

Star Odyssey

Chapter 1761: Tempting The Heart

Yuan Miaomiao looked up to gaze at Lu Yin. Her eyes were quite beautiful, and Lu Yin could see his own reflection in her eyes. "Why would Alliance Leader Lu ask such a thing? Especially since you did not care about our earlier warning and insisted on entering Venom Flowzone. Grandfather said that all of His Majesty's schemes are useless against you."

"You overestimate me and underestimate Emperor Qing Shaohuang," Lu Yin replied in a casual tone.

Yuan Miaomiao shook her head. "Even if His Majesty is able to do as he wishes, it will only bring unpredictable disasters upon the Divine Venom Dynasty."

There was a knock at the door, and a gentle voice spoke, "Let's have dinner first."

Yuan Miaomiao stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin got up. "There's no need. I've already said everything I need to."

He then prepared to leave.

Yuan Miaomiao suddenly took off her mask, drawing Lu Yin's eyes. A flicker of surprise could be seen on his face. He had seen too many beautiful women throughout his life, and no matter if one considered Starsibyl, Ming Yan, Bai Xue, or Madam Nalan, all of them were absolutely stunning. Yuan Miaomiao revealed herself to be beautiful enough to compete with any of those women Lu Yin knew.

Still, the most unique feature to Lu Yin's eyes was the image of an alluring flower on Yuan Miaomiao's face. Though the flower had no color and was merely an outline, the moment Lu Yin laid eyes on it his mind was filled with the image of this flower blowing in the wind. It was red and bold, and completely enchanting. Given Yuan Miaomiao's beautiful appearance and her soul-devouring eyes, the flower looked to be indescribably glamorous.

This was a flower that seduced people's hearts. This was not a seduction brought about by words, but by beauty and the image of the flower that was on Yuan Miaomiao's face. This flower was her ability to seduce people's hearts.

Lu Yin's heart was swayed. He was not overcome by emotions, but by his heart. It moved as though his heart was actually being stolen.

His expression shifted a bit, and his eyes flickered. It was the flower! That flower on the woman's face was producing a powerful temptation that combined with her beautiful features to produce something Lu Yin could almost not resist.

Someone weaker would absolutely fall to this ability.

"Miaomiao, you-" Qing Longlong opened the door, only to be shocked at what she saw. She stared at Yuan Miaomiao in complete disbelief.

Yuan Miaomiao continued to stare at Lu Yin. She focused on his face, but saw that his first reaction was just a bit of surprise, and after that, his expression returned to normal. This was quite disappointing, as the flower on her face made her tempting enough that no man should be able to resist her. By the time she had only been five years old, she had already attracted countless suitors. If not for her grandfather, she shuddered to even consider what fate might have met her.

As she had grown older, she had covered her appearance and had covered the flower on her face, which had stopped the men pursuing her. If she had not done that, she never would have been able to go anywhere without causing a commotion.

She had hidden her appearance for many years, and Yuan Miaomiao had once told Qing Longlong that she would only ever reveal herself to a man she acknowledged. At this moment, Qing Longlong saw that her friend had revealed herself to a man, and yet this man did not seem to care at all.

Lu Yin looked at Yuan Miaomiao and calmly asked, "Was there anything else?"

Yuan Miaomiao bowed once more, and pursed her lips before sadly saying, "Miaomiao was born in Venom King City, and I can't bear the Divine Venom Dynasty suffering a disaster. Alliance Leader Lu, so long as you agree to leave Venom Flowzone, Miaomiao will put herself at your disposal."

"Miaomiao, what in the world are you talking about?" Qing Longlong was startled, and rushed over to support Yuan Miaomiao. When the princess saw the wariness in Lu Yin's eyes, she felt that he must have threatened Yuan Miaomiao.

Lu Yin shook his head. "If Yuan Taishi knew what you just said, he would be very disappointed in you."

Yuan Miaomiao looked sad. "Grandpa was also born here in Venom King City, and he's lived here all his life. Given his old age, I hope for him to be able to enjoy his years in peace without having to worry about the Divine Venom Dynasty. Since Grandpa thinks you should leave, Miaomiao also hopes you will leave and never come back to Venom Flowzone ever again. Miaomiao is willing to serve you no matter what you may ask of her."

Qing Longlong grabbed hold of Yuan Miaomiao and scolded her, "Miaomiao, do you know what you're even saying? If I had known what you wanted earlier, I would never have brought Brother Lu here!"

Lu Yin suddenly stretched out a hand and ran his fingertips along Yuan Miaomiao's face, stroking the silky skin.

Qing Longlong was furious at his actions, and she turned to glare at Lu Yin. "Stop!"

Yuan Miaomiao stubbornly kept her eyes on Lu Yin and did not take a single step back. She allowed Lu Yin's hand to touch her face until his palm cupped her face.

"This is a jincan? What kind of jincan is this?" Lu Yin asked. He was not actually wanting to take advantage of the girl, but was simply curious about the flower on her face. It was quite odd for anything to be able to sway his heart.

Qing Longlong frowned. "It's a flower of affection. It will only ever bloom for those you love."

Lu Yin pulled his hand back. "Go back and tell Yuan Taishi that I, Lu Yin, don't like to kill without cause, but everyone has a bottom line. He'd better help Qing Shaohuang stay away from my bottom line, or else he can't blame me for getting rude."

He then walked out of the restaurant.

Back in the room, Yuan Miaomiao swayed and nearly collapsed to the floor. Fortunately, Qing Longlong supported her friend. "Miaomiao, you're too impulsive! How could you?"

Yuan Miaomiao answered in a bitter tone, "The Divine Venom Dynasty should not have to suffer any disasters."

"Why are you so certain Lu Yin will bring disaster to the Divine Venom Dynasty? For so many years, no one's been able to do anything at all to our Divine Venom Dynasty." Qing Longlong felt quite confused.

Yuan Miaomiao shook her head. "Longlong, he's waiting for you outside. Go on."

Qing Longlong continued to stare at her friend with worry.

Yuan Miaomiao smiled. "It's okay."

Qinglong sighed and finally walked away.

Yuan Miaomiao looked outside the restaurant, her eyes still full of complex emotions, though they were dominated by bitterness and an indescribable melancholy, fear, and more.

Elsewhere, an old man was standing in Qing Shaohuang's office. There was a bitter expression on the old man's face, and his eyes were quite anxious. In front of him, Attendant Yi was whispering something to Qing Shaohuang. The man's voice was not loud, but the old man was still able to hear everything. Lu Yin had slapped Attendant Yi, and the emperor's entire demeanor had changed the moment he had heard of this.

The old man was Yuan Taishi, the Divine Venom Dynasty's most senior minister. Even Emperor Qing Shaohuang had to show respect to his person. Without Yuan Taishi, the Divine Venom Dynasty would never have reached its current prosperity.

"Your Majesty, Qing Li is asking to speak with you." Some time later, someone entered to make a report.

Qing Shaohuang solemnly replied, "Show him in."

Qing Li soon entered and bowed low to Qing Shaohuang, who waved a hand. "Tell me, what do you think of Lu Yin?"

Qing Li was not surprised that Qing Shaohuang would ask such a question, so he immediately replied, "Brother Huang, Lu Yin is not an easy person to unravel."

"What do you mean?" Qing Shaohuang frowned.

Qing Li considered his response before speaking. "He- he seems to be a bit too cruel."

Qing Li had already considered this conversation on his way over, but had not been able to find a suitable word to describe Lu Yin. He could openly comment on what he had seen, but as Qing Li had already told Lu Yin about Transience, he did not dare make any moves against Lu Yin, as Qing Li feared the youth's retaliation.

