that Fang Tai was rewarded with 30 Open Heaven Pills, he must have made a massive contribution; however, Fang Tai did not disclose much about it, so it was inconvenient for Yang Kai to ask what the contribution he made was.

However, it seemed like besides taking care of the fruit trees and offering Jade Fire Silkworms to the Ruler of the Dawn Great General, there were other ways for Workers to earn Open Heaven Pills.

Only then did he realize why Fang Tai could invite everyone to drink tea. The 30 Open Heaven Pills he had were more than enough to buy a set of worm-catching tools, given that Dié You spent only 30 pills to purchase a wooden box and two boxes of incense previously.

Fang Tai pressed on, "If there was no cost involved, this Fang wouldn't take a share of your benefits, but the Well-Refined Incenses have to be bought from this shopping district; therefore, if you really are rewarded by the Ruler of the Dawn Great General, it's not too much for this Fang to share half of it."

Everyone nodded, including Yang Kai. As Dié You mentioned before, the newcomers usually had no tools, and they had to ask someone for help in order to catch worms. But if so, the Jade Fire Silkworm they collected would belong to the loaner and if there was a reward, the borrower could not keep any of his own share at all. As such, it was a fair deal as Fang Tai just asked for half of the reward; after all, he needed to recoup his costs at least.

Fang Tai looked at Yang Kai and carried on, "If Brother Yang agrees, you can ask me for help by then. As long as this Fang is free, he will not refuse."

Yang Kai did not reveal that he did not need help, because that would mislead the others to think that he was living off a woman if he told them Dié You had bought him a set of tools. Moreover, Yang Kai also planned to return Dié You the Open Heaven Pills once he earned enough in the future. Therefore, he just smiled and said, "Then this Yang will offer his thanks in advance. If I really need Brother Fang's assistance in the future, I will inform him. However, my plot of land is very small with only a few fruit trees, so I might not need to catch worms."

Fang Tai responded, "Just come to me if you ever need to. Let's share a method of contacting each other later so that it will be easier for us to find each other."

Although the pot of tea was finished, the waiter in the teahouse did not rush them to leave but allowed them to occupy the table to further discuss the matter of their alliance. Everyone became closer to each other during this chat and they exchanged the information they had collected over the past month, making it a fruitful gathering for everyone.

Yang Kai vaguely felt that Fang Tai was making the call in everything, but he could not blame him for this as he was the most successful one among these few newcomers here. Now that everyone wanted something from him, they had to show him some respect.

Fang Tai also requested the waiter to refill a pot of water for them, but it was free. The few of them continued to drink and chitchat, and did not disperse until half a day later.

Fang Tai and the others wanted to continue strolling in the shopping district, but Yang Kai did not join them and instead soared directly into the sky and rushed towards Fire Spirit Land.

The distance from here to Fire Spirit Land was not too far, so he did not have to worry about getting lost as he still remembered the way.

Now that he was in this Seven Wonders Land, Yang Kai naturally could not waste this opportunity. Yang Kai plotted to spend fifty years here at most to get the Open Heaven Pill recipe. If he failed, he would find a way to leave this place; after all, he still needed to find information about the World Tree to save the Star Boundary, so he could not stay as a Worker in this place and take care of the fruit trees forever.

Yang Kai left the Universe World Fragment where the shopping district was located easily and began flying back to his house.

After flying for a while, a vicious aura suddenly locked onto him, followed by a golden light shooting at him from a distance. Inside the golden light, a burly figure could be seen vaguely.

Before it arrived, a huge axe was swung at Yang Kai's head, accompanied by a fierce shout, "I was still worrying that you wouldn't come out. Luckily I didn't waste my time waiting for you!"

Yang Kai narrowed his eyes, wondering who dared to fight him here. Moreover, it was an ambush. Subconsciously, he raised his palms and pushed them forward.

Time Principles flared as the Time Flies Seal shot out!

The golden light dispersed, revealing a figure as burly as a bear, while the power of Yang Kai's palm strike was also dispelled. The two were repelled a few thousand meters back from the explosion before they could stabilize their figures.

The bear blinked before commenting in amazement, "Not bad, little brat. You're able to withstand my axe!"

