

Merchant 981

### **Chapter 981: Where Are We Meeting?**

“I prepared a lot of blood that can fend off the flesh-eating bacteria. Why don’t we call the Marsh Crocodiles here now?”

Lin Yuan turned to say to the Marsh Ground Sphagna, “Cover the Marsh Crocodiles’ backs in moss and map out the marsh world as the Marsh Crocodiles are swimming around. This way, you won’t have to worry about the stagnant water.”

Next, Lin Yuan said to Wendy, “Wendy, you have to hurry up and absorb all the poison inside the Drugged Snake Eagle’s heart to increase your power.”

Lin Yuan leaped onto Rising Lizard’s back, and they moved toward the edge of the marsh.

When they arrived at the edge of the marsh, Lin Yuan saw tens of Marsh Crocodiles.

The Marsh Crocodiles looked terrified but still opened their mouths, half defensively and half challengingly.

Scale Concubine finally caught up to Rising Lizard and said, “After the Drugged Snake Eagle discovered me, it immediately decimated all the Marsh Crocodiles under my control. The stench of blood probably attracted these Marsh Crocodiles.”

The Medusa Snake Demon started to sing the Marsh Crocodile Song to control the 30 Marsh Crocodiles.

The strongest Marsh Crocodile present was Class 6. As such, they were all easily controlled by the Medusa Snake Demon.

Lin Yuan poured a bucket of the Tunneling Mouse blood that Listen had given him into the marsh.

The Tunneling Mouse was a scavenger fey, and its blood was very resistant to decay.

Lin Yuan often saw people killing the Tunneling Mice near garbage cans back in Xia Region.

If no one cleaned up the Tunneling Mice’s corpses, they would not decay even after a month.

After the Tunneling Mouse blood was poured into the marsh, the stench of blood mixed with the mud to produce an unbearable odor.

Lin Yuan did not immediately retreat from the odor. Instead, he poured two more barrels of the Tunneling Mouse into the marsh.

He was afraid that the Tunneling Mouse blood would be insufficient to attract the Marsh Crocodile.

But he soon realized that his concerns were unnecessary.

Waves started to surge in the distant marsh, and more Marsh Crocodiles swam over within a few minutes.

One hour later, Scale Concubine said, "Lord, I've reached my limit of the number of Marsh Crocodiles I can control with Marsh Crocodile Song. If I try to control more Marsh Crocodiles, my hold on these 1,500 will weaken."

Lin Yuan nodded. He had underestimated the effects of blood on the Marsh Crocodiles.

In the past hour, 1/5 of the blood in the marsh had been consumed by the flesh-eating bacteria in the marsh.

This meant that the Tunneling Mouse blood in the marsh would last for five hours.

But the more Marsh Crocodiles gathered, the deeper Lin Yuan furrowed his brow,

Scale Concubine had been paying attention to Rising Lizard and Lin Yuan while singing the Marsh Crocodile Song.

When Scale Concubine saw Lin Yuan frown, it said, "Lord, how about I instruct the 1,500 Marsh Crocodiles under my control to attack the other Marsh Crocodiles? Marsh Crocodiles can increase their power and class by consuming other Marsh Crocodiles. Even if the ones under my control end up being killed, I can quickly replace them with other Marsh Crocodiles. The more high-class marsh Crocodiles under my control, the better feast Lord Rising Lizard will have."

Lin Yuan suddenly realized how devious the Medusa Snake Demon was. Nonetheless, this method could increase the defenses of his territory in the marsh world.

Lin Yuan tossed a fey storage box to Scale Concubine and said, "There's a large amount of Tunneling Mouse blood inside. You can use it as you see fit. I'll also try to come up with a way to increase your power so that you'll be able to control more Marsh Crocodiles."

Scale Concubine looked delighted as it received a gift from the young man who could produce Apostles.

It was so lucky!

Lin Yuan returned to the main world.

Hu Quan had already started selecting Spirit Craftsmen for the team that would enter the marsh world.

Lin Yuan was also hard at work at evolving feys so as to fulfill his trades with Sun Ningxiang and Long Xiao and to evolve the snake-type feys meant for Wendy to Bronze/Legend.

Lin Yuan was slightly curious. The blind trades for the Flower Brocade Pearls should have ended, and a mountain of Aurora pollen was collected from it.

The Sea Bliss Clan should be in a frenzy by now.

However, Wen Yu reported that the Sea Bliss Clan was still as steady as a rock and continuing to expand.

Lin Yuan was certain that the Sea Bliss Clan's store of Aurora pollen should be running low.

From Condense Fairy Orchard's records of Aurora pollen transactions, the Sea Bliss Clan had not bought any Aurora pollen since six months ago.

This was the Sea Bliss Clan's shrewd plan. By only buying Aurora pollen every six months when the price was at its lowest, the Sea Bliss Clan saved a significant amount of money.

After the Sea Bliss Clan bought their batch of Aurora pollen, the price of Aurora pollen would skyrocket. However, the Sea Bliss Clan had enough stock to wait until the price fell again.

Lin Yuan suddenly thought of a ludicrous possibility.

Could it be that the Sea Bliss Clan was so focused on their fish farms in the islands that they had not even noticed the change in the price of Aurora pollen?

At that moment, Lin Yuan's phone rang.

He frowned when he saw that it was an unknown number.

After picking him up, he heard a timid female voice say, "Is this Black? I'm Tian Ningning. Where are we meeting?"

### **Chapter 982: Ready to Reveal His Identity**

Before Lin Yuan could finish speaking, Tian Ningning said, "I don't think it's appropriate for me to go to your house for our first meeting. Why don't we find somewhere else to meet and talk?"

Lin Yuan could not help but be shocked by what Tian Ningning said.

He had been busy with his own business the last two days, and time just flew by.

Moreover, he always lost track of time when he was working and never stopped until he was done.

Lin Yuan looked out the window and saw that it was a sunny day in the Royal Capital. A gentle breeze herded plumes of clouds while wispy strands bunched up like swathes of thin veils. The sun continuously peeked out and dipped beneath the clouds in a never-ending cycle.

Due to the Mountain River Eternal Life Carp's Place of Life, it was always lush and green in the Return from Faraway Mansion.

Lin Yuan suddenly felt cold and warm at the same time, and he realized that spring had truly come.