Transience was Qing Shaohuang's greatest secret, and even Yuan Taishi and Qing Longlong did not know of it.

"You came to such a conclusion when welcoming him?" Qing Shaohuang was in a terrible mood at the moment. The hand print on Attendant Yi's face had still not disappeared. Given the man's cultivation, he naturally could remove it, but had deliberately kept it. He absolutely hated Lu Yin.

Qing Li shrugged. "Brother Huang, I haven't had much contact with Lu Yin, and I didn't entertain him for very long at his arrival, as Longlong met up with him. This-

"Longlong? Longlong went to meet with Lu Yin?" Qing Shaohuang asked in an odd tone.

Qing Li was caught off guard. "You didn't know, brother? Didn't you send her?"

Qing Shaohuang's expression grew even worse.

Attendant Yi quietly said, "Your Majesty, Her Highness is kind and does not tend to think badly of others. His Highness might not be able to accurately gauge Lu Yin's character."

"He slapped you and she still can't see it?" Qing Shaohuang shouted.

Attendant Yi dropped to his knees. "This old slave mispoke and overstepped. Please don't get angry, Your Majesty."

Qing Li watched Attendant Yi's performance with cold eyes, but did nothing to interrupt. No matter if it was Lu Yin or Attendant Yi, Qing Li did not want to end up on either man's bad side.

"Alright, stand up," Qing Shaohuang ordered.

Attendant Yi thanked the emperor with a quick bow.

Qing Shaohuang stared at Attendant Yi. "What do you think about Lu Yin?"

Attendant Yi bowed again and said, "Lu Yin is arrogant and more. He is not someone who is easy to get along with. On top of that, he is extremely ambitious, and even the Sword Sect and the Daynight clan fear him. That is not a person who can understand true friendship. It would be best to either maintain a great deal of distance from him, or-" The man's eyes suddenly grew incredibly vicious. "Avoid future troubles."

"Arrogant!" Yuan Taishi could no longer listen in silence, and he glared at Attendant Yi. "What does a mere servant know? How dare you discuss affairs of state."

Qing Shaohuang glanced over at Yuan Taishi. "Old Taishi, no need to get angry. I asked for his opinion."

Yuan Taishi bowed and solemnly replied, "Your Majesty, my Divine Venom Dynasty has never interfered with matters of the outside world. No matter what sort of character Lu Yin might have, or how ambitious he may be, none of it has anything to do with us, so why get involved with him, either as an enemy or as friends? Regardless, neither option will bring any benefits to our Divine Venom Dynasty."

"Elder's words are wrong. If Lu Yin unites the Inniverse, would you still be willing to claim that such a thing has nothing to do with our Divine Venom Dynasty?" Attendant Yi asked in a cold voice.

Yuan Taishi grew furious. "A small man's opinion!"

Attendant Yi's expression sharpened, and a cold glint flickered deep in his eyes. "This old slave is a villain for His Majesty's sake. If the Great Eastern Alliance is truly no threat, why would the Sword Sect have sent someone to my Divine Venom Dynasty?"

"They are trying to take advantage of us."

"Is Elder Yuan afraid?"

...

"Enough. Old Taishi, stop here for now; I'm tired," Qing Shaohuang interrupted the argument and waved for Yuan Taishi to leave.

Yuan Taishi glared at Attendant Yi, but could only excuse himself.

Attendant Yi held too high a position in the empire, and he had Qing Shaohuang's complete trust. On top of that, the chief attendant was very powerful in his own right. If not for all of these details, Yuan Taishi would have attacked this servant who overstepped himself.

"You should also leave for now," Qing Shaohuang said to Attendant Yi.

Attendant Yi bowed left, leaving only Qing Shaohuang and Qing Li in the office.

Qing Shaohuang turned to Qing Li, "Do you think Transience would be enough to deal with Lu Yin?"

Qing Li's fingers twitched as he shook his head. "No. Back then, Nightking Zhenwu used Transience and poisoned Lu Yin, yet the youth removed the poison and survived. Brother Huang should already know this."

"I know, but Transience has changed since then; it is now more toxic and deadly," Qing Shaohuang stated coldly.

Qing Li dropped his head, not knowing what to say. He hesitated over whether or not to tell Qing Shaohuang that Lu Yin already knew about Transience. This was not something that Qing Li wanted to admit to, but if the emperor tried to use Transience to deal with Lu Yin and then failed, Qing Li would suffer right alongside Qing Shaohuang. Even if Qing Shaohuang ended up fine, Lu Yin would still reveal his knowledge of Transience, and Qing Shaohuang would not let that matter just go.

Qing Li was stuck in quite a dilemma.

However, it was also possible that Transience would be able to take care of Lu Yin. After all, there was no way to detect the poison, which left a tiny glimmer of hope.

Chapter 1762: The Highest Consumption

Qing Shaohuang had told Qing Li about the existence of Transience, but the emperor never mentioned that the Second Nightking had appeared. Qing Shaohuang would never mention that detail to anyone at all.

The emperor had no intention of moving in the open to deal with Lu Yin, as there were far too many powerful people supporting Lu Yin.

This was also just considering Lu Yin's situation, as it was also important to note that the Second Nightking was wanted by Interstellar Arbitration. As soon as news leaked that the ancient expert was in Venom King City, Qing Shaohuang would not only need to face those supporting Lu Yin, but also the full might of the Hall of Honor. That was the strength that dominated the Human Domain.

Qing Shaohuang had also been feeling hesitant, but Lu Yin slapping Attendant Yi in the face had firmed the emperor's resolve. Lu Yin had not been striking Attendant Yi, but Qing Shaohuang. This had happened in Venom King City, which demonstrated just how arrogant Lu Yin was and how he looked down on the Divine Venom Dynasty. Perhaps the truth was like the Sword Sect had said, and once Lu Yin united the Inniverse, the Divine Venom Dynasty would not be overlooked.

The emperor felt hate towards Yuan Taishi and the others were too stubborn and conservative.

The Divine Venom Dynasty had sent invitations to many people throughout the Human Domain, and more and more people continued to enter Venom King City. It would still be some time before the banquet celebrating Qing Shaohuang's breakthrough would be held.

Lu Yin stayed in Qing Shaohuang's remote palace for two days before going out again. This time, he went to visit Elder Lianxin.

Lu Yin had no idea what sort of bizarre surveillance methods the Divine Venom Dynasty might possess, so he did not try to hide his movements, but was open about his visit.

Lu Yin's location was something that was constantly being monitored by Qing Shaohuang. The Divine Venom Dynasty monitored the city through the ground. Every inch of land on Divine Venom Continent was poisonous, and each drop of poison was able to record the daily whereabouts of any particular creature.

The moment Lu Yin stepped out of the palace, Qing Shaohuang was aware of it.

Elder Lianxin was staying in a mansion close to the imperial palace, but she refused to see Lu Yin when he arrived at the mansion.

Lu Yin frowned. The Sword Sect had already surrendered secretly to him, and yet this was how Elder Lianxin was still treating him. This was either because she was worried about the Divine Venom Dynasty, or it was because the elder had no desire to personally join the Great Eastern Alliance. Regardless, Lu Yin had to get in. Even if he was not able to see Elder Lianxin, he could still see Li Zimo and determine Elder Lianxin's true feelings.

There was a bang as the gate of the mansion was destroyed and all the Divine Venom Dynasty cultivators who guarded the mansion dropped to the ground. Lu Yin casually entered the mansion's grounds.

The sound disturbed the nearby imperial palace, as well as Qing Shaohuang. The emperor was absolutely furious; Lu Yin was too arrogant! This was Venom King City, not the Great Eastern Alliance territory, and yet Lu Yin was still so brazen!