"What are you doing?" Yang Kai's face darkened, feeling a light headache. He understood why the bear was waiting for him here, but he did not expect that even if he tried not to leave together with Dié You and acted like a stranger to her, this man would still cause him trouble. It was incredibly puerile.

The bear grinned hideously, revealing a mouthful of pristine fangs as he pointed his axe at Yang Kai as he roared, "Little brat, what's your relationship with Xiao Dié? Be honest, or Father here will kill you!"

[As I thought...] Yang Kai sighed in his heart, but replied surprisingly, "Do you mean Sister Dié You?"

"Nonsense!" The bear glared, "Who else can it be other than her? Why did you come to the shopping district with her!?"

"My friend, is this perhaps a misunderstanding? I have only known Sister Dié You for less than a month. What relationship could I possibly have with her?"

Chapter 3849 - Trying His Hand

"If there's no relationship between the two of you, why would she come to this shopping district with you? Father here has never seen her having any other companion before... Wait, did you say you've only known Xiao Dié for a month?" The bear suddenly frowned at Yang Kai, seeming to have recalled something, "Are you one of the newcomers who arrived a month ago?"

Yang Kai nodded and confirmed, "Yes!"

The bear patted his head and guffawed loudly, "No wonder you don't look familiar, so you're a newcomer!" The laugh stopped abruptly, and he growled savagely, "How dare a newcomer hit on Father's woman, are you tired of living?"

Flabbergasted, Yang Kai defended himself, "Is this a misunderstanding, my friend? I'm not close to Sister Dié You. It's just because I'm a newcomer and I'm not familiar with this shopping district that she kindly brought me here to explore the place."

"That's all?" The bear glared at Yang Kai with his copper-bell eyes, the big axe in front of him threatening to swing down at any time.

"What else can it be?"

"Hmph!" Hot air puffed out of the bear's nostrils as he looked Yang Kai up and down carefully for a long time before speaking, "Seems you're not stupid after all. Little brat, remember this, Xiao Dié is my woman. If you dare to hit on her, Father here will make you regret ever being born!" He rubbed his chin again, and a look of disdain surfaced on his face, "But then again, Xiao Dié probably wouldn't be interested in you."

[If she has no interest in me, it's even less likely she'd be interested in you.] Yang Kai was tongue-tied, wondering where this bear got his sense of superiority from, but he still replied politely, This friend is right, Xiao Dié is indeed naturally beautiful and has a kind heart. Only someone like you, my friend... a man with a heroic spirit is compatible with her!"

The bear's vicious expression was immediately replaced by glee, and his gaze became a lot more cordial. Nodding continuously, he boasted, "That's right, in the entire Fire Spirit Land, no, the entire Seven Wonders Land, the only man who is worthy of Xiao Dié is me! Who else has this qualification? Little brat, you have a good eye! What's your name?"

Yang Kai cupped his fists, "This Little Brother is Yang Kai!"

The bear nodded, "I'll remember your name. It's rare to see a newcomer with such sharp insight. From now on, you can follow me. If someone bullies you in Fire Spirit Land, just say my name." Pointing his thumb at himself, he continued proudly, "Remember, Father's name is Xiang Yong!"

"Brother Xiang... This name is indeed majestic and domineering, Little Brother can't help but admire this name."

"Save your flattery!" Xiang Yong said, though the smugness of his face could not be concealed.

"Is Brother Xiang also from Fire Spirit Land?" Yang Kai was a little puzzled.

"Yes! What's so strange about that?"

"No, no, little brother was just a little curious, wondering why he hadn't met such an imposing and noble man like Brother Xiang earlier."

"It's not too late to meet now!"

"Yes, yes, there's nothing to regret in this lifetime to have met someone like Brother Xiang today." Yang Kai cleared his throat lightly, and looked at him, "Since the misunderstanding is resolved, can this Little Brother go back now?"

"En, go!"

Yang Kai dismissed himself and brushed past Xiang Yong.

"Wait!" Xiang Yong suddenly flickered next to him and cut off Yang Kai's path with his axe again, his eyes narrowed, "If Xiao Dié asks..."

"Brother Xiang and I bonded with each other like old friends the moment we met, and Brother Xiang took care of me in every possible way..." Yang Kai did not even need to think before replying.

Xiang Yong grinned happily, "You're quite good! Father here appreciates you! Good, go back."