He had been wanting to buy a few Hundred Questions Beasts to become Genius' students.

Since Tian Ningning wanted to meet elsewhere, he could use the free time to pick out a few Hundred Questions Beasts.

It was almost time for lunch. Thus, he decided to ask Tian Ningning out for lunch.

Regardless, he did not plan on hiding anything from her anymore.

Besides his identity as the city owner of Sky City, Lin Yuan was going to come clean to her about his other identities.

"Fine. Spirit Food Pavilion recently came out with a spring set meal that many people on Star Web are saying is good. Why don't we go there for lunch?"

Tian Ningning suddenly felt her ear grow hot as she listened to Lin Yuan speak.

She had never heard Black's voice before, and the young man on the other end of the call had a magnetic yet refreshing voice.

Tian Ningning's heart pounded in her chest.

As Black's exclusive reporter, she was responsible for all his affairs on Star Web.

However, she always felt a wall between the both of them.

But from this one call, Tian Ningning felt that the distance between them had started to close.

Tian Ningning had always wanted to get to know Black, and she finally had her chance.

After meeting him offline, she would officially become close to him.

In the future, even if she could not contact him, she could go to his house and would not have to meet him elsewhere like they were doing now.

"Okay! See you there! We were given many vouchers during New Year's, one of which will get us a discount at the Spirit Food Pavilion. Let me treat you."

Lin Yuan smiled but did not reject her offer.

"Let's meet at the Spirit Food Pavilion in half an hour," replied Lin Yuan.

The moment he hung up the phone, he heard someone knock on his door.

He opened the door to see Wen Yu standing there with a rack of clothes in tow.

She struggled to lift the rack and poked her head out to say, "Young Master, these are the clothes I designed with Pinru. They were designed for your measurement, so you can try them on."

Lin Yuan hurriedly took over the rack from Wen Yu. He estimated there to be at least 20 sets of spirit qi clothes hanging on the rack.

"All these clothes we made for you have a special quality to them. Spring is almost upon us, and I asked Listen to collect various spiritual ingredients suitable for being made into spirit qi clothes. We plan on making clothes suitable for in-between seasons first. We can just simplify the designs later to save some of the valuable spiritual ingredients," said Wen Yu with a smile.

Lin Yuan's eyebrow twitched.

All the clothes he had just been given were essentially limited edition.

Most of the clothes that Pinru's Home eventually released to the market would be edited versions of these ones.

Lin Yuan could sincerely sense Wen Yu and Lu Pinru's passion for this fashion brand.

From Wen Yu's passion, he knew that she was the one that wanted to establish a fashion brand.

It was just that she had been so busy with Sky City's business and held down the fort on many affairs on her own that she had not had the time to nurture her personal interests.

Now that Sky City was on track, Wen Yu had a lot more time.

Moreover, Lu Pinru had a knack for management and could be a big help to Wen Yu.

Hence, Wen Yu finally had the time to build a brand with Lu Pinru.

Lin Yuan smiled at Wen Yu and said, "In order to make your brand famous, you have to work on your luxury goods. People will only clamor to buy your items when they treat them as luxury goods rather than regular items."

Wen Yu listened intently to Lin Yuan's words before replying, "Pinru and I have already decided that we'll also offer custom-made clothes. They will require much more spiritual ingredients but should be able to be considered as luxury goods."

Lin Yuan shook his head and said, "The spirit qi clothes and luxury goods must have a fundamental difference. The luxury goods have to be expensive enough that they won't be swapped out. However, spirit qi clothes are different. Every main member of the major factions spends every day trying to come up with a way to develop their faction. Hence, they will have many meetings. During the meetings, what they wear will be very important.. If you want to raise the reputation of your brand, you have to target these people."

### **Chapter 983: Distribution and Ranking Structure**

Wen Yu looked confused as she did not understand what Lin Yuan was saying. She felt that custom-made clothes should be enough.

"In order to display one's status, the members of factions will not wear the spirit qi clothes they wear to banquets. Some of them might even be afraid of being seen as having a lack of clothes and never wear the spirit qi clothes again. Hence, the custom-made clothes will only be worn once, and it'll be hard to attract orders from the major factions," said Lin Yuan.

Wen Yu nodded while she pondered over Lin Yuan's words.

Since she used to be a spirit attendant, she understood the major factions well and knew about the situation that Lin Yuan was describing.

However, she could not come up with a solution.

As Lin Yuan watched Wen Yu contemplating the issue, he smiled and said, "Wen Yu, do you know about the distribution of goods?"

Wen Yu shook her head.

Lin Yuan started to explain, "If a brand wants to retain its customers, it needs to continuously appeal to its customers in a way that customers won't feel reluctant to part with their money. If the custom-made

clothes can only be bought after a customer buys ten other spirit qi clothes, do you think the customers will buy the ten spirit qi clothes?”

Realization dawned on Wen Yu, and she immediately understood what Lin Yuan was getting at.

Lin Yuan continued before she could think about designing the distributed spirit qi clothes. “When a set of spirit qi clothes is precious enough and able to display one’s status, the person will never get tired of wearing it. The heavenly-maiden-grade elemental pearls should be able to drive up the price when used on a set of spirit qi clothes.

“A key factor of luxury goods is its air of superiority. In order to magnify the air of superiority, there must be a ranking. One set of spirit qi clothes with Cloud Dream Lake elemental pearls can only be obtained after ten other sets of spirit qi clothes are bought. In contrast, a set of spirit qi clothes with Defined Life elemental pearls can only be obtained after 100 sets of other spirit qi clothes and ten sets with Cloud Dream Lake elemental pearls are bought.

“You can also offer a service where Class 5 Weavers will create the spirit qi clothes with Defined Life elemental pearls to the customer’s desired color and details to increase the demand.”

Wen Yu’s eyes lit up. She felt that if Lin Yuan built his own fashion brand, he would probably end up supplying half the clothes worn by the major factions to important events.

As someone who was skilled at organizing, Wen Yu knew Lin Yuan would be capable of doing so because he understood human nature well.

She took out the notebook she always carried with her and jotted down the business plan that Lin Yuan had just laid out.

Lin Yuan did not interrupt her.

He picked out a set of white spirit qi clothes with silver patterns from the rack that Wen Yu had brought.

Lin Yuan noticed that Wen Yu’s Weaver skills had improved.