The boom also alerted other people in Venom King City, and all of them started to pay attention to Lu Yin's actions. This was just too over the top!

Lu Yin entered the mansion and saw Li Zimo, who was staring at Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, is there something you need here?"

Lu Yin moved right past the young man. "I heard that Elder Lianxin was here, so I came to see her."

Li Zimo lifted his sword in a futile attempt to stop Lu Yin. Lu Yin did not even move, yet the sword shattered. The next moment, the void warped, and Qing Shaohuang emerged to block Lu Yin's path.

This was Lu Yin's first time seeing the emperor in person, but he had seen many videos before.

"Alliance Leader Lu, if you have something to say, I can relay a message on your behalf. You and Elder Lianxin are both my Divine Venom Dynasty's honored guests, so please stop your actions," Qing Shaohuang spoke lightly and showed a calm expression. He did not betray even the slightest bit of hostility towards Lu Yin, despite the rage the emperor was feeling.

Lu Yin was surprised. "I didn't expect His Majesty to leave the palace."

Lu Yin's position made it reasonable for Qing Li and Qing Longlong to greet him upon his arrival, but given the fact that he was staying in Venom King City, it was natural for Qing Shaohuang to also show some courtesy and personally meet with Lu Yin. However, so far, Qing Shaohuang had used the excuse of secluded training as an excuse to not meet with Lu Yin, though the emperor had not met with anyone else, either.

"I just exited my seclusion. I've ignored Alliance Leader Lu," Qing Shaohuang answered with a smile.

Lu Yin gave a small smile. "Since His Majesty has made the request, then I'll just forget about this."

"Thank you. A banquet will be held in a few days, and Alliance Leader Lu can rest until then. Although Venom King City is not a particularly prosperous place, it still has its own charms unique from the outside world, and I insist on covering any expenses that you may incur while visiting my city." Qing Shaohuang smiled.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. He was somewhat familiar with this concept, as it was the same gesture that the Sea King had made towards all of the participants in the competition to become the Sea King's son-in-law; the Sea King had covered all of the participants' expenses at the Sea King's Dome for the duration of the competition.

"Are you sure?" Lu Yin's mouth curved up.

Qing Shaohuang was startled at Lu Yin's reaction, and had a bad premonition. Still, after a moment's thought, the emperor remembered that Lu Yin was the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, so how could he be shameless enough to rack up much of a bill? The emperor put no more thought to the matter. "Alliance Leader Lu should enjoy his stay."

Lu Yin smiled. "Your Majesty, you should feel free to return to your seclusion. Oh, and also, congratulations on your breakthrough."

Lu Yin then turned around and left.

As soon as he saw Lu Yin leave, Li Zimo stepped forward to bow to Qing Shaohuang.

At the same time, Elder Lianxin appeared. "Thank you, Your Majesty, for stopping him."

Qing Shaohuang nodded, "Both Elder Lianxin and the alliance leader are our honored guests. It would be best if the two of you can avoid any conflicts. I will have to trouble Elder Lianxin to remain in the mansion for the next few days."

Elder Lianxin was feeling torn at the moment, Qing Shaohuang believed that Lu Yin was looking to make trouble for Elder Lianxin because the Sword Sect had sent her to ask the Divine Venom Dynasty for help in dealing with Lu Yin. The emperor had no idea that the Sword Sect had already secretly submitted to Lu Yin. At times, the more stubborn a person was, the more then would ignore inheritances, life and death, and even if they were right or wrong in their pursuits.

Lu Yin was the reason that Li Zimo had left Shenwu Continent. Lu Yin had helped Li Zimo and had sent him to the Sword Sect. Because of this, Li Zimo would not betray Lu Yin. This was something that not even Elder Lianxin knew about.

This was part of why she had no desire to see Lu Yin. Even if Liu Qianjue had submitted to the Great Eastern Alliance, Elder Lianxin had no desire to do the same, and she would much rather live the rest of her life in seclusion.

However, despite Elder Lianxin's unwillingness to submit to Lu Yin, she would also not work against Lu Yin, nor would she tell Qing Shaohuang of the Sword Sect's decision.

After Qing Shaohuang left, Elder Lianxin let out a sigh.

"Master, will this be your decision?" Li Zimo asked quietly.

Elder Lianxin looked over at Li Zimo. "Remember, only by maintaining your natural state of mind can you reach peace. Your master is not willing to join the Great Eastern Alliance, nor I will not help Lu Yin. This is your master's path."

"Your disciple understands," Li Zimo replied.

Elder Lianxin nodded.

Li Zimo stared at Elder Lianxin's back and inwardly sighed. "Master, you have your own path, but your disciple has his own path as well."

That night, Elder Lianxin suddenly collapsed after being assaulted by a wave of drowsiness. Qing Shaohuang arrived to check on her, and was surprised to discover that Elder Lianxin had been poisoned.

"While it's only a toxin with an average effect, it is incredibly potent. It perfectly utilizes the characteristics of the poisons, or even beyond perfection. Every single bit of the poison's power has been magnified ten times, or even a hundred times over." Qing Shaohuang frowned as he looked at Li Zimo. "Who has Elder Lianxin met with recently?"

Li Zimo replied in a very respectful tone, "Master has always remained within the mansion and has never had any contact with anyone other than her disciples."

Qing Shaohuang was surprised. While the type of poison that had been used was very common, this particular version was incredibly potent. After all, it had caused even an Envoy like Elder Lianxin to fall asleep. Who had poisoned her? Lu Yin? If so, then when?

The emperor looked back at Li Zimo and shook his head. It was impossible for Li Zimo to be behind the poison. He was Elder Lianxin's disciple, and he had been with her within the Sword Sect for many years. When Qing Shaohuang had spoken with Elder Lianxin, she had mentioned her disciple. It had been clear that Elder Lianxin had absolute trust in her disciple. This young man seemed the least suspicious out of everyone.

The poison was quite common, but its potency was truly terrifying. Where had it come from?

"Your Majesty, how is my master?" Li Zimo asked, his eyes worried.

Qing Shaohuang replied, "Don't worry. The elder is merely lethargic. It's nothing serious, and she will be able to wake up shortly."

Li Zimo let out a sigh of relief, but then clenched his fists. "Who the hell poisoned my master?"

Qing Shaohuang did not understand either, and this matter had to be looked into. This attack had happened within Venom King City, which would make this matter more difficult to cover up. This was also not a simple attack, and how many poison masters in Venom King City were capable of creating such a toxin? The emperor suddenly remembered Yuan Taishi. That old man had always disapproved of targeting the Great Eastern Alliance, so it would not be any surprise for him to have poisoned the Sword Sect's representative.

It was not impossible for it to have been Yuan Taishi, but Qing Shaohuang suppressed his suspicions and reassured Li Zimo once again before leaving.

Li Zimo bowed deeply to the unconscious Elder Lianxin. "I'm sorry, Master."

He had been the one to poison the woman. Lu Yin had broken into the mansion and had handed the poison over when he had passed by Li Zimo, while also asking if Elder Lianxin was unwilling to join the Great Eastern Alliance. That was the reason for the poison. Also, Lu Yin had shared the properties of the poison with Li Zimo, which was the only reason he had been willing to poison his master.

Lu Yin was aware of the relationship between Li Zimo and Elder Lianxin, and he had no desire to truly poison Elder Lianxin, just to have her remain asleep for a while. This was a poison that Lu Yin had taken from Elder Wu. It was a very common sort of poison, and it was not a violent sort. Lu Yin had originally had three bottles, and he still had two left.

