

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

Chapter 66

In the Xia Family's grand hall, father and sons were discussing matters.

Xia Chuan's people sent to gather information had returned, bearing some water and bricks.

Family Head Xia Jiuquan carefully examined the water quality and bricks, even inviting the clan elders to appraise them.

The conclusion was that these were merely ordinary materials, with no trace of heavenly treasures mixed in.

"Why is that? Could an ordinary bathhouse really attract so many people?"

Xia Jiuquan was puzzled, as the scions of the city's families didn't seem like the sort to lose their ambition to indulgences. Why were so many engrossed in it?

"Perhaps it's simply because the bathhouse is a novelty, and once the younger generation loses interest, it'll be time to close its doors," the elders suggested.

"To think that a place for a soak could attract so many people. However, his bathhouse is still too small. We could ride this wave of popularity by building a large bathhouse and collect a bunch of Spirit Stones—wouldn't it be delightful?"

"Indeed, this is an excellent opportunity to make a fortune. We should definitely ride the wave," they agreed.

The elders concurred, as nobody would ever feel they had too many Spirit Stones.

"As for that owner, leave him to me. I'll have our guests in the clan take care of him," Xia Jiuquan declared.

"Moreover, your second brother will soon return from Zhenyuan Country, having completed his studies. Be cautious these days and try to avoid trouble. Remember, maintaining a training spot in the Holy Demon Sect is not easy," Xia Jiuquan said indifferently.

"Your son understands. Thank you, Father!"

"Mhm, you may leave now..."

...

The next morning,

Li Xiaobai lazily opened his eyes, finding the bathhouse still bustling with people. The queue outside not only hadn't shortened but had grown even longer.

It seemed to be extending across the street.

[Attribute Points: 10000.]

One day and one night had yielded quite positive results.

All points in defense.

[Defensive Power: Indestructible Golden Body Sixth Turn (19000/60000).]

[Status: Blood Demon Corrosion (Moderate).]

He only had to wait a few more days, and his defensive power would advance, at which point the effects of the Blood Demon Corrosion would completely vanish.

Currently, the cultivators in the pool were mostly those who had purchased the overnight service packages. To attract more repeat customers, Li Xiaobai had not yet released daily or monthly packages.

After all, they were in the stage of drawing in customers. The more regulars they had, the more people would patronize the future branches.

"Boss, don't you have a place for storing clothes?"

"Yeah, it's really inconvenient to hold onto them!"

A cultivator asked. Many of the confident men in the pool had fully embraced bathing and placed their clothes aside, flaunting their chiseled muscles to attract the girls from the adjacent women's bathhouse.

The time was approaching, and their overnight packages were about to end. In a little while, the female cultivators next door would be coming out, and this was their chance.

Most of the other male cultivators, however, were too shy to show their bodies. The key issue was that they neglected to refine their physical bodies on regular days, lacking burly muscles and sexy abs. They felt too inferior to show off in front of the goddesses.

Observing the fervor of the cultivators in the pool, Li Xiaobai shook his head and chuckled. A bathhouse had actually sparked the bloom of romance among these cultivators.

“Hehe, not yet, but there will be facilities for that in the future,” Li Xiaobai said.

“There’s much to learn from a bath, indeed. By stripping down, you show each other your true selves. It shows you have potential. Visit more often, and you’ll comprehend much more,” Li Xiaobai enticed.

“Please enlighten us, is this bathhouse not just for cultivation?” the cultivators asked, befuddled.

“Of course not, a bathhouse is just for bathing. It would be too one-dimensional to use it solely for cultivation.”

“Although the water in the pool is clear, you all are indeed very guarded toward each other. Putting on clothes is like putting on masks and disguises, while taking them off means shedding the burdens on your shoulders and your wariness. In this way, people can meet each other honestly and interact in their most relaxed state, naturally deepening their relations.”

“A real man, by soaking in the water, can let others feel what kind of person he is. Bathing is indeed the best way to communicate.”

“If someone is tough enough, he will sit in the water no matter the temperature, just dropping down in one go. But if someone is indecisive, he will test the waters like a dragonfly skimming the surface before slowly submerging himself.”

“So, you see, first take a soak to understand a person. In this world, there’s nothing that a good soak in the bath can’t solve. If there is, then take another one.”

Li Xiaobai said.

“Hiss, listening to you is better than reading ten years of books. I didn’t expect the boss to have such insight. I’ve learned something new!”