The silver patterns were stitched using Diamond Soft Silk Silver Silkworm thread.

The thread was feather-light and would be able to remain floating for a minute in a windless environment.

Class 3 Weavers would find it very difficult to embroider using such silk.

Lin Yuan remembered that Wen Yu had only been a Class 3 Weaver when she first made spirit qi clothes for him.

He put the white spirit qi clothes on and communicated with Blackie through his spiritual energy.

Blackie appeared by his window, and he jumped down onto its back.

Blackie immediately carried Lin Yuan toward Tree Stream River, where the Spirit Food Pavilion and the Creation Master Association were.

There were rows of shops lining the back alleys. These stores sold anything, including feys. There would definitely be many Hundred Questions Beasts available for Lin Yuan to choose from.

Although he had announced himself as the Moon Empress' disciple at the Guard Ye Banquet, information about the disciples of the members of royalty was not leaked.

Thus, he did not need to worry about anyone recognizing him as the Moon Empress' disciple.

However, he had made an appearance at the Allstar Match and still attracted attention while riding on Blackie's back.

Lin Yuan also encountered two girls on avian-type feys that stopped him to try to get his contact details and autograph.

The members of the Radiance Hundred Sequence and A-level and B-level guild clubs were used to such occurrences, but Lin Yuan found it uncomfortable.

Many avian-type feys were flying about within the Royal Capital, but not many of them were Fantasy Breed feys, much less pure flood-dragon-species feys.

Lin Yuan had won his fight at the Allstar Match by just using a red light, and many people had been wondering what feys he had.

This flood-dragon-species fey obviously could not let out red light and could not be the fey that Lin Yuan had used at the Allstar Match.

The black flood-dragon-species fey had been evolved to Fantasy Breed while at Gold grade. This meant that it was definitely not just used for transport but was a fey with which Lin Yuan had actually formed a contract.

Many people took pictures of Lin Yuan riding on Blackie to upload them on Star Web to attract more traffic and likes on their personal pages.

#### **Chapter 984: Plum Blossom Branches and the Young Man**

Lin Yuan stopped Blackie when they arrived at the entrance of Tree Stream Street. He jumped to the ground and saw a row of shops selling plum blossom branches.

Plum blossoms could be used to make wine, cook soups, bake into biscuits, and as a spice. It could be called the most versatile type of flower-type feys.

However, flower-type feys mostly bloom during winter, and most would be withering soon when spring came in full force.

As such, plum blossom branches were only sold about seven or eight days a year.

The plum blossom branches were sold for very low prices, and every store was fighting to offer the lowest price possible.

Back in Xia Region, it was warm at the end of the year, and there were no plum blossom branches available to be bought.

Otherwise, even Lin Yuan, as poor as he had been, would have been able to afford the plum blossom branches.

At that moment, Lin Yuan heard a gruff voice snarl, "Brat, if you go on like this, it won't just be a scolding you'll be receiving! We all agreed that 15 Federation dollars for one plum blossom branch is the price. How dare you lower your price to 14 Federation dollars per branch?"

Lin Yuan turned to see a tall and skinny man with a thunderous expression shrieking at a young boy of about 12 years of age in an unpleasant tone.

If not for the young man's silence, the tall and skinny man would have slapped him.

The young boy tugged at his patched-up clothes and kept his eyes trained on the ground. He looked like he was about to cry.

Lin Yuan frowned. He had also sold Usneas by the side of the road when he was about the young boy's age.

In order to earn money to treat Chu Ci's high fever, he had sold the Usneas for 10 Federation dollars for three stalks instead of the market rate of 5 Federation dollars for one stalk.

The moment he had lowered the price, he had been beaten up by the other sellers.

He had been in the exact same situation as the young boy.

However, the tall and skinny man was not completely in the wrong. Every seller was working hard to earn money to feed their family. The young boy's action was spoiling the market.

Places where many sellers gathered together to sell the same spiritual ingredient had their own unspoken rules.

In order to maintain the peace, everyone had to offer the same price so that generating sales would solely be a matter of one's salesmanship.

15 Federation dollars for one plum blossom branch was already very cheap.

The young boy had to require money badly if he was willing to lower the price even further. He had to be desperate to be selling plum blossom branches on the street at such a young age.

Lin Yuan walked over and squatted down next to the boy in tattered clothes. He gently patted the young boy's head and noticed that the young boy's eyes were brimming with tears.

Lin Yuan hurriedly took out a tissue and handed it to the young boy as he said, "Is it 15 Federation dollars for one stalk? I want to buy more."

The young boy reached out his hand to receive the tissue but quickly retracted his hand when he saw the golden luster embossed on it.

The golden luster was made of real gold and was unbelievably valuable.



The young boy would not be able to afford the tissue even if he sold all his plum blossom branches.

When he noticed the young boy's apprehension, Lin Yuan used the tissue to wipe away the young boy's tears.

This seemed to be the first time that the young boy was experiencing the kindness of a stranger, and it made him anxious.

He lifted his teary eyes and squeaked, "Thank you, big brother! How many plum blossom branches do you want? My brother soaked all of them in water, and they're very fresh. They will last for at least two days."

Lin Yuan looked at the plum blossom branches that the young boy was selling and saw that they were all vibrant and firm. There were even traces of dew on some petals.

This meant that the plum blossom branches had to have been soaked for at least three hours.

Suddenly, a gruff and loud voice said, "Young Master, I have plum blossom branches too. How about—"

Lin Yuan said to the tall and skinny man, "Okay. I'll take all the plum blossom branches that both of you have. I can use them in baked goods or collect the nectar."

Although Lin Yuan had frowned at the gruff man, he knew that the gruff man did not have any bad intentions.

Otherwise, the gruff man could have just chased the young boy out for not following the rules. It would also have reduced the gruff man's competition.

If he had done so, the young boy would have to return home without earning a single cent.

Although it was just one day wasted, many of the young boy's plum blossom branches would have wilted.

The young boy looked over the moon.

But he remembered that he had almost 300 plum blossom branches on him, too much for baking or collecting the nectar.

Thus, he said timidly, "Big brother, I don't think you'll need so many plum blossom branches if you just want to use them in baking and collect their nectar. If you live nearby, you can give me your address, and I'll deliver fresh plum blossom branches to you every day."