Elder Lianxin was unhappy with the Great Eastern Alliance, so even after the Sword Sect had submitted, she had remained unwilling to join the alliance. She presented an unstable factor, which meant that Lu Yin could only have her sleep for the time being.

At first, Lu Yin had planned to continue on to the Wen family's quarters after leaving Elder Lianxin's mansion. Lu Yin hoped to threaten Wen Zizai again and drive home the importance of the improved Literary Prison, but Qing Shaohuang had given Lu Yin an opportunity that could not be ignored, so Lu Yin had excitedly decided to go shopping.

His first stop was the small shop he had visited on his first day in the city.

He had not paid particular attention the first time, but on his return, Lu Yin deliberately checked the name of the shop: "Poisons Come and Go." A good name.

Lu Yin entered the shop, and saw the shop owner was busy with a group of customers. The owner and his customers saw Lu Yin, and simultaneously, all five of the people in the store nearly dropped. "Sir!"

"Master Lu!"

Lu Yin gave an odd stare at the customers. "You know me?"

The man at the front of the small group answered respectfully, "Who in the universe doesn't know of Alliance Leader Lu? Seeing the alliance leader in person is enough to let this lowly one be willing to die!"

Lu Yin smiled. "There's something I want to discuss with this shopkeeper."

"Please take your time. This lowly one will withdraw." The man quickly left the store with the others in his group.

Still on the floor, the shop owner kept his head bowed in terror as he bowed to Lu Yin. "Sir, this lowly one was wrong before! I did not mean to offend you or your friends, so please forgive this lowly one this once! I swear it will never happen again...."

Lu Yin scratched at his ears. "Alright, enough with the crap."

The man became even more frightened, and he actually collapsed.

Lu Yin's eyes grew sharp as he looked at the man. "Let me ask you: where's the most expensive store in Venom King City?"

The shop owner felt confused. "The most expensive store?"

Lu Yin squatted down to get closer and smiled at the man. "Your shop's got a decent size in a good location, and it does a great deal of business. With all of this, you have to have a good understanding about the more expensive places in Venom King City."

Chapter 1763: Yi's Emporium

The shop owner stared at Lu Yin in a daze before finally registering what the young man had asked. At that moment, a slight smile subconsciously spread across the man's face. "I understand. So, is Young Master looking for the most exclusive store?"

Lu Yin nodded and stared intently at the shop owner. "It must be the most exclusive."

"That is not a problem at all. This one will escort Young Master there personally. This store is absolutely the very best." The shop owner behaved very motivated, as if he had received a sudden enlightenment.

Lu Yin was somewhat taken aback by the change in behavior, but he quickly praised the shopkeeper's decision. When he had been at the Sea King's Dome, he had not thought about getting a local to guide him, but only the locals would be familiar enough with a city to know which shop was the most expensive. Going to an auction house would be too low-level for Lu Yin's current status. Although many items that were auctioned off were very expensive, most of the best items sold in such a manner were not exclusive to the auction houses, which was unfortunate.

"Young Master, allow me to show you the way." The shop owner smiled warmly, though his smile was rather ugly.

They left the store and hailed a cart that was pulled by a strange animal. The shop owner drove, and after a long ride, the two men arrived at another street.

Lu Yin blinked as he looked around at the playful and laughing women on each side of the street, as well as the flamboyant lighting. "Where are we?"

The shop owner moved closer. "This is the most enjoyable place in all of Venom King City! Young Master, here, you can experience the greatest pleasures in the world, even things that you can't imagine! There is nothing that you cannot find here. Young Master, what's your preference? They have all types."

Lu Yin slapped the shop owner upside the head. "I thought you said that you were taking me to the most expensive place!"

The shop owner grew terrified. "This street is home to Venom King City's largest brothel, and the prices there are unmatched! I heard that even Casanova himself has visited this place before. Is this not up to your liking, Young Master?"

Lu Yin was left completely speechless. "I want to buy something!"

After a brief moment, he corrected himself. "Let me make it as clear as possible: I want to buy poison, or some sort of exotic treasure, weapons, or similar things. I want the best and the most expensive."

The shop owner's face twitched, and he gulped hard.

"Understand now?" Lu Yin asked in a vicious tone. His every move was being watched and spied upon; just how would he explain himself of his actions on this street when word of it leaked out?

Actually, why bother explaining at all?

The shop owner quickly nodded. "Understood! This lowly one understands! I will take you to Yi's Emporium."

"Yi's Emporium?"

"Almost any poison that can be found within the Divine Venom Dynasty is sold in Yi's Emporium. It's the biggest poison market in the empire, and they also sell weapons and all other sorts of treasures. Young Master will definitely be satisfied."

"Let's just go to Yi's Emporium..."

Within the imperial palace, Qing Shaohuang expressed a bit of surprise as he read a report. He was standing in front of Qing Longlong.

"He went to Beauty Street," Qing Shaohuang commented as he tossed the report away.

Qing Longlong was confused. "Beauty Street?"

Suddenly she remembered something, and her face flushed brightly. She snorted, "Shameless!"

Qing Shaohuang had no intention of continuing this conversation with his daughter. Instead, he asked, "Did you take him to see Yuan Miaomiao?"

Qing Longlong knew that she could not hide this from her father, so she grunted in affirmation. "Miaomiao wanted to see him."

Qing Shaohuang frowned. "Don't take Lu Yin to see anyone else from that family again. Just leave it alone."

Qing Longlong looked at Qing Shaohuang and hesitated, but she eventually decided to remain silent.

News that Lu Yin had visited Beauty Street quickly spread throughout Venom King City. At this moment, Qing Shaohuang was no longer the most talked about person in the city, as Lu Yin had taken this position.

"Beauty Street? Where's that?" Wen Sansi asked curiously.

The local guide provided for the Wen family by Venom King City replied, "A street of brothels."

Wen Sansi nodded and no longer cared at all, but Wen Qian'er spat, called Lu Yin shameless, and left.

Mr. You soon learned of Lu Yin's trip as well. As long as Lu Yin did nothing to hide his movements, everyone would know wherever he went. If Lu Yin hid things, then only Qing Shaohuang would know of his movements.

"Beauty Street? Hmph!" Mr. You's eyes were dark. He had made the trip to Venom Flowzone not only because of the invitation that he had received, but also because the overseer hoped to find a way to convince Qing Shaohuang to cooperate with the Sword Sect and the other Innerverse powers to deal with Lu Yin. This was the overseer's true mission.

Balsam also received word that Lu Yin had gone to Beauty Street, though she was somewhat puzzled, as Lu Yin had been too open about his actions. Everyone was aware that Lu Yin's only connection to any brothel was the Neoverse's Azure Mansion. Other than that, Lu Yin had never once been known to visit such places. What had changed with his visit to Venom King City?

Had he done this deliberately?

In Yuan Taishi's estate, the master of the house looked quite calm. "He went to Beauty Street? Odd that he was able to remain calm with Miaomiao..."

At this time, on a certain section of Beauty Street, Qing Li quickly made an emergency U-turn.

"My lord, are you not going to visit Miss Tang?"

Qing Li felt quite frustrated. "It's bad luck to go right now."

"Miss Tang has been waiting a long time for you."

The corner of Qing Li's mouth twitched. His determination to go rose once more, but after realizing that he might run into Lu Yin, Qing Li lost interest. "Cut the crap, I won't be going anymore." He paused, before adding, "Make a trip down and make sure that Lu Yin doesn't see Miss Tang."

"This lowly one will be on his way."

Qing Li felt cornered. Why was that bastard haunting him? The king had wanted to visit Beauty Street to vent a bit, but such a situation had occurred. Things were just getting worse and worse.

Lu Yin just turned around on Beauty Street and started making his way elsewhere.