“With the boss’s strength being so formidable, it must be because of his long soaks in the bath, right?”

“That’s right, the boss can withstand an attack from someone at the Golden Core Stage without a scratch, which is certainly the work of an exceptional master. Maybe he is contemplating the natural world while soaking!”

The cultivators felt embarrassed, having not realized that there was such depth to the waters of the pool.

They had indeed been too narrow-minded to think of bathing solely as a way to get clean and speed up cultivation.

“Alright, the lodging package is over, time to switch to the next group!”

Li Xiaobai looked at the time and started ushering people out.

The male cultivators dawdled, slowly climbing out of the pool, as if by dragging out the time they were waiting for something. Li Xiaobai knew exactly what was on their minds, so he waited patiently with a smile.

The more wonderful things these cultivators discovered in the bathhouse, the stronger their sense of belonging to it. They would not be able to stay away from the bathhouse in the future.

With a “squeak,” the door to the women’s bathhouse opened.

Situ Yanyu led a group of female cultivators out, looking as lovely and fresh as lotuses that had just emerged from the water, causing the male cultivators to blush and their hearts to race.

The dozen or so cultivators ready to show off their bodies immediately stepped forward, striking poses with their muscles bulging heroically, revealing the undeniable charm of masculinity.

The female cultivators kept their heads down, their eyes unintentionally drifting over to where the men were, a mysterious smile on their lips and a ripple in their gaze.

Seeing this, the male cultivators became even more enthusiastic.

“Senior Brother, those biceps you’ve been working on are impressive!”

“Heh heh, Junior Brother, your quadriceps are quite developed, not bad, your ‘Wind God Leg Technique’ hasn’t been wasted at all!”

“However, Junior Brother, I still admire those abs of yours, Senior Brother, hard as a steel plate. Might you have any secrets to share?”

“Hardly, hardly, it’s your back muscles that are the real deal. They truly set you apart, and it’s shocking to see. I should be asking you for advice, Senior Brother!”

“You flatter me, Senior Brother...”

“...”

Li Xiaobai watched this display wide-eyed and dumbfounded. These cultivators were shameless, engaging in such boastful banter. But it seemed that the female cultivators were quite taken with it.

They were still too naive!

Such a simple trick had caught them.

Through the door, excited chatter from the female cultivators floated to Li Xiaobai's ears.

"Yun Jie, did you see that? Those men just now were so handsome!"

"In my opinion, the most handsome is the cultivator in the middle. Those abs are to die for!"

"Pfft, the third one from the left is the most perfect in terms of physique!"

"I'm coming back tonight..."

"Ladies, keep it down, remember to maintain our image..."

"..."

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The many cultivators at the door were brimming with excitement in their eyes.

Regardless of gender, at this moment, they all seemed to have found their very own pursuit of bathing.

It turns out that showing off one's physique while bathing could actually win over the heart of one's goddess so easily.

In just an instant, the male cultivators all became excited, their faces flushing with determination in their hearts, deciding that once they returned, they must definitely practice a body refinement skill.

These days, you're embarrassed to call yourself a real man if you don't have a few muscles on your belly.

The female cultivators shared the same sentiment, knowing they'd be seen by male cultivators when leaving the bathhouse, who wouldn't want to present themselves in a perfect image?

Many of the female cultivators subtly looked at their own slightly robust calves, thinking this wouldn't do, deciding to work hard upon returning to slim them down.

Unbeknownst to them, a body refinement craze was about to take Ancient Moon City by storm.

But Li Xiaobai couldn't care less about their little schemes.

Inside Tangneng First-class, Li Xiaobai was counting Spirit Stones with a beaming smile, the bathhouse was too profitable, they had made over a thousand Lower Grade Spirit Stones in just a day or two.

He handed out two hundred to Situ Yanyu.

"Stick with me, and I won't treat you badly. Keep up the good work, I have high hopes for you!"

"Thank you, Young Master Liangchen!"

Situ Yanyu was overjoyed, she knew the shop's daily revenue was hundreds to thousands of Spirit Stones, but she never imagined she'd get a share, and felt a little touched.

"Cough cough, my lord, about my salary, don't you think it's time to..."

Elder Situ Kong came over, constantly rubbing his fingers together with eager insinuation.

"My dear elder, you've soaked here for two days, don't you think it's time to settle that cost..." Li Xiaobai said, grinning.

"Cough cough, I haven't taken my bath yet, let me soak a little longer, just a little more."

