

I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out My Defense –

Chapter 61

Several young cultivators appeared astonished and excited, almost losing their composure.

Who could have imagined that simply by indulging on a whim to enter the bathhouse, one could actually breakthrough to the Foundation Establishment Stage?

Li Ya's eyes became somewhat moist.

He was the only heir of his family, and the Li Family was one of the major families in the city, but unfortunately, he did not possess the innate talent for cultivation.

A month ago, the family spent a fortune to buy him a large quantity of Foundation Establishment Pills, along with Breakthrough Pills, yet all was in vain without any progress.

The family nearly lost hope in him, when unexpectedly, there was light at the end of the tunnel—a humble bathhouse helped him break through his realm and become a cultivator of the Foundation Establishment Realm Great Perfection, just one step away from the Golden Core!

Not only that, but he even felt that cultivation had become smoother thereafter, his meridians within his body had expanded significantly, and he could draw in even more Spiritual Energy.

It was truly magical!

Li Ya stood up from the pool and gave a deep bow to Li Xiaobai with a clasped fist.

"Thank you, shopkeeper, for your kindness of a single bath, which Li Ya will never forget. If there's anything you need in the future, I will go through fire and water for you!"

"No need to mention it, just take care of my small shop's business in the future."

Li Xiaobai waved his hand, unconcerned.

He had seen too many similar situations already.

The entrance of the shop kept attracting a steady stream of visitors, who were handled in the same way as before.

The men were taken care of by Situ Yanyu, and the women by Li Xiaobai, both of whom had outstanding beauty and unlimited attractiveness to both male and female cultivators.

Soon, many cultivators, with their minds agitated, parted with their Spirit Stones and then, with silly grins on their faces, were ushered into the bathhouse.

The result was self-evident. Upon discovering that bathing could enhance their cultivation level, the whole bathhouse became a sensation, every face filled with excitement.

Some even danced with joy, extremely satisfied with “Tangneng First-class.”

“Shopkeeper, what kind of materials did you use for this water to make it so miraculous?”

“Yes, shopkeeper, I want to buy your water, name your price!”

“I am a steward of the Wang Family, and I can negotiate this business directly on behalf of my family with you!”

“Shopkeeper, we...”

The cultivators keenly sensed that it was the bathwater that had enabled them to breakthrough and upgrade, and they each started to get ideas about it.

Someone took advantage of the others’ distraction and secretly collected a jar of water, concealing it within their Space Ring.

However, Li Xiaobai’s next words left them dumbfounded.

“It’s not because of the bathwater. Bathing is a technique, as well as an art. What you soak in is not just water, but a high-quality culture inherited for thousands of years. It’s only natural to breakthrough in such conditions.”

“As for the bathwater, whether you want to drink it or take it back for research, feel free.”

“We can really take it back?”

“Yes, feel free. The water was infused with care by me, which is why it has such miraculous effects. It does not contain any precious natural treasures; it is just ordinary water.”

Li Xiaobai made this up on the fly since no one other than himself knew the truth about the water.

Produced by the System, I don't understand it either; as long as it works, that's what matters.

Everything else is trivial.

Hearing Li Xiaobai say this, most of the cultivators' first reaction was to quickly collect a scoop of water to study at their leisure.

What Li Xiaobai said was too profound, they still preferred to trust their own judgment.

The bathhouse regained its tranquility, each person seized this rare opportunity to cultivate as fast as they could. Those who had initially planned to inform their friends and relatives decided to put off the idea.

The reason being nothing else but the Spirit Stones they had already spent; they couldn't let it go to waste.

Moreover, the bathhouse was indeed too small, converted from a teahouse, it could accommodate no more than a few dozen people at most.

If they left now and other cultivators who came later took their spots, it would be a loss not worth the gain.

Not just now, but they would also need to arrive early tomorrow to claim their spots. There was no doubt about it; they had to book for both the night and the following day. This was the unanimous thought among all the cultivators present.

Not only could they speed up their cultivation, but there were also beautiful women and handsome men for the eyes to feast on; this place was genuinely nice.

In his spare time, Li Xiaobai also constructed two small pools for himself and Situ Yanyu, each only large enough for one person, placed behind the bar.

When there were no customers, they could take a soak, practice cultivation, and earn money without delay.

[Attribute Points +30...]

[Attribute Points +30...]

This speed was not fast, but it was still good enough.