Lin Yuan tousled the young boy's hair and stood up as he said, "There are many people in my home. None of the plum blossom branches will go to waste."

He gave the young boy the address of the Fey Observer Association.

"Over the next few days, if you can carry this many, deliver 500 plum blossom branches to this address at 9:00 a.m. A woman will take them from you and pay you."

Lin Yuan took out the amber-button-shaped Diamond fey storage box and paid both the tall and skinny man and the young boy.

He also paid the young boy for tomorrow's 500 plum blossom branches.

Lin Yuan knew that the young boy had to be in a difficult situation if he was selling the plum blossom branches that he had painstakingly grown.

### **Chapter 985: Unable to Go Out in Sunlight**

Help the desperate but not the poor.

Given the weather and temperature, the plum blossom branches were only going to be sold for another week.

These 5,000 plum blossom branches cost about 70,005 Federation dollars.

Lin Yuan hoped that the 70,005 Federation dollars would help this whelp of a boy.

The young boy's eyes that the struggles of life had blurred lit up when he received the money.

His cracked lips split into a smile as he exclaimed, "My brother will finally be able to drink medicine every two days!"

Lin Yuan had heard the young boy mention that he had an older brother that soaked the plum blossom branches in ice water.

Lin Yuan was also an older brother, and he wondered how another older brother would be willing to allow his younger brother to sell plum blossom branches by the street.

But he did not expect that the young boy was selling the plum blossom branches so that his older brother could seek medical help.

The young boy skipped off into an alley with the money in hand and an empty basket.

The gruff man had been observing Lin Yuan and could tell from Lin Yuan's elegant silver embroidered spirit qi clothes and gold embossed tissue that Lin Yuan had a decently high status.

However, the gruff man could not tell just how high Lin Yuan's status was.

The gruff man had spent his entire life selling spiritual ingredients on Tree Stream Street and had met many sons from rich families. Many of them came from rising factions.

But Lin Yuan gave the gruff man a completely different feeling than those rich sons did.

His eliteness was laced with composed elegance, and every curl of his lips made him seem amiable.

When he saw Lin Yuan watch the young boy's disappearing figure, the gruff man said, "Ah Yu's older brother contracted a strange illness last summer, and their parents were killed by Forest Scary Wolves while digging for vegetables two years ago in the Endless Forest. If their parents knew that they were going to die in the Endless Forest, they wouldn't have adopted the two kids. Ah Lun cannot be exposed

to sunlight after contracting that strange illness. Ah Yu is the one keeping them both alive, but their small fey store will probably have to close soon.”

The gruff man realized that the elite young man had left some time ago.

Lin Yuan walked into the alley that the young boy had gone into.

Tree Stream Street was an old street, and many alleys had been there for years. There were one-room houses in these old alleys that had both a front and back yard.

Currently, there was a store in front of each of the houses.

The houses were just like stores that were tightly squeezed side by side and were abuzz with activity.

The moment he stepped into the alley, Lin Yuan saw a few large steamers in the front yard of a small house.

The steam rising from the steamers had the fragrance of the Black Back Mountain Boar meat. The scent made Lin Yuan’s stomach rumble, and he immediately walked up to buy some.

But he suddenly remembered that he was going to have lunch with Tian Ningning at the Spirit Food Pavilion soon and decided not to buy the Black Back Mountain Boar meat.

It was not easy to walk in the alley. If one started to run, one would definitely end up kicking a whirlwind of dust.

However, walking on such a path gave Lin Yuan a nostalgic feeling.

He was shocked when he took out Federation dollars from the amber-button-shaped Diamond fey storage box.

It had been a long time since he used Federation dollars to pay for anything.

After spending so much time in the stunning Return from Faraway Mansion, walking in the old alley made him feel as though he had descended to the human world from the celestial world.

The clanging noises and smoke made Lin Yuan realize that the intangible things were the freest.

Suddenly, his spiritual energy pulsed, and a shapeshifting Willpower Rune appeared in Lin Yuan’s mind.

Lin Yuan could not believe that he had accidentally comprehended another Willpower Rune. He now had two Willpower Runes that he had not used yet. The other was the one he had comprehended while in the midst of carnage.

The Willpower Rune he had comprehended while in the midst of carnage had been the first one he comprehended, and it had been collecting dust in his mind for a long time.

This other willpower did not have a solid shape and was overflowing with freedom.

Lin Yuan did not have a clue what feys were suitable for these two Willpower Runes.

As a spirit qi professional, he could not contract a random fey just for the sake of using the Willpower Rune.

Every fey that he contracted had to be able to fit in with his combat system perfectly.

He felt that he needed to spend some time to properly evaluate what kind of fey was still missing from his combat system.

As he regained his senses from comprehending the Willpower Rune, Lin Yuan suddenly remembered what the gruff man had told him.

Ah Yu reminded Lin Yuan of himself.

Lin Yuan was already feeling empathetic, but he did not expect Ah Yu and his brother to be in the exact situation that Lin Yuan and Chu Ci had been in.

Both sets of siblings were orphans where the older brother was sick and opened a small fey store.

The difference was that Lin Yuan and Chu Ci were their parents' biological children while the brothers were adopted.

Lin Yuan found it hard to believe that such different people would be in such similar situations.

At the same time, he was also suspicious.

The gruff man had said that a strange illness had blinded Ah Yu's brother. What an odd disease!

In the Spirit Qi Awakening era, normal people who could not become spirit qi professionals were seen as pathetic yet lucky.

The people in the era of the Spirit Qi Awakening allowed normal people to absorb spirit qi and consume spiritual ingredients that contained spiritual power.

As long as one did not contract a serious illness, it was difficult for a person to die.

During the Spirit Qi Awakening era, many strange illnesses had also been eradicated.

### **Chapter 986: Go Big Like Always**

Many dark-type feys that were seriously injured or recently born were extremely sensitive to light.

But being afraid of light was not the same as being sensitive to light.

Pure dark-type feys would be burnt by the sun and result in their roots being damaged.

But once the dark-type fey grew up, it would be able to withstand sunlight without fear. However, they still despised sunlight.

Lin Yuan shook this train of thought out of his head.

How could a person become a pure dark-type fey?

Pure dark-type feys could only change into human form once they reached Myth II. But even if a Myth II fey was in a near-death state, it would not be terrified of sunlight.