Situ Kong begrudgingly crawled back into the pool, settling beside the dirty old beggar again, chatting in a desultory fashion.

"Boss, two hours of soaking."

Three figures in black robes entered, with their faces covered, their appearances obscured.

Li Xiaobai frowned slightly; as the trio approached, he felt an instinctual repulsion, an unreasoned aversion to these strangers he had never met before.

What was this all about?

He had never had a problem with money before.

All who came were lords; they must be treated well.

“Gentlemen, right this way, please!”

Li Xiaobai put away the Spirit Stones and welcomed the few individuals with a smile.

The three black-robed figures didn’t speak, making their way directly to a corner of the pool and plopping themselves in.

Splashes erupted, scaring the nearby bathing cultivators, who concluded based on the boss’s introduction that these three were definitely fierce characters.

Li Xiaobai narrowed his eyes; soaking silently from the moment they sat down, not uttering a word, these people seemed to be more than merely fierce; they were smoky threats.

The three black-robed figures felt something extraordinary after a brief immersion; the pool seemed to enhance their cultivation level. Just by soaking for a while, they felt their inner Spiritual Energy grow stronger by a thread—an inconceivable experience.

However, the black-robed figures quickly suppressed their excitement as they had come with a mission, prioritizing it above all else.

“Boss, got any good wine and dishes? The brothers are hungry, and we’re not short on Spirit Stones,” said the leading black-robed figure.

“Right away, just a moment.”

Li Xiaobai quickly prepared the wine and dishes on a tray, serving them before the few black-robed figures.

“Hey, boss, come and join us for a bite,” the black-robed figure naturally invited, nonchalantly throwing over a few Lower Grade Spirit Stones—they indeed seemed to be customers who weren’t short on money.

Li Xiaobai also picked up a set of chopsticks and joined the men for a feast and drinks.

“I’m from Zaun.”

“Where’s Zaun?” the men inquired, indicating they hadn’t heard of it before.

“It’s just a little place called Zaun District. The people there are quite passionate, somewhat impoverished, nothing worth mentioning.”

“The boss has a decent cultivation level; it seems you frequent dangerous places often.”

“Just average.”

“Why does this pool have the effect of enhancing cultivation level? Could the boss enlighten us a little?”

“We are willing to pay for the recipe and will ensure it remains a secret.”

The man in the black robe spoke gravely.

“You’re not the first to say that. There’s nothing special about this water; it’s just ordinary water. The reason it can help cultivators increase their cultivation level is that I infused it with love, and that’s why it has this effect.”

“Our shop doesn’t prohibit customers from taking the water out. If you doubt it, you can take some water and study it slowly later.”

Li Xiaobai said cheerfully, knowing full well that his bathhouse was unique and couldn’t be replicated.

“I see.”

The few men nodded slightly, eating their food in a leisurely manner.

Li Xiaobai wanted to say something else when suddenly, his heart skipped a beat, and the numbers on the system panel in front of him began to fluctuate.

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Attribute Points +100...]

Hiss!

The food is poisoned!

Li Xiaobai instantly understood, no wonder he had always felt something off about these three men; they had come specifically for him.

Taking advantage when he wasn’t paying attention, they had secretly poisoned the food, intending to kill him. Indeed, sinister and ruthless.

Without asking, it must be a hit ordered by the young masters of the Xia Family.

But this poison is still somewhat lacking.

[Attribute Points: 1000.]

Add to defense.

[Defensive Power: Indestructible Golden Body Sixth Turn (20000/60000)]

“Why aren’t you eating your vegetables? Come on, don’t be shy; these are all dishes you ordered, and you can’t waste them.”

Li Xiaobai smiled as he put a few dishes from his side into the bowls of the men in the black robe.

In an instant, the faces of the men in the black robe turned green, but since they hadn’t accomplished their mission, they had to keep up the act and, begrudgingly, finished the vegetables cleanly.

“Boss, do you drink?”

The man in the black robe asked.

“Yes.”

The man in the black robe poured the wine while Li Xiaobai stared intently at his actions, unable to spot anything amiss.

A few bowls of wine went down. The wine wasn’t strong, not even counting as a strong liquor.

[Attribute Points +200...]

[Attribute Points +200...]

Here it comes again!

Li Xiaobai understood in his heart that the other party was definitely sent to kill and that he hadn’t noticed how the other party had poisoned the food; they were quite skillful.