[Defensive power: Indestructible Golden Body Fifth Turn (9000/50000).]

At this rate, soaking for a few more days should allow a breakthrough to the next stage, by which time the Blood Demon Erosion State should also be effectively alleviated.

It was at this moment that another person entered from outside.

This was an old beggar covered in filth, his white hair dyed black from dirt, his body grimy, holding a large hemp bag, and barefoot with feet caked in mud and grime.

As soon as he entered, a piercing stench permeated the entire room.

“Oh come on, how did this old beggar get in here!”

“Boss, hurry up and kick him out!”

“This severely affects our cultivation. What is this smell? It’s disgusting!”

“Exactly, I can’t even focus my breath into my Dantian!”

“Kick him out!”

Most of the bathhouse patrons were scions of noble families or wealthy clans, along with a few loose cultivators, and they all frowned upon seeing such an old beggar bumbling in.

They needed a calm mind for their cultivation practice, but the rotten stench made it impossible for them to concentrate.

They were all extremely annoyed.

“A customer is a customer, as long as you can pay, regardless of whether you’re rich or poor, highborn or low, I welcome you all the same.”

Li Xiaobai spoke indifferently, not minding the beggar’s appearance in the slightest.

“Old man, how many hours would you like to soak?”

“Hehehe, let’s start with two hours, it’s been a long time since I’ve had a bath, and getting clean might take some time.”

The old beggar dug into his ear, and a lump of mud fell out.

“What, boss, you’re actually letting this old thing bathe with us!”

“No way, how can someone like him soak in the same bathhouse as us!”

“Boss, I’ll pay double the price, just kick him out!”

“Exactly, we of the Wang Family will never bathe with a beggar!”

Hearing that Li Xiaobai was actually considering letting the old beggar patronize their business, everyone was somewhat angry. They were respectable people with status and identification; sharing the bath with a beggar was an insult to them, something utterly intolerable.

“All of you, shut up. Liangchen doesn’t like to waste words; as long as you can pay, everyone is a respected customer!”

“Hehehe, not bad, young man, you have insight, a clear sense of right and wrong, and you’ve done a great job with that mask of yours.”

On hearing this, Li Xiaobai was startled; this old man was not simple, he had seen through his Human Skin Mask!

Chapter 62

“`

“Two hours, twenty lower-grade Spirit Stones, no credit.”

Li Xiaobai spoke indifferently.

Even if his trick had been seen through, it would change nothing. The money had to be paid, it was the rule. Even the Heavenly King himself would have to pay up.

The old beggar seemed a bit stunned. He had not expected the other party to show no surprise at all, which piqued his interest.

“This, the old beggar does not have that much money on him at the moment, can I use something else instead?”

“That depends on what kind of item you can offer.”

Li Xiaobai said.

This old man wasn’t simple, he might be a boss in disguise, pretending to be a pig to eat the tiger. Xiaobai and his sixth senior brother had played this sort of game many times; he was very familiar with it.

With such people, it was better to be cautious until their intentions were clear.

“I have a jar of fine wine here; I can let you have a taste, but you have to let the old beggar stay here for a whole day. How about that?”

“Nonsense, you really think a single sip of wine would let you stay for a whole day? What a foolish daydream!”

“Indeed, do you have any idea how many Spirit Stones it costs to stay here for a day!”

“Boss, this is obviously someone here to cause trouble, throw him out, assessment complete!”

Upon hearing the old beggar’s words, the cultivators in the pool immediately blew up, attacking the old beggar with their comments.

“Let’s have a look at your wine first. If it’s too poor, it won’t even get through the door.”

Li Xiaobai said.

“Hehe, no problem, you’ll be satisfied!”

The old beggar wiped his nose and took out a filthy gourd from the pocket at his waist. The gourd was pitch-black, stained with big patches of mud and large blotches of an unknown liquid, looking quite disgusting.

When he pulled out the gourd’s stopper, tendrils of fragrance drifted out.

The aroma of the wine was so strong that it diluted some of the sour smell in the room.

[Attribute Points +20...]

[Attribute Points +20...]

[Detection: Host is continuously affected by the aroma of the wine, acquiring the skill: Drunken Aura.]

Drunken Aura: Can release a scent of wine. Those who smell the wine will experience muscle flaccidity. The longer they stay in the aroma, the more severe the drunkenness.

Hiss!