When Lin Yuan arrived at the first spirit lifeform store, he summoned Genius and said, "Genius, you can pick out your own students."

Genius happily swayed its five voluminous tails and nudged Lin Yuan's hand with its tails as it said in a child-like voice, "Yuan, I don't have any requirements for my students. I would rather have unattractive Hundred Questions Beasts as my students over pretty ones. The pretty Hundred Questions Beasts would be able to find masters quickly, but the unattractive ones might never be able to find a master."

Genius sighed and continued, "They probably don't even have food to eat."

It was clear that Genius was reminiscing its past.

Genius climbed up to Lin Yuan's shoulder and nudged his face as it meowed.

The moment he walked into the store, Lin Yuan knitted his brow at the pungent smell.

The pungent smell came from old fey feces.

Genius wrinkled its nose and whispered into Lin Yuan's ear, "Yuan, I don't smell any Hundred Questions Beasts. I don't think there are any here."

Lin Yuan stopped walking.

At that moment, a middle-aged man walked out into the store.

He was holding a gunny sack at arm's length, and black and brown sludge dripped from the gunny sack.

The moment the middle-aged man walked out with the gunny sack, the stench of feces intensified.

Lin Yuan knew that the middle-aged man was cleaning out the fey droppings from yesterday night.

Back when he had been running the spirit lifeform store, he only had plant-type feys with the exception of Chimey and Genius.

Animal-type feys were much more valuable than plant-type feys, but he did not sell them because of the limitations of his physical consideration.

He could not afford to maintain the animal-type feys, and he was very sentimental.

After nurturing the animal-type feys for some time, he would become reluctant to sell them as he could not be sure that they would be sold to someone that would take proper care of them.

The middle-aged man placed the sack in a corner before walking up to Lin Yuan and started to eye him up and down.

He also peered at the five-tailed well-groomed white cat on Lin Yuan's shoulder and said, "What kind of feys are you looking for? We have every type of fey here in the best spirit lifeform store in the alley."

"I want a few Hundred Questions Beasts," replied Lin Yuan.

An awkward expression came over the middle-aged man. He did not understand why Lin Yuan needed so many Hundred Questions Beasts.

The Hundred Questions Beast was a housekeeping beast that had the intelligence of a regular human. It was very easy to take care of it. However, there were too few benefits to owning the Hundred Questions Beast, and not many people were willing to keep them.

“Handsome fellow, I don’t have any Hundred Questions Beasts, and I don’t think any other store does either. Only fey marketplaces sell the Hundred Questions Beast. You’ll be able to choose from tens of thousands of varieties of Hundred Questions Beasts there.”

A thought seemed to strike the middle-aged man as he went on to say, “There is a spirit lifeform store in the deepest part of the alley. A pair of brothers own it. There should be the Hundred Questions Beasts there. However, the Hundred Questions Beasts won’t be of good quality. You can try your luck there.”

Lin Yuan nodded and replied, “I don’t have any high expectations for the Hundred Questions Beasts. I’ll go and take a look.”

The middle-aged man anxiously said, “My wife just happens to be in the store. The spirit lifeform store isn’t easy to find. I’ll take you there. The elder of the two brothers is weak due to a strange illness and is often out of breath when he speaks. However, the things they sell are definitely fine!”

Lin Yuan knew that Ah Yu opened the spirit lifeform store.

The middle-aged man’s encouragement of sending Lin Yuan to the spirit lifeform store showed how much he wanted to help the brothers.

This reminded Lin Yuan of Uncle Li and Auntie Zhang, who had taken care of him.

The world was filled with both light and darkness. But even in the darkness, warmth could be found.

Lin Yuan was going to manage the Warm Sun Fund that Chimey and Genius wanted to set up.

The Warm Sun Fund had not officially started yet.

Given Lin Yuan’s current capabilities, it was easy yet difficult for him to manage the Warm Sun Fund.

It depended on what extent he wanted to go to.

But Lin Yuan felt that he would go big like he always did.

Chimey’s 3 billion Radiance dollars seemed like a lot, but it would not be enough to cover every inch of the 36 cities in the Radiance Federation.

Many people were needed to help out, and connections needed to be made with the various breeding bases and chambers of commerce

**Chapter 987: The Beast Pattern!**

Lin Yuan realized that his group of acquaintances included Sun Ningxiang, who controlled Condense Fairy Orchard that supplied most of the plant type feys to the market, Long Tao, the young leader of Coiling Dragon's Valley that had the most dragon-species feys and Creation Master Resources, Li Xuan, who came from Dark Clouds Bird Shrine that supplied most of the avian-type feys to the market, and Gao Feng, who came from Gao family, which was a major player in the deep sea resources industry and had a massive amount of aquatic-type fey resources.

Although Lin Yuan's network was not enough to cover every type of fey in the market, these factions would be able to aid in the proliferation of the Warm Sun Fund's efforts.

Lin Yuan planned on talking to Sun Ningxiang, Gao Feng, Long Tao, and Li Xuan when he had the chance.

As they walked, the middle-end talked non-stop.

Lin Yuan's mind was full of thoughts about the Warm Sun Fund, but the middle-aged man kept asking him questions.

It was clear that the middle-aged man had recognized Lin Yuan as the young man who had defeated Meng Xu at the Allstar Match.

The middle-aged man praised Lin Yuan endlessly to the point that Lin Yuan became embarrassed.

When they turned a corner, the middle-aged man pointed straight ahead and said, "Keep walking straight, and you'll find the spirit lifeform store. You can't miss it. I have to go back to continue cleaning out the store. If my wife discovers the mess, she'll start calling me lazy again."

Lin Yuan nodded.

The middle-aged man was lazy, but he was a good person.

Lin Yuan walked ahead and saw Ah Yu walking toward him carrying a water basin.

Lin Yuan had also done such chores before when the tap in the bathroom was damaged.

It had been sweltering in Redbud City, and the least of one's worries was catching a cold.

However, the Royal Capital was only beginning to turn warm now, and pouring water on oneself in the gusty environment would definitely result in one catching a cold.

Ah Yu sneezed as he wiped himself down with the water from the basin.

At this point, Ah Yu had also noticed Lin Yuan. His eyes lit up, and he ran over to Lin Yuan.