[Ding! Host continues to be attacked by Blood Demon Corrosion Force, acquiring skill: Blood Demon True Resolution.]

Blood Demon True Resolution: Can unleash the Blood Qi of the Blood Demon Primordial Spirit, significantly boosting power for a short period, capable of influencing space-time and bewildering minds. After use, the Blood Demon Primordial Spirit enters a weakened state for a brief period.

Hiss!

Blood Demon Corrosion Force, Li Xiaobai was alarmed.

The poisoning technique of the man in the black robe was exactly like the straw-cloaked man's, only far weaker in power, undoubtedly one of the straw-cloaked man's subordinates.

Was this a retaliation from the Xia Family, or had he already been discovered by the straw-cloaked man?

Li Xiaobai's mind was in a haze; he had to test them.

"You guys have a good tolerance for alcohol. Among those I have met in Liangchen, besides Zhang Rui from Tianwu Sect, you're the best drinkers!"

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Zhang Rui was the name he had left for the straw-cloaked man that day.

The other party must be trying to track down this person with all their effort by now, and if these black-robed men were subordinates of the straw-cloaked man, they would certainly know this name.

As expected, the black-robed men paused noticeably in their actions upon hearing this name.

"Does the boss know Zhang Rui?"

The leading black-robed man's tone was slightly agitated.

"Indeed, I've met him a few times. Zhang Rui is quite capable, but it's a pity his character is too poor to make friends."

Li Xiaobai shook his head and sighed, and the black-robed men exchanged glances with excitement in their eyes.

"Please have some tea, boss."

The leading black-robed man passed over another bowl of tea, which Li Xiaobai drank down in one gulp. The attribute points for Blood Demon Corrosion on the System panel stopped fluctuating, indicating it was a bowl of antidote.

Li Xiaobai chuckled inwardly, finding these Evil Cultivators foolishly endearing as they kept offering poison and then antidotes, seemingly not the sharpest tools in the shed.

"Could the boss tell us about Zhang Rui? He owes us a significant amount of resources, and we have been looking for him to settle the debt."

The black-robed men passed over another bowl of tea, still an antidote.

Finding Zhang Rui was a major mission; whoever could find him was sure to be promoted and ennobled, and the achievement of becoming a major power was not beyond the realm of possibility.

These black-robed men were only at the Golden Core Stage in strength; originally, they were just trying to fish in troubled waters without expecting to actually find Zhang Rui. But now, it was different; they had stumbled upon someone who knew Zhang Rui.

The three of them instantly realized this was their chance; seizing it could mean they wouldn't have to worry about food and clothing for most of the rest of their lives.

They didn't dare to neglect the opportunity, offering bowl after bowl of detoxifying tea. They were genuinely afraid of accidentally poisoning Li Xiaobai to death. Compared to the Xia Family's trivial personal grudges, finding Zhang Rui was a matter of utmost importance.

"This Zhang Rui, ah, is a True Disciple of the Tianwu Sect. His strength is not to be underestimated. I heard that there's recently been a commotion in the Divine Beast Mountain Range, and he went to join in the excitement and got his hands on quite a few valuable items."

"Only, this man's character is too flawed; he always likes to trick and kill his opponents, seizing their Space Rings, which isn't a good habit. I've advised him many times to no avail; obsessed with wealth, he refuses to heed any advice. Do any of you hold a grudge against him?"

What Li Xiaobai said was logical and convincing, and the black-robed men were overjoyed in an instant.

A capable individual, recently seen in the Divine Beast Mountain Range, and also named Zhang Rui – there was no doubt that he was the very person their superior was searching for.

"Ah, it's not a big grudge. He took away our Space Rings, which contain the heirlooms left by our deceased father. We must get them back."

The men became even more enthusiastic, pulling Li Xiaobai into a wide-ranging conversation.

Through the conversation, Li Xiaobai determined that these three definitely belonged to the straw-cloaked man, who was making every effort to search for Zhang Rui.

The three black-robed men were likely Evil Cultivators from outside the city, associated with the Xia Family, and were regarded as honored guests by the family. The leader of

the black-robed man was named Zuo Da, and the other two black-robed men were named Zuo Er and Zuo San; they were brothers.

Originally, they had come to kill him, but they hadn't expected that a casual mention of a name would not only eliminate their murderous intent but also cause them to become good friends with him.

Surely, the path of cultivation is deep and complex; even the allies of an enemy can become one's own brothers with the right manipulation.