What kind of wine is this? Just the scent is adding Attribute Points, what would happen if one were to take a sip.

Such a strong wine!

This old beggar was definitely a formidable expert.

Li Xiaobai made a judgment in an instant.

“So, are you satisfied with the old beggar’s wine, boss?”

The old beggar looked at Li Xiaobai expectantly.

“Deal!”

Li Xiaobai immediately agreed, and took the dirty wine gourd in hand, slowly pouring it into his mouth.

As soon as the wine entered his stomach, his Dantian burst into activity. Li Xiaobai felt his blood churn, qi and blood rushing to the back of his head, becoming dizzy, and his vision darkened.

He nearly collapsed to the ground.

[Attribute Points +2000...]

[Attribute Points +2000...]

[Attribute Points: 50000.]

[Ding! The host continues to be subjected to the aroma of the wine, skill upgrade: Drunken Immortal.]

Drunken Immortal: With every gesture, enemies are made to collapse inebriated. The longer the duration, the more severe the drunkenness.

Hiss!

“

This alcohol is actually so empowering!

Just one sip added a whopping fifty thousand Attribute Points, it's like a heavenly treasure!

Li Xiaobai only felt a warm surge throughout his body, his spirit greatly invigorated.

All points to defense!

[Defensive power: Indestructible Golden Body Sixth Transformation (9000/60000) eligible for advancement.]

[Attribute Points: 0.]

[Status: Blood Demon Corrosion (Moderate).]

The status bar had changed, and Li Xiaobai was delighted, feeling much lighter. Indeed, as the defensive power advanced, the Blood Demon Corrosion status would diminish layer by layer.

Seeing Li Xiaobai down a gulp of alcohol unscathed, the eyes of the old beggar flashed with surprise. Although the alcohol was good, it was not something just anyone could handle.

This boss is no ordinary man either.

While the old beggar was not paying attention, Li Xiaobai wanted to take a few more gulps.

If he could drink his fill in one go, perhaps he would max out the upgrades for the Indestructible Golden Body in one step.

“Stop there, this is the old man’s treasure. You’re only allowed one sip.”

The old beggar was quick to act, swiftly grabbing the gourd back. He had originally thought that Li Xiaobai would only be able to drink a few drops, but to his amazement, an entire sip was taken. He felt a pang of heartache.

“Go in now, you can only stay for one day. If you come out midway, it’s assumed your bath has concluded.”

Li Xiaobai smacked his lips and said indifferently.

“This way, elder.”

Situ Yanyu came over, smiling as she invited the old beggar into the bathhouse.

“The girl is quite a looker.”

The old beggar was equally lecherous, his eyes wandering over Situ Yanyu’s body, which was quite inappropriate.

“No way, is this old guy really going to bathe with us?”

“Once he gets in, the bathhouse will probably turn into a stinking ditch!”

“I’m taking the water home for cultivation, the boss doesn’t forbid it anyway.”

“Me too, this old beggar is too disgusting.”

The cultivators in the pool dispersed like birds and beasts upon the old beggar’s approach, collecting lots of water to take home for slow cultivation.

After a few short breaths, the bathhouse was essentially empty, leaving only Li Family’s young master Li Ya, Elder Situ Kong, and the old beggar.

Li Xiaobai didn't stop the cultivators who wanted to leave. After all, the Spirit Stones were in place; whether they stayed or left was up to them.

Li Ya and Situ Kong were not ones to disdain the poor and curry favor with the rich; they did not object to the old beggar's arrival.

"Comfortable!"

The old beggar was indifferent to everyone's reactions, simply soaking himself in the pool with water up to his neck, his face radiating pleasure.

Li Xiaobai observed the old beggar's response. After soaking in the pool, the old beggar showed a face full of comfort, seemingly indifferent to the benefit the pool water had on cultivation levels.

This was definitely a master pretending to be ignorant to deceive others!

"Elder, if you let me have another sip of that wine, I can upgrade you to our first monthly VIP member. If you let me have two sips, I'll process a Super VIP package for you, free of charge. How about it?"

Li Xiaobai said with a smile, his eyes stealthily glancing at the old beggar's gourd.

"No more, no more, one bath is enough. Just getting cleaned up is fine."

The old beggar said while starting to scrub himself, giving Li Xiaobai a shudder. Why do all masters have such odd tastes?