Bidding farewell to Xiang Yong, Yang Kai flew back to Fire Spirit Land, to the village where the Worker's Room was located, took out his token to open his house, entered, and was just about to sit down when there was a knock outside the door.

It was Dié You, who scanned him from top to bottom with her eyes the moment he opened the door and asked, "Are you all right?"

"Yes? What could have happened to me?" Yang Kai blinked confusedly.

"Good then. Someone told me just now that Xiang Yong left the Worker's Room. I was going to take a look but I saw you come back first."

"Xiang Yong? Who is Xiang Yong?"

"He's that guy who followed me around today, the one who looks like a bear," Dié You said, laughing at her own description.

"Oh..." Yang Kai nodded, looking surprised, "So his name is Xiang Yong. But what does he have to do with me and you leaving the Worker's Room?"

"It's best if it has nothing to do with you." Dié You simply replied. She then took out two items, "Oh right, I bought this for you today, but I forgot to give it to you."

It was the Cyan Wood Box, and two boxes of Well-Refined Incense.

Yang Kai took it and thanked her, "Once I've saved enough Open Heaven Pills, I'll pay you back with interest."

"No hurry." Dié You laughed, "Have a good rest, I'll go back now." She started yawning as she spoke, and her typical weary expression appeared again.

"Take care." Yang Kai nodded.

After Dié You left, Yang Kai shut the door and took a good look at the Cyan Wood Box and the Well-Refined Incense. He had borrowed such items from Old Fang before for worm-catching, so he was not unfamiliar with it.

Two boxes of Well-Refined Incense contained ten sticks of the incense, which were enough to last him one to two years, so for the time being, it did not matter even if he did not have any Open Heaven Pills.

Just after putting away the box and incense, there was another knock on the door.

Yang Kai felt strange, wondering who came to look for him again. He thought maybe Dié You had forgotten to tell him something again; however, when he opened the door, he was immediately blinded by a golden light.

At the door, a golden rooster half a person tall stood dignifiedly with his head high and chest puffed out, just like a proud General patrolling his territory.

The two looked at each other for a while, and then Yang Kai smiled, "So it is Great General! Is there something I can do for Great General? I don't have any more Jade Fire Silkworms!"

The Ruler of the Dawn Great General turned his head slowly aside, staring at Yang Kai with one eye.

Yang Kai scratched his head, confused.

After a while of glaring, the Ruler of the Dawn Great General turned and slowly stepped away, his fat buttocks swaying with every step as he walked off slowly.

Yang Kai was bewildered and looked down at himself, wondering if there was something strange about him. By the time he looked up again, the Ruler of the Dawn Great General had disappeared.

He shook his head speechless, shut the door tightly, and went to rest and adjust his breathing.

For the next two days, nothing happened.

Early in the morning of the third day, the sound of the golden rooster announcing dawn resounded throughout the village, and Yang Kai was awakened suddenly. He listened carefully with a frown, vaguely feeling that the sound of the Great General's crow today was very much closer than normal.

He got up and opened the door and sure enough, the Ruler of the Dawn Great General was screeching and crowing directly at him.

[Do you have a grudge against me?] Yang Kai was so tempted to ask. Ever since his arrival at the Worker's Room, this rooster had been picking on him.

Glaring at Great General, Yang Kai closed the door behind him and flew into the sky.

Streams of light shot into the sky from all over the village, rushing towards the orchard.

In less than an hour, Yang Kai arrived at his plot. First, he went to inspect every fruit tree on his site to make sure that they were all growing well and recorded the number of Spirit Fruits, making sure that none were missing. Only then did he begin to care for the trees in accordance with their needs.

After half a day of work, Yang Kai finished tending to his thirty fruit trees without much trouble. Since he had nothing to do now, he strode over to Old Fang's site leisurely with his hands behind his back.

Old Fang was still busy. Due to the many fruit trees under his care, he had to work for a few days every time he came back here before he could stop to rest.

After hanging out together for a month, the two of them could be considered acquaintances. Old Fang merely greeted him briefly before continuing with his work.

Yang Kai followed Old Fang, trying to engage him in conversation. At first, Old Fang entertained him, but it later became notably annoying; how could he be in the mood to chat with Yang Kai when he had not finished his task? Yang Kai, on the other hand, was acting as if he was the experienced one, giving advice and pointers on how to care for the trees, forgetting who was the one who taught him in the first place.