Yi's Emporium took up half of the street it lay on, and Lu Yin was able to see the building from far away.

Yi's Emporium, Yi's Emporium, Lu Yin's heart moved. "What sort of connection is there between this Yi's Emporium and Attendant Yi?"

The shop owner answered in a respectful tone, "The hidden owner of Yi's Emporium is Attendant Yi."

Lu Yin was surprised at this. "He's allowed to have his own businesses with his position? Does Qing Shaohuang not care?"

"Qing-" The shop owner was about to reply, but then he suddenly stopped. He was not qualified to speak Qing Shaohuang's name casually. "His Majesty's knowledge is not something that this lowly one would dare to comment on, but Yi's Emporium has been open for many, many years, and it enjoys an excellent reputation."

Lu Yin did not particularly care about the place's reputation. All he cared about was whether their goods were of a high enough quality. Even if their reputation was poor, what would they do? Try to rob him?

Yi's Emporium took up half the street front, but it looked rather simple from the outside.

Half a street in Venom King City was a distance that an ordinary person could not cover even after spending an entire day of walking. This meant that even cultivators could enjoy the pleasure of wandering about a store, and it also meant that the store had an endless variety of goods.

Yi's Emporium had nine levels, and while that might not sound like very many, each level was extremely tall, and even the imperial palace could be seen from the top of the building.

Lu Yin's eyes darted about for a moment as he approached Yi's Emporium, as there were Enlighters protecting the building, and more than one at that. This was an impressive lineup.

"The Divine Venom Continent is the heart of the Divine Venom Dynasty, and each of the hundreds of cities on this continent has its own Yi's Emporium. In each location, Yi's Emporium is only shorter than the city master's palace. This place is Yi's Emporium's headquarters, and it is only shorter than the imperial palace itself," the shop owner mentioned as he led Lu Yin to the store.

This Yi's Emporium had quite an imposing entrance, as it was manned by twenty Explorers. Such a show of strength was enough to scare most people away.

Even before Lu Yin entered the building, someone approached came to welcome him.

"This lowly one is Yi's Emporium's manager, Cai. I came to welcome Alliance Leader Lu." The old man respectfully bowed to Lu Yin. There was an entire group of people behind the old man, and both the men and women bowed to show their respect to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was surprised. "You know me?"

Cai Lai answered in a very respectful manner, "Who doesn't know of Alliance Leader Lu? I'm truly honored to have Alliance Leader Lu visit my Yi's Emporium."

Lu Yin smiled and walked in.

The shop owner smiled at Cai Lai in an attempt to suck up to the man, but Cai Lai just shot the owner of the small shop a cold look before following after Lu Yin. The shop owner considered his options and then followed behind.

As soon as Lu Yin entered Yi's Emporium, everyone else was once again informed of his location. Wen Sansi and many others simply wondered why Lu Yin had left Beauty Street so quickly.

Attendant Yi's expression completely changed the moment he learned that Lu Yin had gone to Yi's Emporium, and his mood hit rock bottom. This was because Attendant Yi was aware that Qing Shaohuang had already offered to cover all of Lu Yin's expenses during his visit. This meant that everything that Lu Yin spent in Yi's Emporium needed to be billed to Qing Shaohuang, but how could Attendant Yi ask Qing Shaohuang for money? Just the thought of that situation made Attendant Yi feel as though the sky was falling down on him.

Qing Shaohuang's expression also became a bit odd after he learned that Lu Yin had gone to Yi's Emporium. Of course, the emperor was aware that Yi's Emporium had been established by Attendant Yi. After all, everyone had some sort of hobby, and there was nothing particularly wrong with Attendant Yi's love for money. Qing Shaohuang knew that Yi's Emporium should bill him for Lu Yin's spending, and while the emperor did not particularly care about money, would Attendant Yi dare to accept such a thing from the emperor?

Everyone was watching Lu Yin. Attendant Yi's greatest wish at this moment was for Lu Yin to not buy anything too expensive in Yi's Emporium, and it was closely followed by the wish that the store's staff would not tell Lu Yin about any of the more valuable items. Attendant Yi desperately wanted to say something, but it was already too late.

Lu Yin entered Yi's Emporium and looked around. It was quite massive and spacious on the inside.

"Alliance Leader Lu, this is just the first floor, and all the items here are worthless. There's nothing here that is worthy of your attention. Everything you could be interested in is up on the eighth and ninth floors," Cai Lai said.

"Let's go and see," Lu Yin casually replied. He had already unleashed his domain, and there really was nothing on the first floor that he cared about. Most of what he saw was a variety of poisons, as well as a few weapons and armors. Everything that Lu Yin saw was useless for him, as these items were only useful for Explorers.

Still, even the first floor of the building was dedicated to Explorers, which showed just how impressive Yi's Emporium was.

The second floor, third, fourth, and even the seventh floor were all passed through one after another, and Lu Yin's domain swept across each level as they passed. There were a few things on the seventh floor that could be of use to Lu Yin, but he wanted only the best and most expensive items that the store had to offer.

The little shop owner continued to follow behind Lu Yin. He had visited Yi's Emporium in the past, but he had only ever made it as far as the fourth floor. He had never been allowed to step foot on the fifth floor, let alone the seventh. Even in his dreams, he had not been to the eighth floor.

However, Lu Yin had given the man such an opportunity.

Each successive level of Yi's Emporium was smaller than the previous, and since the eighth floor was close to the top of the building, it was much smaller. In fact, an ordinary person could easily walk around this floor of the building.

Lu Yin spent some time on the eighth floor. The poisons that he noticed were quite strong, and each one of them were even more powerful than what Elder Wu's. However, while the poisons were strong, they were also extremely far from being subtle.

There were not many items on the eighth floor, but Lu Yin noticed one bottle. It was small, only the size of his palm, and it was labeled "Vajra Poison."

"Alliance Leader Lu really has impressive eyesight. While this poison is not dangerous to others, if one uses it on themselves, it will make their skin indestructible. Even an Enlightener would struggle to overcome the protection that this poison provides. It is definitely one of the most precious items on the eighth floor," Cai Lai explained as he looked at Lu Yin gleaming, hope-filled eyes.

Lu Yin nodded, but was not impressed. He moved on to look at other things.

"This is Poison Firestar that has been concentrated and condensed into a small tube. Once released, it can shoot out 10,000 Poison Fire Beads. Even an Enlighter with a power level of 400,000 would struggle to survive against this attack. The beads will cover a person's body and slow their movements, which can be very useful when fighting against Enlighters."

"This is..."

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Chapter 1764: This Much Money?

Lu Yin looked around, but he felt a little disappointed. "Let's see the ninth floor."

Cai Lai was caught off guard. "Alliance Leader Lu, do you not see anything that you like on this eighth floor?"

"There's nothing good enough." Lu Yin did not mince words.

Cai Lai's expression changed. "Very well. Alliance Leader Lu, please follow me."

The man started walking even as he spoke.

Actually, Lu Yin had noticed many things on the eighth floor that would be useful as long as he Enhanced them, but his standards had changed. Even if he wanted to Enhance something, he needed the best available items to start with. On top of that, he was relatively short on funds to Enhance anything at all.

The shop owner suddenly lost his breath; the ninth floor! Yi's Emporium's ninth floor was legendary, and only a select few people in the entire Divine Venom Dynasty qualified to set foot on it. It was possible that the number was not even ten, as even Princess Qing Longlong had been stopped from stepping foot on the ninth floor due to a lack of funds. The value of the items on the ninth floor was absolutely unimaginable.

There were no stairs leading from the eighth floor to the ninth, and instead there was a teleportation device.