"Elder, bathing is all about the state of mind. It's about comfort. Just getting clean is too simplistic. You ought to discover more of the delights within the bathhouse."

"For example?"

"For instance, the world beyond that door. As a Super VIP member, you could enjoy the Beauty Bathing Painting in this pool every day."

"Sss! Is that true?"

"Old beggar, I'm not that well-read, so don't you trick me!"

Chapter 63

The old beggar's eyes were wide open, shining with a fierce brilliance that made him look as if he was ready to devour someone, which was quite unsettling to see.

He had just seen Situ Yanyu's satisfaction, and he wouldn't mind contributing a jug or two of wine for the chance to see the Beauty Bathing Painting every day.

Li Xiaobai cursed inwardly, calling the man a lecher, an indecent old man.

His eyes lit up at the mention of a beautiful woman, was this the carefree nature of a senior expert?

"Of course it's true," Li Xiaobai said earnestly. "Liangchen never speaks nonsense. If I say there's a Beauty Bathing Painting, then there absolutely is one."

"I have no objections to seeing other things, but no one is allowed to look at my Yanyu!"

Elder Situ Kong instantly became nervous upon realizing that several lecherous old men had suddenly appeared in the bathhouse, putting his granddaughter in danger!

"Deal, but you have to give the old beggar a super VIP experience first. If it's as you say, then I will present the wine with both hands," the old beggar said with a sly grin, squinting his eyes.

"No problem, from this moment on, you are our very first monthly VIP, on a trial period of one month!" Li Xiaobai said casually, intent on keeping him there; as long as the old beggar stayed at the store, getting wine wouldn't be a problem.

The old beggar continued to scrub his feet in the water, turning the entire pool a murky green color; it was unclear what kind of filth he was washing off.

Li Ya watched with surprise and suspicion. With the old beggar's face previously covered in dirt, he was unrecognizable, but now, cleaned by the water, why did he seem so familiar to her?

She felt as if she had seen him somewhere before, but couldn't quite remember.

Li Xiaobai frowned; this was not the way to attract customers.

He immediately bought a bag of air purifier in the marketplace.

[Air Purifier: Use to purify the air, clear the mind, and briefly increase the Enlightenment Rate. (10 Lower Grade Spirit Stones)]

Note: Purify the mind, purify filth, purify the air, purify oneself.

This was just one of the small items in the marketplace, but it seemed to work wonders in this world.

After scattering a small bag of Air Purifier inside the room, the rotten and sour smell instantly vanished, and the water in the pool cleared up immediately.

A faint scent of tea even lingered in the air.

“Boss, what is this...”

Li Ya’s face was filled with astonishment; the small particles in the air had actually made his understanding of the Cultivation Techniques clearer, which was downright unbelievable.

This boss must be a great master!

The old beggar too looked puzzled, muttering to himself, “This thing is almost as good as the Enlightenment Tea Leaves, though taking a bath is still more comfortable.”

“This thing is actually so useful,” Li Xiaobai said, surprised. Products from the System, even as simple as a bag of powder, could enhance one’s aptitude for enlightenment—truly extraordinary.

“Yanyu, go sprinkle a bag in the ladies’ bathhouse.”

After purchasing another bag of air purifier, he handed it to Situ Yanyu. With this item, the attraction rate for customers would significantly increase.

As expected, within minutes, a large number of customers poured in.

They were attracted by the scent of the air purifier, finding that the closer they were to the bathhouse, the clearer their thoughts became, solving many confusing issues with ease.

“What kind of place is this, so miraculous!”

“Hehehe, welcome to Tangneng First-class, come on in...”

...

Meanwhile, in the various major families of Ancient Moon City.

In the Wang Family, after Wang Ning, the young master of the Wang Family, left Tangneng First-class, he immediately rushed to his family’s location without stopping.

The water of the bathhouse was too magical. If they could unravel its formula, how could the Wang Family not prosper?

He promptly sought out Wang Ba, the Wang Family Patriarch.

“Father, your son has discovered a treasure trove...”

Wang Ning took out the water and explained the situation with Tangneng First-class and the bathhouse in great detail to his father. Seeing the glint in Wang Ba’s eyes, it was clear that something had piqued his interest.

Just a soak in the bath could enhance one’s cultivation level—If his Wang family could have such a place, why worry about the family’s prosperity?

“Who else knows about this now?”