"Big brother, why are you here? Do you want to buy something from the store?"

Lin Yuan was about to nod when a feeble voice said from inside the store, "Little Yu, the basin is missing. Did you take it out? I told you that it's still too cold. If you pour water on yourself out there, you'll definitely catch a cold!"

The voice sounded extremely weak, but the tone of consideration was prominent.

Ah Yu hastily grinned and hid the basin behind him as he walked back into the house shouting, "Big brother, a customer is here. He's the one who ordered plum blossom branches from me! I'm going to

buy medicine for you now! Your health is the most important. If only I could buy enough medicine for you to consume every day. I don't want to go to school! I want to stay in the store to help you."

Ah Yu dashed out of the alley.

Lin Yuan strode into the store and saw a young man slightly younger than him dressed in a large black robe.

Only his pale and sallow face could be seen.

Although his body was wrapped up in the robe, it was clear that the young man was only skin and bones.

The young man looked at Lin Yuan with a wary yet thankful gaze.

Lin Yuan understood why the sickly young man was looking at him in such a way.

If someone had ordered so many Usneas from him back when he and Chu Ci were at Xia Region, Lin Yuan would also be on alert when the person came to the store.

Weak creatures needed to have such cautiousness to survive.

Lin Yuan also scanned the young man and felt that something seemed to be sucking away the young man's vitality. Rather, something seemed to be stewing within the young man. This was the reason for the young man's feebleness.

Otherwise, Lin Yuan could not sense any other problems with the young man.

Since the young man was weak due to a lack of vitality, all Lin Yuan had to do was replenish his vitality.

Lin Yuan waved his hand, and a beam of green light landed on the young man.

The young man was initially going to dodge the green light, but he was too slow.

When the green light landed on the young man, he suddenly felt himself being filled with strength. He had not felt this strong since before he contracted the strange illness.

The young man was delighted by this development, and all his wariness disappeared. Now, he was only looking at Lin Yuan with gratitude.

However, Lin Yuan furrowed his brow.

The amount of vitality that the Jasmine Lily's Bud of Mountain Jade provided the young man should have been more than enough. It should have been sufficient even to bring him back from the brink of death.

Yet, the vitality was slowly being drained from the young man's body.

The young man's body was just like a bottomless pit that greedily gobbled all the pure vitality.

Lin Yuan used True Data and saw that dark energy swirling in the young man's body. True Data also made Lin Yuan sure that the young man was nothing more than a human.



This was the first time that Lin Yuan had encountered such a massive amount of dark energy within a human's body, and he could not help but be curious.

The young man had been able to survive because the dark energy had been in an unconscious state.

But now, Lin Yuan had triggered the dark energy awake, and he immediately stopped supplying vitality. Otherwise, all the vitality would be drained away by the pure dark energy.

Lin Yuan had supplied vitality for over five minutes, and he noticed that the dark energy disappeared the moment it grew to its maximum extent.

Soon, a dark glow radiated from the young man.

The dark glow rose from the young man's chest and seemed to be forming a pattern. It moved up the young man's neck until it turned into the image of a hooked tail on the young man's left cheek.

The hooked tail looked just like a menacing scorpion tail.

Lin Yuan widened his eyes, and a guess formed in his head. He quickly walked up to the young man and said, "Can I see what's on your neck?"

The young man seemed oblivious to the change that had just occurred. All he knew was that he no longer felt weak, and he wanted to test if he was still afraid of the light.

When the young man removed his black robe and hat to reveal his neck, Lin Yuan's guess was confirmed.

The pattern that had appeared on the young man's body was a beast pattern.

### **Chapter 988: Parents' Gift**

Beast patterns were familiar yet foreign to Lin Yuan.

There were now two members in Wen Yu's Astronomical Parliament—Bei Xu and Yin Lin.

Both of them had formed contracts with north-south constellation seats.

At the previous parliamentary meeting, Lin Yuan had discovered that Yin Lin had awakened two beast patterns in her body.

As such, Lin Yuan had studied up on beast patterns afterward.

Due to the Spirit White Lion and Azure Cloud Leopard beast patterns, Yin Lin had become the fourth Azure Envoy in the Azure Federation.

The Moon Empress had announced this piece of news at the Guard Ye Banquet, and Lin Yuan had been surprised when he first heard it.

The Radiance Federation, Freedom Federation, and Azure Federation were the three most powerful federations in the world.

The three federations had comparable power, and any conflict between either federation would affect the entire continent.

As the fourth Azure Envoy, Yin Lin had limitless authority in the Azure Federation.

In a way, she had surpassed Lin Yuan.

The 25 Class 5 families were the pillars of the Azure Federation.

Previously, Yin Lin's status in the Azure Federation was lower than that of Lin Yuan as the Moon Empress' disciple.

But now, her status as an Azure Envoy was higher than that of Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan's status would only become equal to hers if he became a Radiance Envoy.

But due to the Astronomical Parliament, Yin Lin remained as one of Lin Yuan's subordinates.

It was unknown whether Yin Lin had created a private faction in the Azure Federation.

Tomorrow night would be the fourth Astronomical Parliament parliamentary meeting.

Almost a month had passed since Yin Lin and Bei Xu were called into the Astronomical Parliament and saved by Lin Yuan. Thus, the next parliamentary meeting would be a good time for Lin Yuan to receive a record of Yin Lin and Bei Xu's achievements as well as give them their next task.

He was not worried about Yin Lin as her every word and action carried the responsibility of a Class 4 and Class 5 family.

After becoming the fourth Azure Envoy, her actions had the support of the entire Azure Federation. Her current status granted her complete agency.

However, Bei Xu was different.

Bei Xu could only depend on the Sharp Shadow Bat in the Grotto Continent.

On the other hand, Lin Yuan had always had a guess about Yin Lin's immediate awakening of two beast patterns after regaining her sight.

Lin Yuan felt that Yin Lin was only able to awaken the two beast patterns because of the Jasmine Lily's Severed Limbs Growth.

Spirit qi professionals had weak bodies, and the bloodlines of feys in a human's body could result in a blockage of bodily functions and even lead to death.

Usually, the beast bloodlines in a human's body would fall into an unconscious state when the human was young.

When Lin Yuan was treating Yin Lin's eyes, he had been concerned that she would not be completely cured. As such, he had injected a massive amount of vitality into her.