"Ah, the more friends, the more paths. Well then, meeting is fate. I will help you find Zhang Rui."

"He's too fond of hopping around. It's good for you guys to teach him a lesson."

Li Xiaobai's gaze was profound, filled with infinite reflection as if reminiscing about an old friend.

Sorry, Zhang Rui, but besides you, I have no one else to blame, so please take on all the blame!

"Educating him isn't quite the word – we just want to reclaim what belongs to us," Zuo Da said with a chuckle.

For a moment, the atmosphere in the bathhouse was filled with harmony.

The other cultivators also relaxed when they saw this. The owner was right: there's nothing a good soak in the bath can't solve.

After soaking for a while and chatting, the black-robed figures transformed from menacing to amiable. The magic of a bath was truly wondrous.

The old beggar listened the entire time with rapt attention, the light in his eyes concealed. He heard some things that greatly piqued his interest.

"Who would have thought that after so many years, the Tianwu Sect still has such talent, reminiscent of my younger days."

The old beggar muttered to himself and comfortably dozed off.

The evil cultivators chatted for a while longer, then started to seriously cultivate.

This time they had a great haul. Not only did they discover an amazing bathhouse, but they also gathered some intelligence regarding Zhang Rui.

Li Xiaobai returned to the counter, gazing at the system panel in front of him.

[Ding! Host has unlocked an achievement: Cultivators of the World are One Family, Reward: One Justice Elixir, One Pill of Mischief.]

[Justice Elixir: After consumption, one's heart is filled with kindness, justice points skyrocket, and the mind is entirely focused on doing good deeds. One feels uncomfortable if not performing a good deed a day.]

[Pill of Mischief: After consumption, one's heart sets to creating trouble, evil points skyrocket, and the mind is filled with thoughts of causing mischief. One feels uncomfortable if not stirring up trouble for a day.]

[Note: Elixirs have no consumption restrictions and can be taken by all living creatures.]

These elixirs are interesting: one for justice, one for mischief. Definitely not for self-use, I'll have to find the right person for them later.

His eyes inadvertently swept towards Ergouzi, who was frolicking in the nearby pool, and the corner of his mouth lifted unconsciously.

This little wreck of a dog was shrouded in mystery. Despite its silly demeanor on most days, it demonstrated extraordinary strength at the Divine Beast Mountain Range. Giving it a Justice Elixir could assure its unwavering loyalty from here on.

Ergouzi seemed to sense something, shuddered all over, and stared at Li Xiaobai with guarded eyes, looking very wary.

It had a bad feeling about this.

"Ergouzi, come here, I've got something tasty for you," said Li Xiaobai, waving a pill in his hand and speaking cheerfully.

"Woof woof woof!"

The little wreck of a dog's fur exploded.

It had only stayed around Li Xiaobai for a few days because it was attracted by the scent of fragments. But it seemed Li Xiaobai treated it like a pet, casually naming it, and now was trying to trick it into eating some mysterious pills—definitely not a good sign!

Nicholas Ergouzi was not to be easily bullied.

The casually produced elixirs looked like shoddy goods to it; it had better treasures of its own and was preparing to share them with Li Xiaobai.

"Woof woof woof!"

Jumping down, Ergouzi shook off the water droplets and regarded Li Xiaobai with disdain, barking a few times.

Meaning that the pills weren't much and it had something better, as it indicated for Li Xiaobai to follow.

"You want me to go out with you?"

"Woof woof woof!"

"I'm here to make money, don't be a nuisance."

"Woof woof woof!"

"You've got treasure?"

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For some reason, Li Xiaobai felt that he could understand the message conveyed by the dog's barks.

Could it be that, without realizing it, he had opened his governor and conception vessels and learned how to speak dog?

"Woof woof woof!"

"Alright, Liangchen will join you on this adventure!"

This little ratty dog wasn't an ordinary dog; it even turned its nose up at Justice Elixirs.

The treasure it spoke of must surely be no ordinary item.

Li Xiaobai instructed Situ Yanyu on a few things, leaving her in charge of the shop for the time being, and then followed the little ratty dog, who vanished into the street in a cloud of dust.

Inside the shop, in the bathhouse, a group of cultivators were stunned into admiration, overwhelmed by Li Xiaobai's actions.

Could two different species really converse so smoothly? Was this the culture of taking baths?

That dog had also been soaking in the bathing pool just before, and it surely must be because of this that it could communicate with the boss without any barriers.