“The bathhouse is right next to the Moon Watching Tower; the major families should all be aware by now.”

“Let me have a look at that water!”

Wang Ba took the water and inspected it carefully, but after a long time, he couldn’t discern anything special.

He tasted it—bitter, fishy, sour, and putrid.

This damn thing is foot-washing water!

“You beast, you dare make me drink your foot-washing water? Die!”

...

The same scenario was enacted in all the major families of Ancient Moon City.

Disciples from each family presented the water they procured from the bathhouse to their senior members.

Hearing about the miraculous effects of the Tangneng First-class bathhouse, the seniors were exhilarated and began investigating the water’s secrets with their divine skills.

However, the reality was that they found nothing; no matter how they analyzed it, it was just ordinary water.

“Wait a minute, sense the water carefully. Is there a trace of a special scent in it?”

“Correct, this scent is a bit pungent, probably the smell of some herb.”

Quite a few of the seniors tasted the water intently.

They frowned slightly; at first, the taste was mediocre, but upon closer examination, there was a hint of bitter sweat and an indescribable odor of decay.

There's something about this water!

Based on the smell and taste, this should be... foot-washing water?

"Damn it, are you messing with me on purpose, happy to have me drink your foot-water?"

"This water is useless; it even has the stench of feet!"

"Damn, what sins did I commit in my last life to bear such a misfortune,"

"Ten years of cultivation, and you've gone to the dogs, treating foot-water as a sacred elixir for cultivation. What were you thinking?"

"From now on, don't say I am your master. Get out!"

"..."

In Ancient Moon City, all the major families were in uproar, with Family Heads and Elders sporting faces as liver-colored as if they had eaten flies.

They had tasted their disciples' foot-washing water and analyzed it in earnest. Should this get out, they'd be unable to show their faces in the city.

Utterly embarrassing!

The disciples were also bewildered; why did the water work fine in the bathhouse but lose its power once outside?

Could it be that what the proprietor said was true, that the bathwater was indeed just ordinary water, and what truly merited attention was not the water, but something else?

No, they had to visit Tangneng First-class once more to clear up the trickery behind it!

Many family disciples, as if by unspoken agreement, headed en masse toward Tangneng First-class's location.

Nonetheless, they were soon astonished to find that the bathhouse was now surrounded by an impenetrable crowd.

"Don't push, don't push, I was here first!"

"No cutting in line, brother, I'm still waiting to get into the bathhouse!"

“Brother, you misunderstand, I don’t have Spirit Stones, I’m not going in, I’ll just hang around outside!”

“Same here, let’s just hang around; I’m not competing with you guys.”

Chapter 64

The scent of the air purifier had drawn all the nearby people over.

Cultivation level is the crux of a person’s life, the foundation of their existence. Discovering that cultivating near the bathhouse could yield twice the result with half the effort, people naturally wanted to come and see for themselves.

However, most of the crowd were commoners, unable to afford the enormous sum of ten Lower Grade Spirit Stones, lacking the nerve to go in for a bath, given the exorbitant cost.

Thus, they were content just experiencing the effects of the air purifier in the courtyard.

This practice was euphemistically called “rubbing off a little good luck.”

“Brother, don’t cut in line, wait your turn honestly at the back.”

Someone in the queue spoke lightly.

“I am Wang Ning from the Wang Family, do I really need to wait in line?” a few young masters said discontentedly.

“Well, you can try and see if you can get in?”

The atmosphere among the crowd turned tense in an instant.

“I’ve come here seeking a chance encounter, and if anyone dares to cut off my opportunity, I’ll die on their doorstep to show them!”

“That’s right, I’m only half a step away from the Golden Core Stage. If anyone obstructs my breakthrough, they’ll become my mortal enemy!”

“To enter Tangneng First-class today, everyone must follow the rules. Otherwise, we might just go die on your families’ doorsteps together!”

The queue was fervently emotional, showing no deference to these family heirs.

This bathhouse was a once-in-a-century opportunity. Not even risking life and limb outside the city in various perilous places could compare to soaking here just once.

This chance was something they were determined to seize; no one could interfere!

It was only now that the sons of prominent families realized many in the queue were heirs of great clans from within the city, all waiting earnestly outside, deeply inhaling the spiritual substance in the air.

They no longer caused any trouble.

...

Inside Tangneng First-class, with every cultivator's face in the pools, beamed a blissful smile.