It was likely that Severed Limbs Growth allowed Yin Lin's genetic model to recombine with the spirit beast bloodline and awakened the beast patterns.

Now that he saw Ah Lun's state, Lin Yuan knew that his guess had been accurate.

Lin Yuan could not help but be amazed at how great of a decision it had been to combine the Willpower Rune he had comprehended during the natural cleansing with the Jasmine Lily.

Many healing-type spirit qi professionals, including thearch-class healing-type spirit qi professionals, had abilities that Lin Yuan could not compete with. However, none of them had feys that had Severed Limbs Growth.

Ah Lun noticed Lin Yuan staring at his neck, and he felt as though Lin Yuan's eyes were boring into him.

He could not figure out what was so interesting about his neck.

But when Ah Lun lowered his head, he saw the beast pattern that extended from his neck to his chest.

He immediately started to panic as he did not know what this thing on his body was.

Lin Yuan immediately started to explain to Ah Lun, "Don't be afraid. This is a gift that came from your biological parents' bloodline. The back pattern on your neck is a beast pattern. It looks like it's from a pure dark-type scorpion-species fey. If you ever contract a pure dark-type scorpion-species fey in the future, you can use your bloodline to evolve the fey rapidly. You'll be able to nurture feys at a multiplied rate of others."

Ah Lun inhaled sharply.

Ah Yu did not know that they had been adopted, but Ah Lun did.

Although their adopted parents had never mentioned it, everyone in the alley lived so closely together that they knew each other's business.

When their adopted parents had been alive, Ah Lun had heard the neighbors mention their adoption more than once.

He did not believe them at the beginning. But as he grew older, he realized that he and Ah Yu looked less and less like their adopted parents.

Ah Lun did not know why he and his brother had been abandoned, and he could not ask his adopted parents.

Even if he did want to ask them now, they had already been killed by the Forest Scary Wolves in the Endless Forest.

Ah Lun had respected his adopted parents like they were actually his parents.

While they had been alive, Ah Lun had been a model son.

Although he had never outwardly expressed it, Ah Lun had always begrudged his biological parents.

It was natural for an abandoned child to want to know why they had been tossed aside.

A look of pain crossed Ah Lun's face, but he quickly regained his composure and asked Lin Yuan in a shaky voice, "How do you know that this beast pattern came from my biological parents?"

Ah Lun wanted to learn about his biological parents from Lin Yuan, even if it would not be able to answer all his doubts.

### **Chapter 989: Polar Night Blue Sky Scorpion**

When Lin Yuan heard what Ah Lun said, he realized that Ah Lun had no idea what his beast pattern was.

This was unsurprising as beast patterns were only known to Class 4 Scholars.

There was no way that Ah Lun would have heard about it when he spent his days taking care of a spirit lifeform store with his brother.

"Either one of your parents had to have been a Creation Breed fey because only the offspring of a Creation Breed fey and a human would manifest a beast pattern. Like I already said, one of your parents had to have been a pure dark-type scorpion-species fey," explained Lin Yuan.

Ah Lun suddenly felt his perspective on life being turned upside down.

Never in his 16 years had he ever considered that he could be the child of a fey.

But what was a Creation Breed fey? Was it even more powerful than a Fantasy Breed fey?

From Ah Lun's astonishment and confusion, Lin Yuan could tell that Ah Lun not only did not expect to learn such things about himself but also that he did not understand part of the information he had just been given.

Lin Yuan thought over what he had just said and immediately realized what the kicker had been.

Back when he lived in Xia Region, the strongest fey he knew of was Fantasy Breed.

He had only found out about the different qualities of Fantasy Breed feys when he was riding on Ling Xiao's Blue Jade Pegasus. It was also then that he found out about Myth Breed feys.

Lin Yuan continued. "When feys are combined with a Willpower Rune, they can evolve to Fantasy Breed. When the willpower condenses into a type of law, the Fantasy Breed fey can transform into Myth Breed. When the law turns into a world, the Myth Breed fey will transform into a Creation Breed fey."

Lin Yuan felt bad when he remembered Ah Lun's pained expression and said, "It's not easy for Creation Breed feys to have children. The experience is unimaginably painful. Hence, your parents wouldn't have abandoned you without reason. It had to be because they had no other choice. You and Ah Yu are related by blood, and you're four years older than him. You should still have memories from when you were four. Yet, you have no memory of your biological parents at all. This means that your parents didn't want the memories of their leaving to cause you pain. They definitely loved you more than you think."

Lin Yuan pointed at the scorpion tail beast pattern on Ah Lun's neck and continued. "Judging from the features of the tail. The beast pattern's fey is likely to be the Polar Night Blue Sky Scorpion. The Polar

Night Blue Sky Scorpion is one of the rare scorpion-species feys that continue to care for their offspring even after their offspring matures.”

Suddenly, all of Ah Lun’s doubts and confusion turned into tears that clouded his eyes.

For someone like Ah Lun, who had been suppressing all his emotions that came with being adopted, suddenly having all the knots in his heart untangled brought as much sadness and melancholy as it did relief.

But in spite of his tears, Ah Lun’s lips slowly curved upward. His smile came from the knowledge that his biological parents had loved him.

Ah Lun quickly wiped his tears away with his sleeve.

He bowed to Lin Yuan and said, “My name is Qin Lun. Thank you for everything that you’ve done for me. I don’t know how I can repay you. If you have anything in mind, please tell me. I’ll do anything. But please, can I beg of you to check on Ah Yu too? He also started to become sensitive to light a month ago. His condition is much milder, but I was also like that for half a year before I became completely unable to stand light.”

Lin Yuan had been observing the store from the moment he stepped foot inside.

As small as it was, it was very clean.

This meant that the weak Qin Lun had been conscientious about keeping the store clean.

“What are your plans for the future? A small store like yours probably can’t earn enough to buy a pure dark-type scorpion-species fey even after five years. Even if you’re lucky enough to obtain one before you reach 25 years old, the quality would only be Elite at best.

“If all the earnings from the store go to you, Ah Yu will have no prospects in his future. Spirit qi professionals like you who have awakened your beast patterns can only contract feys suitable for your beast patterns. Any other fey will reject you.