"Where are you going?" Cai Lai stared at the shop owner and asked in a cold voice. Such a person was not qualified to step onto the ninth floor.

The shop owner had no choice, and he stepped back.

Lu Yin glanced back at the man. "He's with me."

Cai Lai had not expected Lu Yin to allow the shop owner to follow him, and Cai Lai felt rather embarrassed, "Alliance Leader Lu, I'm simply following the pavilion's rules; such a person does not qualify to visit the ninth floor."

Lu Yin shook his head. "You can bring up your rules after you show me something in your Yi's Emporium that actually interests me."

He then entered the teleportation device.

Cai Lai stared at the shop owner with cold eyes, and snorted, "Let's go!"

The shop owner grew pale. "I don't dare! This lowly one doesn't dare!"

Cai Lai's voice chilled even further, "Do you expect me to offend Alliance Leader Lu? Get going!"

Cai Lai then also entered the teleportation device.

The shop owner took a deep breath and stared at the teleportation device. He had not expected that a small-time business man like himself would one day enter a place that even the empire's princess did not qualify to enter! This was an experience that would be enough glory to last him a lifetime.

At that thought, excitement started to build, and the man stepped into the teleportation device.

The ninth floor was not as magnificent as expected. It was almost as though the most precious things in the universe were also the most primitive.

Lu Yin looked around and saw a warped void devoid of everything stretching out in all directions. Beneath his feet were only ancient stones. If not for the shop owner and Cai Lai soon appearing, Lu Yin would have assumed that he had been transported to a barren planet.

"Alliance Leader Lu, this my Yi's Emporium's ninth floor. What you see before you is the most primitive appearance of the Divine Venom Continent," Cai Lai explained.

As soon as the shop owner arrived, he glanced around in surprise. The sky was covered with huge shadows, and a monster passed by. Its body was covered with thick tumors, and a glance was enough to know the creature was incredibly toxic.

The shop owner turned white with fear.

Cai Lai felt satisfied seeing the shop owner's response. "Each emporium's ninth floor is designed in this manner; they all are imitations of the original

appearance of Divine Venom Continent. What you are seeing are nothing more than phantoms."

Lu Yin felt curious, "Why use such a design for the ninth floors?"

Cai Lai's expression turned sincere. "Because His Majesty Emperor Qing honors his ancestors, and he often considered their difficulties when first living on the Divine Venom Continent. Because of this, Attendant Yi decided to design the ninth floors to imitate the primordial continent in honor the emperor's thoughts."

Lu Yin sucked in a sharp breath. He understood why Qing Shaohuang was so fond of Attendant Yi. This was the ultimate form of flattery! While Ku Wei and Elder Tan would go all out when they were at Lu Yin's side, when compared to Attendant Yi, the other two were inept. Only someone who had taken flattery to a spiritual level could be capable of something like what Lu Yin was seeing.

Also, it was no wonder that Qing Longlong had been prevented from visiting the ninth floor, as this place was a monument, and Attendant Yi did not want to share his open flattery for the emperor with anyone who could steal it. It was hard not to admire the man's dedication.

Even his employees were able to use Attendant Yi's planning for flattery at the drop of a hat.

Lu Yin felt quite envious of Qing Shaohuang. Life had to be quite relaxing with someone like Attendant Yi nearby.

However, Lu Yin also had no interest in observing the primordial state of Divine Venom Continent. "Isn't this ninth floor supposed to be where the most valuable treasures are sold? Bring them out for me to see."

Cai Lai responded by clapping his hands. Soon, the teleportation device twisted, and a beautiful woman appeared with a crystal tray that she held in a hand. There was a gray cloth covering the tray.

"Alliance Leader Lu, please look," Cai Lai encouraged.

Lu Yin's gaze sharpened a bit as he casually removed the cloth. However, he was greeted by the sight of a strange, long worm that lay on the crystal tray. It was even as dry as a branch.

"What's this?" Lu Yin had absolutely no idea.

Cai Lai smiled. "Sectarian."

"Sectarian?" At the side, the shop owner was startled, and he grew pale yet again.

Lu Yin looked at the man. "You know what this is?"

The shop owner stared at the worm in horror. "Sectarians are giant and powerful beasts that occasionally attack my Divine Venom Dynasty. At their peak, they can fight against the united power of the entire military of the Divine Venom Dynasty, and even Emperor Qing. His Majesty almost failed to destroy the Sectarians on several occasions. These things are incredibly poisonous, and they burrow into peoples' bodies as soon as they come into contact with them. Their venom devours flesh and blood, and even powerful Envoys have been destroyed by it."

Cai Lai shot an impressed glance at the shop owner. It actually had turned out to be somewhat advantageous to allow the man to be brought along. He had really talked up the first item.

Lu Yin was surprised, and he stared at the worm. He just could not see how this thing could be so powerful that even Envoys struggled to deal with it.

The universe was filled with many odd things. Normally, people cultivated with star energy, but while members of the Specter Clan cultivated with death energy. People from the Sixth Mainland also cultivated bloodlines and imprints, while in the Divine Venom Dynasty, people cultivated poison. For example, Qing Longlong had a certain jincan known as Unending Worms, and as long as those bugs could burrow into an enemy's body, they would never come out until they died.

That sounded quite similar to this worm, but Qing Longlong's endless horde of insects were only able to handle Enlighters, while this worm could even defeat Envoys.

"Weren't all of these worms destroyed? Due to how insidious they are, if even an average cultivator got a hold of one, they could still pose a grave threat, and that's why His Majesty the emperor doesn't allow these worms to exist," the shop owner protested in shock.

Cai Lai completely ignored the shop owner. Qing Shaohuang did not allow the worms to openly appear, but that was merely a restriction limited to ordinary cultivators. Others, such as members of the royal family, were not held to such restrictions. Still, because of how dangerous the worms were, very few people were willing to use them.

Cai Lai glanced at Lu Yin. While the jincan was powerful, it also posed a danger to the owner. Several people from the Divine Venom Dynasty had already seen this worm, but no one had bought it.

"No. Next," Lu Yin casually stated.

Cai Lai was stunned for a moment. "Is Alliance Leader Lu not at all interested?"

Lu Yin indifferently explained, "I'm not very interested in jincans, and no matter how I look at it, putting something alive into my body is weird."

Lai shrugged and waved a hand. "Next."

Lu Yin's comment essentially meant that they would not show him any more jincans. The next item to appear looked to be something Cai Lai had specifically picked out for Lu Yin: a sourcebox.

Lu Yin was a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, and he was the most appropriate sort of customer to sell a sourcebox to.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up when he saw the sourcebox, as this was a valuable item.

The sourcebox released a dazzling amount of light of all different colors. Anyone who saw the light would not be able to keep their eyes open, which was the sourcebox's danger zone.

"Ordinary people go blind from just a glance. Even cultivators can't endure it for more than a few seconds. There was once an Enlighter who was a Lockbreaker, but even he went blind after staring at this sourcebox for just ten seconds. No matter what, no one has been able to unlock this sourcebox," Cai Lai said. He quickly averted his eyes, as he also did not dare keep looking at the colorful sourcebox.

Lu Yin felt his eyes start to sting, so he quickly looked away as well. "I want it. Wrap it up."

Cai Lai laughed. This sourcebox was something Yi's Emporium had kept for a long time, but no one had wanted it. Many Lockbreakers had tried to open it, but all of them had given up. It was possible that it held an invaluable treasure, but they were unable to open it.

Cai Lai had heard that Lu Yin was quite wealthy, so the store manager quickly tried to calculate what to charge Lu Yin.