Soaking to improve cultivation, and air purifiers to enhance insight—cultivating in such an environment, even a pig would become enlightened.

The bathhouse was filled with exclamations of amazement, with everyone looking overly excited.

Making the most of every chance to practice, it was just a pity that most people initially only bought two hours' worth of soak time tentatively. Once time was up, they had to leave to make way for others.

"Boss, can I renew right away, I'll pay double!"

"Boss, me too!"

"Boss, as long as you let me renew, the little girl is willing to accompany you for a soak too!"

"Boss..."

The cultivators were loath to leave the bathhouse; once they left, who knew when they could enter again.

"No way, everyone must follow the rules, there are still so many waiting."

Li Xiaobai said flatly and, summoning Situ Yanyu, began to urge people out.

With that, the men's bathhouse quieted down immediately. Situ Yanyu quickly emerged from the adjacent women's pool, leading the female cultivators out, and everyone else realized that there indeed had been many young ladies soaking in the next room.

Each female cultivator's face flushed, a combination of the bathhouse's heat and the excitement from the accelerated cultivation, which made them loiter reluctantly.

Their rosy cheeks, their skin so tender it seemed it might break from a touch, the longing looks in their eyes, and the droplets of water slipping down their delicate necks made all the male cultivators' hearts race and mouths go dry.

Good heavens, this was a benefit segment! Not only could they enhance their cultivation, but they also had the chance to glimpse beauties emerging from the bath. Such a fine place was hard to come by, even if you were looking with a lantern.

The cultivators outside noticed this too, and they were all abuzz with excitement.

“Did you see that? That was the young miss of the Ouyang Family just now, she actually came here for a bath!”

“Yes, that's my goddess! Seeing my goddess emerge from the bath, in this life, I could die without regrets!”

“You two brethren have a small vision. If we could take a bath with these goddesses, cultivate together—hehehe, now that would be a delightful story to tell!”

“...”

The female cultivators noticed that the numerous like-minded companions around them were all bowing their heads, their faces flushed as they hurriedly left.

They were returning to their clans to report this incident, and then they would ask for more Spirit Stones to book the entire bathhouse.

“Come on, next batch!”

Li Xiaobai watched the numerous customers with a beaming smile. Today, Tangneng First-class had a tremendously successful opening day, something he could hardly believe.

However, the bathhouse was indeed too small, with so many people outside unable to enter. Although business was booming, the amount of Spirit Stones they could earn was extremely limited.

In the future, he still needed to think of a solution, ideally opening a chain of bathhouses.

To dominate the entire Ancient Moon City with Tangneng First-class bathhouses.

...

“Move aside, don't block the way!”

“Boy, I was wondering why I couldn’t find you at the Situ Household, turns out you were hiding here!”

“Today my big brother is here, even if the Daluo deity were protecting you, you wouldn’t escape your doom!”

A familiar voice came from outside, and Li Xiaobai frowned upon hearing it, the young master of the Xia Family had come knocking again.

This time, Xia Liu had brought his older brother Xia Chuan to help him seek revenge on Li Xiaobai and wash away previous humiliations, not expecting the Situ Household to be deserted. Halfway back, they were attracted by the shop and entered to find a surprise gain.

The crowd around them clearly recognized the Xia brothers as well, and they stepped aside, for this was the local bully, who often acted recklessly in the city relying on his family’s power, and they dared not provoke him.

The Xia Family and other forces in the city were closely connected, and even some of the established major families were reluctant to offend them lightly.

“Liangchen doesn’t like you, you can leave now.”

Li Xiaobai frowned and said, this Xia Liu had come to cause trouble, affecting his own wealth accumulation. This was a stumbling block on his path to fortune that he absolutely couldn’t tolerate.

In front of him, there was not only Xia Liu but also an elder young master, majestic and dignified in appearance, but the things he did were not so impressive, to actually help Xia Liu come and pick a fight.

“Are you Ye Liangchen?”

Xia Chuan brandished his folding fan with flair.

“Indeed, I am Ye Liangchen.”

“Do you know who I am?”

“I do not.”

“Xia Chuan!”

The young master seemed quite pleased with himself, basking in the awe of the surrounding crowd.

“And then?”

Li Xiaobai was baffled, perhaps the other party thought just mentioning his name would scare him?

“You don’t know me?”

Xia Chuan appeared somewhat surprised.