“Since your beast pattern is of the Polar Night Blue Sky Scorpion, the best fey for you to contract is the Polar Night Blue Sky Scorpion. The Polar Night Blue Sky Scorpion is very rare and can probably only be found in the top faction Cage of Brahma Insects. Is it acceptable to you if you can’t contract the Polar Night Blue Sky Scorpion?

Lin Yuan had said what he said in consideration of Qin Lun’s talent and because the brothers reminded him of him and Chu Ci.

He had become the Moon Empress’ disciple right after obtaining Morbius.

The Moon Empress had always silently sheltered him and enabled him to grow rapidly.

Qin Lun’s beast pattern would be the door that led him to a new lease of life.

If he was willing to join Sky City, Lin Yuan could also shelter him.

Qin Lun immediately clenched his fist tightly and said, "I can't accept it."

But immediately after, he released his grip.

So what if he couldn't accept it?

He had nothing besides this little spirit lifeform store. He could not even become a spirit qi professional or contract a fey that was suitable to him.

Just as he was despairing in the dead-end that was his life, Lin Yuan said, "I started a private faction recently called Sky City. Are you willing to join and become one of the members?"

### **Chapter 990: Willing to Become Young Master's Sword**

Qin Lun's eyes grew wide, and he said with trembling lips, "I'm willing!"

To Qin Lun, this dignified young man had saved his life, giving him a future and a sense of direction for his life.

Lin Yuan smiled toothily, and Qin Lun felt that the smile was even brighter than the sun.

Qin Lun had shunned the sun for some time. Although he no longer had to hide, he still did not care for the sun.

However, Qin Lun loved this smile that was brighter than the sun.

Just as Lin Yuan was about to ask about the sale of the Hundred Questions Beasts, Qin Lun said solemnly, "Young Master, will Sky City be facing strong enemies in the future?"

Lin Yuan did not understand why Qin Lun was asking such a question, but when he thought about the Zheng family, Miao family, the unknown Apostles in the marsh world, the Divine Wood Federation that he was about to venture into soon, and the mysterious Tower Canon, he nodded and said, "Sky City will be facing many enemies, and they're all stronger than us."

Qin Lun got down on one knee and said, "I'm willing to become your sword and cut down every enemy that stands in your way."

Lin Yuan was taken aback by Qin Lun's declaration.

But since he was going to contact the Polar Night Blue Sky Scorpion, it was fitting to call him a sword. In fact, he would be a very sharp sword.

Lin Yuan helped Qin Lun back onto his feet and said, "Since you're joining Sky City, why don't you close the spirit lifeform for now? You can bring Ah Yu to the Listening Heron Chamber of Commerce and ask for someone named Listen. Let Listen take care of you for a while while I try to find the Polar Night Blue Sky Scorpion for you. I'll also solve the problem of Ah Yu's beast pattern. He's still young and should be in school. After I homeschool Ah Yu, I'll let him take the test to enter the Royal Capital's Low-Class Spirit Qi Academy."

Qin Lun was beside himself, coming up with a way to thank Lin Yuan. He could not believe how much consideration Lin Yuan had for Ah Yu.

After he exchanged phone numbers with Qin Lun and gave him the address of the Listening Heron Chamber of Commerce, Lin Yuan asked Qin Lun, "I heard from one of the shop owners that you sell the Hundred Questions Beasts. Take me to them."

Qin Lun hurriedly replied, "Young Master, all the Hundred Beasts in the store are rejected ones that I bought for low prices at breeding bases. They were not fed well at the breeding bases and most are bony with matted fur. However, they're all smart and pleasant. I just showered them yesterday. There are 10 in the cage there and 40 more in the house. I change out the Hundred Questions Beasts on display in the cage every five days. But only a few people have come to see the Hundred Questions Beasts in the past six months, and not one of them was sold."

Lin Yuan asked Genius, "Genius, are 50 Hundred Questions Beasts enough?"

Genius nodded and replied, "Yuan, if I use Connected Tails to teach the Hundred Questions Beasts, 50 is my limit. Connected Tails can only teach five Hundred Questions Beasts at a time, and I'll need to rest afterward."

Lin Yuan nodded and looked at the time. There were still 20 minutes before he was supposed to meet Tian Ningning.

There were many times when he made her wait on Star Web.

Now that they were having a meal offline, it would be despicable of him to make her wait.

He tossed a Diamond fey storage box at Qin Lun and said, "Place the 50 Hundred Questions Beasts in this Diamond fey storage box and give it to Listen. Some other things in the Diamond fey storage box are meant for you. You can use it to have a good meal with Ah Yu. Both of you are still growing, and eating more food with rare spiritual ingredients will not only help you grow but also increase your power."

Lin Yuan summoned Blackie in the alley, and they rode off toward the Spirit Food Pavilion.

Qin Lun stood under the shadow of the roof and smiled sincerely as he watched Lin Yuan disappear in a sunbeam.

He placed his hands together and bowed deeply.

...

Tian Ningning arrived at Spirit Food Pavilion at the agreed-upon time and got the Depending on Plums Room using her coupons.

She had initially reserved the larger Floating Bamboo Room, but she did not expect that someone snatched it from her.

She was about to say that she had reserved the Floating Bamboo Room first, but another woman complained about her.

Since she was going to treat Black to a meal, Tian Ningning did not want to cause any trouble.

Hence, she settled for the smaller Depending on Plums Room.

There were 20 precious plum-type feys Pearl Snow planted in the Depending on Plums Room.

With every passing breeze, the plum petals would drift to the ground like a shower of pearly snow.

Tian Ningning saw that it was almost time and hurriedly sent Black a message.

Tian Ningning: "Black, I already booked a room in the Spirit Food Pavilion. You can come to the Depending on Plums Room directly."

At that moment, Lin Yuan had just arrived at the entrance of the Spirit Food Pavilion and jumped down from Blackie's back.

He raised an eyebrow when he saw Tian Ningning's message.

Zong Ze had given Lin Yuan a card that could be used at any Spirit Food Pavilion. The card would allow him to use the Drawing World Peony Room that was never open to the public.

One could also enjoy dishes that included some of the Kitchen Fragrant Palace's secret 300 dishes in the Drawing World Peony Room that were not available in the other rooms.

But since Tian Ningning had already booked the Depending on Plums Room, Lin Yuan kept the card away and followed a waiter to the Depending on Plums Room.