"Thank you for your patronage, Alliance Leader Lu. For today, all of your purchases in our Yi's Emporium will be 30% off." Cai Lai loudly stated. In fact, he had not decided to offer Lu Yin a discount, but since there were no prices

listed, no one would know that Cai Lai was doubling the prices. After all, Attendant Yi had been slapped by this young man, and Cai Lai wanted to do something to collect on that debt for his boss.

The colorful light disappeared as the sourcebox was wrapped up. Lu Yin turned to stare at Cai Lai with a solemn expression.

Cai Lai was chilled by Lu Yin's gaze, and cautiously asked, "Alliance Leader Lu, is there a question you might have?"

Lu Yin somberly stated, "This sourcebox is very valuable."

Cai Lai blinked; what the hell was that supposed to mean?

"I perfectly understand that offering such a discount on an invaluable item like this will cause your Yi's Emporium to suffer a loss. There's no need to offer me any sort of discount, as I'm willing to pay whatever price you give," Lu Yin stated.

Cai Lai's eyes went wide, and he was blown away by the sense of wealth that Lu Yin exuded at this moment. The young man's words had just made Cai Lai consider that Lu Yin might be someone from the Mavis family.

Even the shop owner was startled; so rich?

"Even if there's a discount, I don't want it. I, Lu Yin, have no intention of taking advantage of others!" Lu Yin shouted. "Do you understand?"

Cai Lai stiffened his back. "I understand, Alliance Leader Lu. Rest assured, this one will not let you down."

He immediately decided to charge Lu Yin five times more.

Lu Yin clapped a hand onto Cai Lai's shoulder and said, "Alright, that's the attitude of a qualified businessman! Let's see your next item. I hope your inventory won't disappoint me. Money's no issue, and so long as I'm satisfied, it doesn't matter how you pad your profit margins."

Cai Lai felt incredibly motivated. This young man was just too rich! Cai Lai had not originally intended to take out the best items in their inventory, as such things were Yi's Emporiums' treasures. However, one had to take advantage of running across a rich man, and Cai Lai recognized this opportunity.

Chief Yi, your subordinate has met a super rich man who has offended you, so your subordinate will get revenge for you!

With thoughts of completely fleecing Lu Yin, as well as the arrogance of not allowing his Yi's Emporium to be looked down upon, Cai Lai brought out the

third item. It was a drop of liquid that was suspended within a bottle. The drop was shaped like a teardrop and was completely colorless.

"Alliance Leader Lu, this is a poison that's called Samaritan Tears." Cai Lai looked solemn as he introduced this item.

At this same time, Attendant Yi was no longer able to hold himself back, and he reached out to the Yi's Emporium to ask what Lu Yin had bought.

After hearing that Lu Yin had not bought anything at all on the first eight floors, Attendant Yi's heart sank.

Knowing that Lu Yin was already on the ninth floor, Attendant Yi gritted his teeth and was about to tell Cai Lai to not take out anything truly valuable.

However, before he could do so, he was told that Cai Lai had brought out the colorful sourcebox.

Attendant Yi felt as though blood was dripping from his heart.

Chapter 1765: Takeaway

Attendant Yi knew that Lu Yin would definitely want the sourcebox. If Lu Yin would pay for it, everything would be fine and it would not matter. However, Lu Yin was paying on the emperor's credit!

This was no different from saying that anything that Lu Yin bought would be a total loss for Attendant Yi.

Attendant Yi sent word again to tell Cai Lai to not show Lu Yin anything truly valuable, hoping the message would be delivered quickly.

Instead, Attendant Yi learned that Cai Lai had brought out Samaritan Tears.

Attendant Yi's face turned pale.

Back on Yi's Emporium's ninth floor, Lu Yin was puzzled, "Samaritan Tears?"

Cai Lai glanced over at the shop owner, and the man spoke up right on cue. He had been in business for many years, so he was quite discerning of people's desires. "Samaritan Tears is one of my Divine Venom Dynasty's most toxic poisons. Legends state that even a single drop is enough to kill an Envoy."

Lu Yin arched a brow. "Are your Envoys that worthless? First, there was that worm, and now you're saying that even this Samaritan Tears is able to kill an Envoy."

The shop owner had no understanding of the power of an Envoy, so he had no way to answer Lu Yin's question this time.

Instead, Cai Lai replied, "Alliance Leader Lu, Envoys are incredibly powerful, and the only Envoy in my Divine Venom Dynasty is Emperor Qing himself. However, there are records of Envoys being poisoned by both the worm you saw earlier and the Samaritan Tears. This is the truth, and in fact, it was not even an ordinary Envoy who was poisoned by the Samaritan Tears." Wonder glowed in the man's eyes as he continued. "It was an Envoy with a power level that exceeded 700,000, according to the legends."

"Impossible." Lu Yin emphatically stated. "Aside from Qing Shaohuang himself, no one from your Divine Venom Dynasty has ever managed to achieve a power level of more than 700,000 throughout your entire history."

"That's simply what the records state. As for whether or not they're true, I can't say. Still, Samaritan Tears is absolutely the most toxic poison in my Divine Venom Dynasty. Except for my Yi's Emporium and the imperial palace, Samaritan Tears cannot be found anywhere else at all."

Lu Yin started to think. Could Qing Shaohuang be thinking of using Samaritan Tears to deal with Lu Yin?

"This poison is colorless and scentless?" Lu Yin asked.

Cai Lai regretfully denied this, "While the Samaritan Tears are incredibly potent, the poison can be detected. It's a colorless liquid, but it can easily be seen by the naked eye. Because of this, so long as proper precautions are taken, it is unusual for someone to be poisoned. This is the biggest flaw of Samaritan Tears."

Lu Yin nodded. While Transience was nowhere close to being as toxic as the Samaritan Tears, it was a much more deadly poison because it could not be seen or tasted, and it did not even possess any runes. On the other hand, Samaritan Tears was easily noticeable. There were pros and cons to each, which was only natural.

"I want this, too." Lu Yin looked up. No matter what flaws the poison might have, its toxicity was the real deal. Besides, Lu Yin had frequently used poisons in the middle of his battles without trying to be sneaky about it, and if Samaritan Tears could also be Enhanced, he could not imagine how powerful it might become.

Cai Lai laughed; he had sold another treasure! The Samaritan Tears was extremely expensive, and it was considered to be one of Yi's Emporium's top treasures. If Cai Lai had not come across such a big spendthrift like Lu Yin, the Samaritan Tears would never have appeared.

"Next!" Lu Yin shouted. It looked like he still was not hurting for funds.

At this moment, a Yi's Emporium maid entered, clearly wanting to say something to Cai Lai. Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "Is your Yi's Emporium so casual with the conduct of your employees? I just became interested in your goods, and I have no desire to be disturbed."

Cai Lai frowned and turned to glare at the maid. "Why are you not gone yet?"

The maid was desperate. "Manager Cai-"

Lu Yin gave a derisive snort and released a burst of spiritual force that he directed at the maid. It was far more than the woman could withstand, and she instantly fainted.

Cai Lai felt rather puzzled, as he had not been able to sense any sort of energy fluctuations at all.

"Hurry up and bring out the next one. I have something else I need to be doing," Lu Yin showed his impatience.

Cai Lai did not think much of what had happened, and simply assumed the maid must have had some issue of her own. "Alliance Leader Lu, the next treasure is a poison."

Lu Yin frowned.

Cai Lai quickly explained himself. "This poison is different from others, as it is not something that is stored within the body, but coats the skin. It works to replace death."

"Life-Prolonging Butterfly?" the shop owner exclaimed in disbelief.

Cai Lai shot another admiring gaze towards the shop owner. This support was just too perfect and too perfectly timed. Cai Lai was seeing this man in a more and more positive light as time went on.