"If you're really that free, let's work together and finish early so we can play chess." Old Fang looked up at Yang Kai, unable to endure it any longer.

Yang Kai turned to look around, silently calculated the amount of work and time Old Fang still needed and then said, "Forget it, since you are busy, I'll come back to visit in a few days."

After saying that, Yang Kai walked off casually.

"Ungrateful little wolf!" Old Fang scolded through gritted teeth, "Completely unsympathetic to this old man!"

Yang Kai turned the back of his head to him, pretending not to hear.

Yang Kai returned to his plot and soon grew bored as he could not cultivate in this environment. There really was nothing to do, but he soon remembered that this was a plot where trees had died. He had examined the place before and found no problems, but maybe this time he might get a clue.

Immediately taking out his control token, Yang Kai concentrated on investigating his land, but in the end, he found nothing...

Putting away the token, Yang Kai rubbed his chin, really befuddled with what went wrong with this damned place. Why would three perfectly healthy trees die all of a sudden?

Inadvertently, he remembered Dié You had mentioned before in the shopping district that since he had already condensed his Wood Element, he could use it to nourish his Fire Spirit Fruit Trees.

If he could not discover the problem with this piece of land, he could at least use his Wood Element to nourish his trees, hopefully staving off any issues in advance. After all, if anything did happen in the future, he would have to take responsibility for it.

Finally finding something to do, Yang Kai happily came to the centre of his plot and immersed himself in his mind. His fingers formed a seal a moment later as he urged the power in his Dao Seal.

With Yang Kai as the centre, a wave of energy spread out in all directions. If one looked closely, the wave of energy had a faint emerald-green colour to it and was filled with rich vitality.

Unsure of how his Wood Element would affect the fruit trees, Yang Kai only tried his hand slightly, not daring to take drastic measures.

His little attempt did not worry him at first, but Yang Kai jumped abruptly a moment after he began because his small plot suddenly rumbled noisily. He stopped immediately and stretched his neck to look around. There were no changes in the fruit trees, but subtle movements were rustling from the corner of the orchard.

Yang Kai walked over and stopped in front of the three seedlings. At this moment, the soil around the roots of the three seedlings was undulating. The seedlings seemed to be growing, their developing roots causing the soil to roll and lurch.

Chapter 3850 – Overreaching

After staring at the three seedlings for two hours, Yang Kai found that they had truly grown taller. Although it was not even a finger's length, it was enough to attract attention.

[Is it because of the Immortal Tree?] Previously, Yang Kai had merged with the Immortal Tree in order to bring him back to life. Then, he condensed its Wood Element into his Dao Seal. In this way, the ability of resurrection was lost; however, his Dao Seal gained a supreme Wood Element, which would be of great help in his future cultivation.

As such, when he surged the Wood Element in his Dao Seal, it was equivalent to triggering the power of the Immortal Tree, so it was possible to promote the growth of the seedlings in just two hours.

This was an amazing feat. According to Old Fang, it took at least two to three hundred years for the Fire Spirit Fruit Tree to grow from a seedling to maturity, and only a fully grown fruit tree could blossom and bear fruit.

The three seedlings have been planted for less than ten years, and only grew slightly every year. However, if someone found out that they suddenly grew a finger's length overnight, Yang Kai might draw trouble to himself.

Nevertheless, what was done was done. Yang Kai could not reverse their growth anyway, so he silently decided to pay extra attention to the three seedlings if he was going to do something similar again, so as to prevent them from being affected by his Wood Element.

Moreover, an additional finger's length should not be noticed unless someone paid particularly close attention to them.

This was his plot of land after all and no one would come to check on them for no reason; therefore, for the time being, his situation should still be safe.

In fact, if it was possible, Yang Kai would like to release the two Wood Spirits, Mu Zhu and Mu Lu, to take care of the orchard. The Wood Spirit Clan was unrivalled when it came to this kind of job. With their care, Yang Kai could act as the arm-flinging shopkeeper he always was.

But it was inconvenient to do so. Not to mention that the orchard was accessible in all directions and people would pass by from time to time, Zhou Zheng would come to inspect occasionally too, as well as the Chief Manager who had yet to appear. If someone saw his two Wood Spirits, Yang Kai was afraid that he could not protect them with his current ability.