Considering this, the cultivators began to focus even more on their bathing, convinced by the boss's honesty—bathing truly was the best method of communication in the world.

On the street,

the little ratty dog kept sniffing around in front, as if it were searching for something.

“Is there really a treasure?”

“Woof woof woof!”

“A treasure even more precious than these elixirs?”

“Woof woof woof!”

“Where on this street could there be a treasure?”

“Woof woof woof!”

A sly glint shone in the little ratty dog's eyes; it was because of its ability that Li Xiaobai could understand dog speech.

Though it could not speak human language for the time being, getting a human to understand its message was a trivial matter.

Li Xiaobai was somewhat dubious but followed the little ratty dog through seven twists and turns into an alleyway.

The alley was empty, not a soul in sight. The little ratty dog reached the end, jumped excitedly, and motioned for Li Xiaobai to dig into the ground.

Li Xiaobai approached and felt an acrid smell coming from the ground.

Not knowing much about cultivation or recognizing herbs, he noted that if the scent of something buried underground could penetrate through to the surface, it clearly wasn't ordinary.

“Is it here?”

“Woof woof woof!”

“Step aside. I'll dig it up!”

Li Xiaobai said, completely unaware of the mocking look in the little ratty dog's eyes.

He exchanged for a Fully Automatic Luoyang Shovel in the System Mall.

[Fully Automatic Luoyang Shovel: Capable of digging automatically, it consumes one Lower Grade Spirit Stone per minute, and higher power output requires higher-grade Spirit Stones. (30 Medium Grade Spirit Stones).]

Note: The longer the handle, the stronger the force.

He took out the Luoyang Shovel, inserted a Lower Grade Spirit Stone, and the blade began to spin rapidly. In an instant, the earth was flying everywhere, with dust clouds rising all around.

So this was how to use a shovel, indeed very convenient.

A dark hole appeared, and it was difficult to see what was inside. It was just big enough to fit an arm through.

The little ratty dog pounced suddenly as if to snatch the treasure. Li Xiaobai slapped it to the side.

“The treasure is mine; don’t fight over it. I’ll give you a Divine Elixir later.”

Seeing the little ratty dog’s somewhat anxious behavior, Li Xiaobai grew even more certain that there was a treasure inside.

He reached his hand into the hole to retrieve the treasure.

“Heh heh, you’re quite something, not disappointing for having brought you out of the Divine Beast Mountain Range.”

Li Xiaobai chuckled weirdly as his finger touched something. His expression brightened—found it!

He reached out and touched it; the thing was soft and a bit wet, crumbling inwards with a pinch.

What is this? It doesn’t look like a Spiritual Artifact, nor does it resemble Spiritual Medicine. I can’t make heads or tails of it.

Withdrawing his hand, he examined the sticky substance on his fingers; it was a pale yellow color, sticky and damp.

He brought it close to his nose to smell it and a strong, pungent stench hit him, making Li Xiaobai’s eyes roll back in disgust.

Is this... poop?

“Woof woof woof!”

The darn dog grinned foolishly, turned, and bolted outside, making a speedy getaway.

“Blood Demon True Resolution, freeze!”

Li Xiaobai was livid; he had been played by a dog! After all the trouble he had gone through and spending thirty Lower Grade Spirit Stones, all he got was this crap.

No doubt about it, dog meat for dinner tonight!

A crimson aura swept through the alley instantly, and the wretched dog’s movements froze, falling stiffly to the ground. In its eyes flickered a look of terror—it saw mountains of corpses and seas of blood amidst the bloody mist, and countless skeletons.

“Come back,” Li Xiaobai said with a stern face.

“Woof woof woof!”

The wretched dog became submissive, intimidated by the power of the Blood Demon Primordial Spirit.

“Now tell me, how are we going to resolve this?”

“Eat it. If you can stomach it, then we’re still friends,” said Li Xiaobai indifferently.

“Woof woof!”

The wretched dog, excited, didn’t hesitate and quickly bounded to the hole, swiftly devouring the unknown substance.

Seeing it contentedly licking its tongue, a shiver ran down Li Xiaobai’s spine; damn it, a dog can’t stop its tendency to eat... well, never mind that.

Let’s focus on the important stuff.

“Open your mouth!”

The wretched dog obeyed, and Li Xiaobai tossed an elixir into its mouth.

This was the Justice Elixir; consuming it would make one very just.