"Life-Prolonging Butterfly?" Lu Yin was completely confused. He had come across so many strange items in the Divine Venom Dynasty.

This time, the next thing for sale was not a physical object. Cai Lai clapped his hands, and Lu Yin saw the sky change. They were suddenly surrounded by a sea of extremely beautiful flowers. At the center of the sea was a beautiful butterfly flapping its wings and slowly flying about. It had colors that seemed to come from a dream, and it left a strange and beautiful trail in its wake that only slowly disappeared.

Lu Yin blinked; where did it go?

"Life-Prolonging Butterfly, as the name suggests, can give a person an extra life, so long as it is engraved on the surface of their body. No matter how powerful the attack, it will only destroy the butterfly and will leave the person completely unharmed. One understanding of this ability is that the butterfly pushes the human's body into a parallel time and space," Cai Lai explained as he gazed with envy at the beautiful trail that was disappearing.

Anyone who knew of Life-Prolonging Butterflies would want one, but just who could qualify for such a thing? There were very few throughout the entire empire, such as Qing Shaohuang, Attendant Yi, Qing Li, and such.

Lu Yin's face instantly grew serious. This was a very big deal.

How had the outside world not learned that the Divine Venom Dynasty possessed such a treasure? This should be impossible. Wouldn't at least the Hall of Honor know of such a thing? A treasure that could grant one an extra life was far more important than anything like the giants' technology.

"Anyone can use a Life-Prolonging Butterfly?" Lu Yin asked.

Cai Lai nodded. "Anyone. However, Life-Prolonging Butterflies have a distinct flaw: once one has been used, a person will never be able to improve their cultivation for the rest of their life."

Lu Yin was taken aback. "You just mentioned that Qing Shaohuang has used a Life-Prolonging Butterfly, so how has he continued to improve his cultivation?"

Cai Lai explained, "His Majesty Qing Emperor did not use it to improve his cultivation, but his poison. People in my Divine Venom Dynasty use poison in combat, so as long as their poison is improved, it's almost no different from improving one's cultivation. Cultivation is not quite so important to us."

Lu Yin finally understood. Even if the Hall of Honor did have Life-Prolonging Butterflies, who would willingly use one? Arch-Elder Zen? Impossible. That old man clearly still had his eyes set on becoming a Progenitor. The First Protector? Also impossible. Everyone wanted to continue to improve their strength.

Only people born in the Divine Venom Dynasty would treat the Life-Prolonging Butterflies as invaluable treasures. This was also why there were no Life-Prolonging Butterflies outside of Venom Flowzone; this flaw instantly erased most of the treasure's value.

"Life-Prolonging Butterflies are exceptionally rare in my Divine Venom Dynasty, and they can even be counted on one hand. Even if not many

people in the empire are aware that such a thing exists, this is one of the treasures my Yi's Emporium possesses," Cai Lai proudly declared.

Lu Yin smiled. "I want it."

Cai Lai's eyes lit up brighter than ever. "Alliance Leader Lu is generous."

"Next!" Lu Yin loudly called out. Yi's Emporium really did have a lot of great things.

At this moment, another maid rushed in. Her face was pale, and she immediately opened her mouth to speak, but Lu Yin just glared at her and she crumpled to the ground. "Your Yi's Emporium's maids are too rude! How can they be so casual about disturbing your guests? This is disappointing."

Cai Lai's expression changed. Naturally, Yi's Emporium's maids were all familiar with the rules. It was impossible not to realize that something big had happened, and Cai Lai also realized that the first maid had fallen unconscious because she had been attacked by Lu Yin. Cai Lai was not an idiot.

"Next," Lu Yin told Cai Lai.

Cai Lai's expression changed a bit, but he tried to show a friendly smile. "Alliance Leader Lu, there isn't any more."

Lu Yin glared at the man. "What was that? No more? This is Yi's Emporium's ninth floor, and yet you're saying there's nothing else left?"

Cai Lai felt offended. "There is nothing at all wrong with Yi's Emporium's ninth floor! Even the first princess can't afford the treasures here! Any one of these treasures is something that countless people in the Divine Venom Dynasty would fight for, and there truly is nothing more."

Lu Yin snorted disdainfully. "This is so disappointing. Is this all there is to Yi's Emporium? Any region within my Great Eastern Alliance possesses more treasures than you've shown me."

Cai Lai offered a respectful bow, but remained silent.

Lu Yin regretted that there was no more, but Cai Lai ran this Yi's Emporium, and he was a very shrewd person. "Alright then, that's enough shopping for now. Pack up everything I said I like, and also everything on the eighth floor."

Cai Lai was startled and felt that he must not have heard correctly. "Alliance Leader Lu, what was that?"

Lu Yin repeated, "Pack everything on the eighth floor. I'm buying it all."

Cai Lai's mouth fell open; pack everything up? This was the first time he had seen someone who spent money so casually. How could Lu Yin possibly still have enough to buy more?

"Why don't they just pack up everything in the whole Yi's Emporium?" Lu Yin muttered to himself. Cai Lai's body went limp, and he almost fell to the floor.

"That- Alliance Leader Lu, there are simply too many items that are needed for the regular operations of Yi's Emporium. And, well, you said to pack up everything on the eighth floor, but this lowly one must check with the owner," Cai Lai said.

Lu Yin retorted, "How stupid! You've managed this business for hundreds of years, and yet you still need to ask your boss? Why are you even the manager?"

No matter what Lu Yin said, Cai Lai remained unmoved. No matter what, he would not sell Lu Yin another item before finding out what was happening.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. This was the end. If he tried to buy anything more, he would force that old man Yi out into the open, as well as Qing Shaohuang. "Fine, but first pack up what I just ordered."

Cai Lai wiped his forehead. "About that; might I ask how Alliance Leader Lu intends to settle his bill?"

Lu Yin smiled and patted Cai Lai's shoulder. "Are you looking down on me? Get everything ready for me first, and after I've checked that you have it all ready, then I'll pay. Or could it be that you're worried that I'll leave without paying?"

Of course Cai Lai would not dare say such a thing, which left him with no choice but follow Lu Yin's request and package all of the goods that Lu Yin had requested: the sourcebox, the Samaritan Tears, and the Life-Prolonging Butterfly. The butterfly was a living creature, but since it was sealed away, it was able to be stored in a cosmic ring like an inanimate object.

It was at this moment that Lu Yin felt that he had bought far too little.

"Alliance Leader Lu, your purchases have been prepared. Your total comes-"

Just as Cai Lai was talking, Lu Yin raised a hand to interrupt, "Go and talk to Attendant Yi. Everything that I spend on your Divine Venom Continent is being covered by Qing Shaohuang.

"Alright, thanks for everything!"

As soon as Lu Yin finished speaking, he grabbed the shop owner and vanished.

Cai Lai stood where he was, staring blankly into space and completely unresponsive for a long time.

When he did react, his body collapsed to the ground. He felt like he was being crushed by the sky.

Elsewhere, within the empire's imperial palace, Attendant Yi was feeling the same way. When he had been informed that Cai Lai had taken out the Life-Prolonging Butterfly, Attendant Yi had almost lost his mind, and he had not been able to maintain his composure in front of Qing Shaohuang.

Both the five-star Boundless Advanced sourcebox and the Samaritan Tears were invaluable, but the Life-Prolonging Butterfly was literally a priceless treasure. Not one of the three treasures was anything an average Enlighter could afford, and Attendant Yi was sure that even Qing Li did not possess the wealth to buy more than one of the three items. As for Qing Longlong, she did not even qualify to step onto the ninth floor of Yi's Emporium.