“Liangchen doesn’t need to know anyone, you just need to know I’m called Ye Liangchen, that’s enough.”

Li Xiaobai stood with his hands behind his back, speaking indifferently.

“You’ve got guts. In Ancient Moon City, even the other major families show my Xia Family a little respect. You’re the first to speak to me like this.”

Xia Chuan’s face darkened, as someone in the city was even more arrogant than he was; in his eyes, Li Xiaobai was as good as dead.

“Ye, if you voluntarily break one of your arms and kneel before my brother now, perhaps he’ll let you off as if you were a fart.”

Xia Liu was quite smug, with his elder brother taking action; he could already envision Li Xiaobai kneeling before him.

“Hehe, Liangchen loves to deal with those who think they are exceptionally powerful.”

“If you think you have the strength to tangle with me, Liangchen is more than willing to accompany you to the end.”

Chapter 65

As these words were uttered, everyone present gasped in astonishment—this was simply too domineering.

Who would have expected a bathhouse owner to be so imposing, angrily confronting the young master of the Xia Family without showing any weakness.

Xia Chuan’s nose was practically crooked with rage; never in Ancient Moon City had anyone dared to have a war of words with him, especially when he couldn’t talk his way out of it.

Damnit, who exactly is the overbearing CEO here?

“You’re quite the talker, but soon I will cut out your tongue and see if you can remain so calm,” Xia Chuan said.

His eyes ablaze with fury, spiritual energy surged around him, revealing his Golden Core Stage cultivation without a hint of reservation.

With a quick movement of his palms, he instantly appeared before Li Xiaobai, enshrouded in black mist, and a dark palm imprint struck Li Xiaobai’s chest.

“Murder Seal!”

“Young Master Liangchen!”

Situ Yanyu was incredibly nervous; to her, Xia Chuan was a genuine Golden Core Stage expert, a realm she aspired to reach in her lifetime. She wasn’t sure if an injured Li Xiaobai could safely withstand this palm strike.

However, it turned out that her imagination was limited by her strength.

In an instant, the garments on his chest were incinerated, yet his flesh beneath remained unscathed.

Xia Chuan’s expression changed.

His attack had been ineffective. He drew the sword from his waist with a reflexive motion—the blade glinting coldly, sword qi swirling impressively around it.

“Evil Banishing Sword Technique!”

The pitch-black sword qi stabbed directly at Li Xiaobai’s brow from point-blank range.

Sword qi met flesh.

[Attribute Points +300...]

Still weak.

“Crack!”

The passive Reflect skill activated, and Xia Chuan’s sword trembled violently, instantly shattering into powder, along with his hand being ripped into a bloody mess.

“How... how is this possible!” Xia Chuan’s face was a mix of shock and disbelief, his own Golden Core Stage cultivation had not inflicted the slightest harm.

The most critical point was that his mid-grade Spiritual Artifact had been shattered by Li Xiaobai's flesh—what kind of strength was this!

“Liangchen has already said, in this world, the only one who can injure Liangchen is Liangchen himself.”

Li Xiaobai said nonchalantly.

[Attribute Points: 400.]

After raising his defensive power to the sixth rotation of the Indestructible Golden Body, he no longer cared about these minor attribute points.

The further he progressed, the more terrifying the number of attribute points needed became. Naturally, the means of increasing attribute points had to diversify. Relying solely on taking damage from cultivators' attacks to gain attribute points was overly simplistic.

“Who exactly are you?”

“Are you sent by the other families to oppose my Xia Family?”

The formidable strength of his opponent left Xia Chuan astounded.

In an instant, his thoughts turned to the business that the Xia Family was currently discussing, suspecting that the other families might be intending to sabotage it.

“Liangchen dislikes idle chatter; all you need to remember is my name—Ye Liangchen,” Li Xiaobai said.

“Good, the Xia Family will remember you. We will avenge today's humiliation when the time is ripe!” Xia Chuan said with a somewhat fierce expression; in just a matter of minutes, Li Xiaobai had made him look like a complete fool.

“Indeed, Ye, my Xia Family is not one you can afford to offend; you will be killed within three days!” Xia Liu also shouted threateningly.

“No matter, feel free to summon anyone you know. Liangchen wouldn't mind playing along with you all. If I win, I would ask that you get out of my store.”