As such, it was just a passing thought, along with the thought of moving some Fire Spirit Fruit Trees into his medicine garden so that the two Wood Spirits could take care of them inside.

Squatting in front of the three seedlings, Yang Kai observed carefully for some time to make sure that the finger length height change would not attract anyone's attention, only then did he feel a little relieved.

Before he could get up, however, he heard the sound of wings flapping, as well as a familiar aura approaching him. Yang Kai turned around, and almost laughed at the sight.

About a hundred metres above the ground, a golden rooster was flying unsteadily, trying notably hard to flap its wings. Not knowing whether it was bad at flying or just because it was too plump, Ruler of the Dawn Great General swayed up and down, and it looked as though it might fall at any time.

However, at this moment, the Ruler of the Dawn Great General was not as big as before. In fact, he even looked smaller than a normal rooster. He obviously used some Secret Technique to shrink himself.

After all, he was not a real chicken. Since he was the pet of the Venerable Protector, Great General must have some abilities of his own. Moreover, according to Yang Kai's observation, Great General should possess some exotic bloodline and it just so happened that he looked like a rooster. Therefore, it did not really have much to do with the breed of chicken, and it was not surprising for him to have a grasp of some Secret Techniques.

Nevertheless, it was Yang Kai's first time seeing him flying, and the way he flew was quite amusing.

The others in the orchard certainly noticed Great General too and in an instant, multiple streams of light shot towards him from the ground, causing Ruler of the Dawn Great General to be surrounded in the blink of an eye.

All of them saluted and bowed to him, and some even took the initiative to offer up Jade Fire Silkworms. Unfortunately for them, Great General ignored them and just flew ahead.

Seemingly annoyed by their fencing, Ruler of the Dawn Great General cock-a-doodle-dooed and flapped his two fat wings vigorously, like he was shooing them away.

Yang Kai was hugging his stomach by now, laughing hysterically as he enjoyed the scene above from below.

As if his laughter caused a chain reaction, for some reason, the Ruler of the Dawn Great General, who was flying forward, suddenly stopped, faced downward, and plummeted straight towards the ground. No matter how hard he flapped his wings, he had no way to stop himself.

Exclamations echoed, and everyone's face changed drastically.

Yang Kai's face was as black as the bottom of a pot as his smile hung stiffly on his face. Why? Because the damn chicken was falling directly into his plot.

Instantaneously, following a great squawk, Ruler of the Dawn Great General crashed headfirst into the ground ten metres in front of Yang Kai, his plump hips and wings twitching lightly.

Yang Kai was dumbstruck.

Everything happened so fast that he failed to react. He could have moved to stop Ruler of the Dawn Great General, but he was so dumbfounded he just watched him crash face-first into the dirt!

Looking up at the sky, a group of people were staring at him, but in the next moment, as if they had all agreed beforehand, they scattered, turning into streams of light and returning to their respective sites, hiding away. The originally bustling sky suddenly fell silent.

Yang Kai opened his mouth and cursed angrily, then turned around and wanted to leave as well, but this was his plot. The others had places to hide, but where could he go?

[This is bad.]

Although he did not do anything to the Ruler of the Dawn Great General, if something happened to the stupid chicken in his own territory, Yang Kai could guarantee that he would not see the sun rise tomorrow. It might not just be him as the people who had gathered around Great General earlier would not be able to escape punishment either.

Standing with a gloomy face, Yang Kai watched the stupid chicken twitch its wings while his face twitched too.

[Since this golden rooster possesses a special bloodline, he should be strong, and would not have suffered badly from such a fall, right?] Yang Kai comforted himself, went forward, and squatted in front of Ruler of the Dawn Great General, poking him with his finger.

Great General's wings trembled even more violently, prompting Yang Kai to reach out and yank him out of the ground.

As soon as Great General was extricated from trouble, he flapped his wings violently, his beak transforming into a series of shadows that advanced towards Yang Kai.

Yang Kai instinctively slammed his palm forward.

Followed by a sorrowful crow, Great General was sent flying as several of his feathers fell off.

"Are you crazy? Why did you peck me? It wasn't me who brought you down!" Yang Kai retorted angrily.