Watching the dog intently for any changes, the wretched dog spun around twice, seemingly feeling nothing out of the ordinary. But when it opened its mouth, both the man and the dog were equally shocked.

“By god, this idiotic boy actually forced Lord Ergouzi to eat crap—oh no, a divine delicacy. Lord Ergouzi remembers this grudge; vengeance will come one day!”

With those words, the alley fell silent.

“I... I can talk?”

“Was that Lord Ergouzi speaking just now?” The wretched dog seemed very shocked.

“Heh heh, what do you think?”

Li Xiaobai was in high spirits seeing Ergouzi’s transformation, the elixir was truly extraordinary, it even enabled Ergouzi to speak human language.

“Heh heh, kid, don’t always sweat the small stuff. Your Lord Ergouzi was destined for greatness, being able to taste Lord Ergouzi’s divine delicacies in advance is your good fortune,” said Ergouzi.

“Let’s let bygones be bygones for now. Don’t worry, Lord Ergouzi doesn’t hold grudges,” Ergouzi continued.

“Mhm, whatever you say is right, it truly is my good fortune,” agreed Li Xiaobai.

After cleaning his clothes, Li Xiaobai was still cheerful; the damn dog didn’t realize that it had been clearly set up without even knowing.

Having consumed the Justice Elixir, it would have to commit to doing good deeds from now on; scheming against others was no longer an option.

Li Xiaobai’s demeanor was unusual, and the wretched dog became suspicious, wanting to say something more, but the words changed as they reached its lips.

“Woof, who lacks such public decency to dig a hole in the ground? Let Lord Ergouzi fill it up!”

The effects of the elixir kicked in quickly, and Ergouzi lay down at the edge of the hole and began frantically to fill it back up.

Filled with shock on its face.

“Kid, what the hell did you feed me? Why does Lord Ergouzi feel this inexplicable urge to do good deeds?” it said.

Chapter 70

Ergouzi realized that something was off, feeling a strangely overwhelming sense of justice—this wasn't its style!

"The Justice Elixir, it will make you continuously do good deeds."

"Woof, how dare you trick Lord Ergouzi!"

"Ergouzi, the outside world is fascinating but also dangerous, there are many people in need of help, and you are the only dog that can assist them because you are the embodiment of justice."

"That's right, Lord Ergouzi is the embodiment of justice!"

"Lord Ergouzi wants to do good deeds!"

Ergouzi felt a rush of enthusiasm, panting eagerly, and dashed out without delay.

Meanwhile, the boisterous cries from the street reached Li Xiaobai's ears.

"Xia Family First-Rate Bathhouse, now open for business, half price on the first day, absolute comfort, don't miss out walking by..."

Xia Family First-Rate?

Why does that name sound so familiar?

Li Xiaobai looked in the direction of the sounds and saw that a huge storefront on the street had opened, almost the size of an inn and even a two-story building—many times larger than his own Tangneng First-class.

The Xia Family First-Rate Bathhouse, just on its opening day, was bursting with popularity, with countless cultivators flooding in to pay and experience it.

Through the experience of Tangneng First-class, virtually everyone in the city now knew the magical effects of bathing.

Although the several major families had yet to unlock the secret of the bathhouses, the fact that they could increase one's cultivation level was there for all to see.

"The Xia Family has opened a bathhouse too; could it be that they've gotten hold of the boss's recipe?"

"Maybe they've taken a different approach, using some other methods!"

"But looking at the scale, the boss simply can't compete with the Xia Family, this building alone can accommodate a thousand people at a time."

“No doubt about it, I’m booking a stay here tonight!”

“Heh heh heh, me too, maybe the effects of the Xia Family’s baths are even stronger than Tangneng First-class!”

“Let’s go, let’s go...”

The cultivators were excited, rushing into the Xia Family First-Rate shop, among them Li Xiaobai spotted many familiar faces.

Even Li Family’s young master, Li Ya, had gone for the experience.

Li Xiaobai sneered inwardly, imitators had appeared; the Xia Family really had no shame, trying to ride on his coattails and make a quick buck.

But this wasn’t going to be so easy.

He didn’t believe the Xia Family could create a pool that would increase the cultivation levels of cultivators, and even if they could, it would require an incredible amount of precious natural resources.

The skill provided by the System needed no cost at all; any bathhouse he built with his own hands would have that effect.

Which was superior would be clear after tonight.

Back at Tangneng First-class, the place seemed a bit desolate.