“Of course, if you cease this nonsense, Liangchen will surely reward you handsomely in the future,” Li Xiaobai said calmly, judging by the cultivation levels of these family disciples, the clans' strength in Ancient Moon City must not be formidable; the highest would likely be in the Nascent Soul Stage. As long as he didn't face someone of the straw-cloaked man's caliber, there generally wouldn't be much trouble.

It was time to cause a stir.

“Indeed, hurry up and scam; you’ve lost all face for the Xia Family.”

Li Ya stepped out from inside the house and said indifferently. The Li Family was also a major clan, and although they did not have as wide a network as the Xia Family, they were no less influential.

“You... I will remember this day’s events,”

the Xia brothers said, their faces turning green with anger, but being no match for their opponents, they could only scamper away in disgrace.

“Alright, the shop is back in business. Those who wish to take a bath, please pay the fee and proceed to the bathhouse.”

Li Xiaobai remained unperturbed, his demeanor neither haughty nor humble, instantly capturing the hearts of the female cultivators present.

Handsome, powerful, a money-maker with an unyielding spirit, such a man was truly hard to find even with a lantern.

The line neatly re-entered “Tangneng First-class.” The hour that Young Master Li of the Li Family, Li Ya, had purchased was up, he was reluctant to leave and wanted to “sneak in” a bit longer.

“Brother Ye, I fear great trouble will find you from now on...”

“The Xia Family is one of the most prominent in Ancient Moon City; it is said they have intimate dealings with several other cities. No one in Ancient Moon City dares to offend them, not even the spots to train with the Holy Demon Sect each year; this year, the Xia Family took three of those places.”

Li Ya shook his head and sighed.

“Train with the Holy Demon Sect?” Li Xiaobai’s eyes lit up.

“Brother Ye must know of the Holy Demon Sect’s existence; it is one of the top sects in the Northern Region, with many sects and cities around selecting talents to train at higher levels.”

“Each family in the city selects a young Disciple to go to the Holy Demon Sect, but this year, the Xia Family abruptly chose three Disciples, forcefully seizing the Song Family and Qiu Family’s spots. Everyone else could only boil with silent rage.”

“The Xia Family is not easy to provoke,”

said Li Ya.

Li Xiaobai remembered there seemed to be such talk on the streets. He had heard people mention it, but at that time, he was too busy building his bathhouse and recovering from injuries, so he had tossed it to the back of his mind.

Looking at it this way, it seemed he already had his ticket back to the Holy Demon Sect; when the time came, he could just follow the large group.

At this moment, his senior brothers and sisters must have already reached the Holy Demon Sect. With their speed of cultivation, perhaps by the time they met again, they might all be powerful figures in their own right.

“Brother Ye, what do you think of this person?” said Li Ya suddenly, beaming.

“Brother Li is quite good, not coddled like a hothouse flower, worth befriending,” answered Li Xiaobai.

“Then I wonder if Brother Ye could do me a favor and let me go in for another soak?”

“Brother Li, even close brothers keep financial accounts clear; you’ve spent all your Spirit Stones, best you leave early and line up again.”

“I’ve just shared some important intelligence though.”

“Sorry, but my mind was a bit muddled just now; I didn’t hear a thing.”

“...”

Tangneng First-class maintained an atmosphere of tranquility as cultivators constantly came and went.

However, many cultivators took away some of the bathwater before leaving.

Despite Li Xiaobai’s explanation that the water was just ordinary water, most people didn’t believe it and sought to understand the principle behind it.

Aside from the water, many also took a small piece of brick, since apart from the water, stones and bricks made the bathhouse.

As long as they could unravel the secrets, their power would be able to soar to the heavens.

Li Xiaobai wasn’t the least bit worried about this. Whether it was the building materials or the water, none of it was some exotic treasure; the primary condition for Tangneng First-class to operate was that the bathhouse must be built by himself.

This one condition eliminated the possibility of others copying it.

But what he did not know was, at this very moment, a conspiracy targeting Tangneng First-class was quietly unfolding.

The Xia Family.

“Who is that bathhouse owner who dares to defy my Xia Family?”

“Moreover, why is a mere bathhouse so popular?”

The Family Head of the Xia Family wore a thoughtful expression and asked.

“Father, that owner is called Ye Liangchen, utterly arrogant. He even said he wanted the children to find everyone they knew to join him for fun. As for the bathhouse, I have already sent people to investigate,”