Great General's eyes widened, as if he could not believe what just happened. He did not seem to expect that someone would dare to lay a hand on him in this Fire Spirit Land. Soon after, when he saw the several feathers falling from the sky, Great General was instantly enraged. He leapt a metre high off the ground and his chubby body radiated a dazzling golden light as he shot towards Yang Kai.

Initially, Yang Kai felt a little guilty for hitting him out of instinct earlier, but now that he saw Great General was still acting stubborn, his heart burned with anger and he cared no more. He immediately went forward to face Great General, surging his power in every palm strike, hitting the Ruler of the Dawn Great General until he squawked crazily.

Old Fang, who was not far away, was alarmed by the commotion. He did not know what the situation was, and hurriedly came to investigate, but his face turned pale as soon as he saw the scene and he immediately retreated, not daring to come back again.

In the orchard, two figures, one big and one small, crisscrossed back and forth as golden feathers flew about.

Yang Kai had to admit that, although the Ruler of the Dawn Great General looked silly, he was quite strong, on par with any Pseudo-Great Emperor back in the Star Boundary, and Yang Kai could feel that he had not given his all yet.

It was impossible that the pet of the Venerable Protector only knew the two skills, which were just pecking and scratching. Clearly Great General did not plan on using any Secret Technique in their altercation.

Since Great General held back, Yang Kai responded in kind. He could easily stop the silly chicken from getting close just by using his two fists anyway.

After two hours of fighting, Great General was probably exhausted and the golden feathers all over its body had grown dim. Spreading his wings open, he glared at Yang Kai fiercely, but dared not to approach anymore.

Yang Kai lifted his chin at him defiantly, and announced proudly, "This King has travelled the Heavens and Earth for many years. How dare a trivial chicken challenge this King!? You're overreaching!"

The Ruler of the Dawn Great General was obviously maddened as he hopped up and down several times.

Yang Kai could feel that his opponent was being humiliated and unwilling to submit in defeat, and he could not help guffawing, "Get out of here now if you're wise. If you dare to come at me again, don't blame this King for being ruthless!" While speaking, he waved his big fist in front of the Great General.

Ruler of the Dawn Great General stared at him coldly before suddenly, his eyes flashed and he charged to the side.

Yang Kai frowned slightly as he wondered what this stupid chicken was up to now, but in the next moment, his face changed drastically and he roared, "You dare!?"

With a flicker, he appeared in front of Great General and launched a palm strike; however, Ruler of the Dawn Great General was prepared for this and leapt backwards, landing directly on a fruit tree and extending his neck to peck a scarlet Fire Spirit Fruit.

Yang Kai was infuriated. This damn chicken could not beat him in a fair fight, so he decided to deal with him through underhanded means, showing how vicious he could be.

There were several fruits nearby, and each one was counted and recorded meticulously. If any of these fruits were damaged by Great General, Yang Kai would not be able to explain to Zhou Zheng at all. By that time, instead of this stupid chicken, he was the one who would be punished.

Ignoring the barriers of space, Yang Kai reached out his hand and grabbed Ruler of the Dawn Great General by the neck before drawing him in front of him.

Yang Kai glared at him furiously and said coldly, "Do you want to die?"

The Ruler of the Dawn Great General stared into his eyes fearlessly, his gaze still wandering between Yang Kai and the fruit tree. Its answer was truly obvious, it was daring Yang Kai to kill him, otherwise, he would destroy his fruits.

Yang Kai was speechless...

Although he had a fight with this stupid chicken, he actually did not really dare to harm him; after all, Great General was the pet of the Venerable Protector. If he killed him, Yang Kai would suffer dire consequences.

But holding onto Great General all the time was not a solution. After pondering for a while, Yang Kai decided to take a step back, "I won't argue with you about this anymore. It's none of my business that you fell down, but rather due to your own carelessness. If you want to find someone to blame, you can blame those guys who boxed you in. I'll let you go now, so please just leave. Let's just forget this incident and pretend nothing happened just now. If you agree with me, blink once."

The Ruler of the Dawn Great General blinked...

Yang Kai nodded, "Don't try to play tricks with me!"

Yang Kai released his grip slowly, but as soon as the Ruler of the Dawn Great General was out of his grasp, he charged straight to the closest fruit tree.

Yang Kai grabbed it back and chuckled gloomily, "It seems that you really don't know how to write the word 'death'!"