Ergouzi had run off to do good deeds; who knew when he would return, and judging by that scoundrel’s nature, the chances of being beaten to death while doing good deeds were pretty high.

All the customers in the shop had left, having received news of the Xia Family First-Rate’s opening day discount promotion. The Xia Family was, after all, a major clan, with financial and strength resources beyond comparison to Tangneng First-class’s opening.

Luxurious decoration and stylish bathhouses immediately attracted hordes of fans.

The cultivators conscientiously went to enjoy high-end life services.

At this moment in the shop, aside from Situ Yanyu and her grandson, there were only an old beggar and a few female cultivators left.

“Young Master Liangchen, the customers have all...”

Situ Yanyu seemed very anxious; the cultivators who were comfortably bathing had vanished in a moment, and the revenue for the day probably would be cut in half.

“I’ve already found out, a Xia Family First-Rate Bathhouse has opened next door, and all the cultivators have been lured over there.”

“So what should we do? Should we go out and look for customers?”

“There’s no need for that much trouble, after tonight, customers will come back on their own. You go and practice in the pool; come back to mind the shop tomorrow.”

“Also, take stock of how many customers are still in the shop, and directly give them a monthly VIP membership. For the next month, our shop will reserve a spot for them; they can come and soak anytime, free of charge.”

“Understood, I’ll get that ready,” Situ Yanyu went off to prepare.

Li Xiaobai didn’t mind the customers’ departure; he chuckled and walked to the edge of the pool, ready to relax.

Once the cultivators realize that soaking in the Xia Family’s bathhouse doesn’t bring any benefits, they’ll still obediently return to his Tangneng First-class shop.

Only by then, it won’t be so easy to get in.

He casually changed the prices listed on the wall.

Men’s bathhouse: One mid-grade Spirit Stone for every half-hour. Overnight stay: Eight mid-grade Spirit Stones.

Women’s bathhouse: One mid-grade Spirit Stone for every hour. Overnight stay: Six mid-grade Spirit Stones.

One mid-grade Spirit Stone is equivalent to a hundred lower-grade Spirit Stones, the price has been turned up by dozens of times, today’s deserting cultivators are probably going to regret it to their guts.

“Boss, that’s a slick move, raising the prices by dozens of times. Those cultivators will probably be even crazier about coming in to soak. You couldn’t have been deliberately waiting for this moment to hike up the prices, could you?”

The old beggar spoke lazily, his whole self clean inside and out at this point. If he wasn’t wearing those ragged clothes, he might have actually looked somewhat ethereal.

“Heh, just the usual business strategy, nothing worth mentioning. How come you didn’t go to the new Xia Family First-Rate, old man?”

Li Xiaobai asked with a chuckle.

“Isn’t that obvious? What kind of relationship do the old beggar and the boss have? How could I just abandon you for a new shop in town?”

“Heh, it’s because you don’t have any Spirit Stones in your pocket, right?”

“Hey, hey, don’t point out what we both already know. The old beggar here is very supportive of you. That Xia Family First-Rate, jumping on the bandwagon and seeking hype, won’t last long. Tangneng First-class is the one with a future.”

“Good eye, old man. My Tangneng First-class is going to become a chain store across the whole Mainland in the future.”

Li Xiaobai felt grand aspirations, already picturing the day when Tangneng First-class became the strongest chain store.

In every corner of the Immortal Spirit Continent, one could find the presence of Tangneng First-class, and every day cultivators would take pleasure in bathing, paying countless Spirit Stones.

Truly counting Spirit Stones until one’s hands go soft.

“In wealth and prosperity, let’s not forget each other.”

Old Situ Kong chuckled weirdly on the side; in just a short two days, he had already become chummy with the old beggar.

Elderly people often have more in common, such as not caring about the beauty’s face when a beauty emerges from a bath.

Soaking in the pool, relieving every tension.

[Attribute Point: 2000.]

All points into defense!

[Defensive Power: Indestructible Golden Body Sixth Turn. (22000/60000).]

[Status: Blood Demon Corrosion (Moderate).]

Meanwhile, at the Xia Family First-Rate.

Many cultivators entered the pools with great anticipation. The pools were clearly constructed with a hefty sum, edged with gold and lined with silk—luxurious and comfortable.

But there seemed to be an issue with the water in the pool, why couldn't they feel an increase in Spiritual Energy after soaking in it?

Could it be that they haven't soaked long enough for the pool to take effect?