Immortality Cultivation: I Farm in the System Space

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A few days later.

All the Spirit Rice in the System Space had matured; Lin Jing harvested it all.

Yet the system remained as miserly as ever, still giving just one Harvest Point per acre of land.

After harvesting, Lin Jing sun-dried and threshed the Spirit Rice before sending it all to Yu Ming Trading House.

Shopkeeper Cheng happily accepted everything and even negotiated with Lin Jing to reserve next year's Spirit Rice.

Since he had a buyer, he agreed readily, and after finalizing their agreement, Lin Jing left Yu Ming Trading House with the 160 Lower Grade Spirit Stones he had earned from selling the Spirit Rice.

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In the following two months, Lin Jing spent most of his time at home, studying Alchemy and the Controlling Fire Technique, and would only go out once every few days.

Sometimes when he went out, he would run into the brothers Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin. Zhang Sen was quite talkative, and every time they met, he would strike up a conversation with Lin Jing.

Lin Jing wasn't too comfortable with this and typically responded with a few words before taking his leave.

Among Lin Jing's two neighbors, he had met one of the households twice—a young woman who seemed about his age.

However, she was not alone but accompanied by a five or six-year-old girl, who was very cute.

Zhang Sen mentioned that the young woman used to live with her husband, but he had unfortunately suffered an accident while hunting Demonic Beasts.

This left only the mother and daughter behind.

As for the other neighbor, Lin Jing had not yet seen them.

Today, Lin Jing was preparing to go out again.

After studying Alchemy for two months, Lin Jing felt he had understood the basics and was ready to start practicing alchemy.

Alchemy required the purchase of a Pill Furnace, formulas, and materials, which would cost a significant amount of Spirit Stones,

Including in the future, Lin Jing also planned to grow Spirit Grass in the System Space, to cultivate, harvest, and then refine it into Elixir Medicine for sale.

Wouldn't this entire vertical integration earn more than selling Spirit Rice?

"Tsk tsk... Perfect!"

Since he planned to collaborate long-term, it was natural to select a reputable trading house.

And now, he was preparing to visit the most famous one in the Fang Market.

"Yuebaolou."

Yuebaolou had a mysterious background and had branches in many places.

What always made it commendable was its good reputation and fair pricing, never using its large size to bully customers and always keeping client privacy secure.

As long as you were willing to sell something, they never asked where it came from and would accept it accordingly.

Of course, whatever you bought from Yuebaolou, you needn't worry because they absolutely forbade revealing any customer information.

Upon arriving at Yuebaolou, Lin Jing looked up.

The seven-story pagoda was unique in the entire Nanshan Market.

The area it covered was indeed substantial, and there was also a not-so-small square in front of the building, where Cultivators set up their stalls all over the square, creating a lively scene.

It was said that to set up a stall here, one simply needed to pay Spirit Stones to Yuebaolou.

Lin Jing did not stop there and walked directly through the square to Yuebaolou.

Yuebaolou was vast, with Magic Artifacts, Elixir Medicines, and Cultivation Techniques available in abundance.

As soon as Lin Jing entered, a maid approached to attend to him.

"Welcome to Yuebaolou, Immortal," she said. "May I ask what you need?"

"Immortal?"

Lin Jing was quite unfamiliar with this title and looked at her.

"So it turns out to be a mortal; no wonder."

"I need to buy a Pill Furnace, and then some Alchemy Ingredients."

"So the Immortal is an Alchemist; please follow me."

Envy filled the maid's eyes.

Then, she led Lin Jing to the second floor and directed him to a counter.

"Elder Yu, this Immortal wishes to purchase a Pill Furnace and Alchemy Ingredients."

After conveying the message to Elder Yu behind the counter, the maidservant promptly left.

"May I ask, what kind of Pill Furnace would you like?" Elder Yu asked.

"I have recently learned the Alchemy Technique and wish to try Alchemy on my own. I wonder if Elder Yu has any Pill Furnace to recommend?"

"The entrance to the art of Alchemy is not easy, especially for beginners, the failure rate is extremely high, and it's particularly easy to cause an explosion in the furnace."

"Therefore..."

"When beginners choose a Pill Furnace, they should prioritize quality and durability. Use this furnace for initial practice, and diligently work on mastering the Controlling Fire Technique daily."

"Although at first, due to the qualities of the furnace, it might be difficult to control the temperature, once you are completely proficient, there will be no further issues."

"At that time, if you switch to another Pill Furnace, the success rate of crafting Elixir Medicine will significantly increase."

Having said that,

Elder Yu turned around, took down a cyan Pill Furnace from the display shelf behind him, and placed it in front of Lin Jing.

"This Three-legged Copper Furnace is an extremely rare six-refinement furnace, with the body naturally radiating a treasure light and is extremely durable. Even if it explodes multiple times, it will remain intact, making it especially suitable for beginners to practice."

"Additionally, it's reasonably priced, only costing one hundred and twenty Lower Grade Spirit Stones."

Lin Jing picked up the Three-legged Copper Furnace and examined it closely. He could see a faint glow emanating from the body of the furnace, indeed as Elder Yu had described, with a natural treasure light.

"One hundred and twenty Lower Grade Spirit Stones for a six-refinement furnace is indeed a fair price."

During the past few days while Lin Jing was strolling around Fang Market, he had gathered quite a bit of information, including about this Pill Furnace.

Generally, the cheaper Pill Furnaces would cost around fifty Lower Grade Spirit Stones, but those furnaces were of abysmal quality; a slight mishap could cause an explosion and sometimes even harm the person doing Alchemy.

On the other hand, the good ones could cost upwards of a thousand Spirit Stones, which Lin Jing could not afford at the moment, but this Three-legged Copper Furnace was just right.

Right there and then, Lin Jing made up his mind.

"I'll take this copper furnace."

"Elder Yu, may I know the price of the ingredients to craft the Fasting Pill here?"

"Also, I would like to purchase some elixir recipes."

Many Alchemists, when they first start learning the art of Alchemy, begin by crafting the Fasting Pill.

There's no special reason, other than the fact that the ingredients required to craft the Fasting Pill are fairly common and quite cheap.

Lin Jing was no exception; he planned to start learning from the Fasting Pill.

"Fellow Daoist, please wait a moment."

After speaking, Elder Yu took out a booklet from under the counter and handed it to Lin Jing.

"Seeing that Fellow Daoist might need a lot of items, here's the price list. Please take a look."

"Whatever you want, just let me know."

Lin Jing nodded, took the booklet, and started to flip through it.

"Energy Gathering Pill recipe (First Rank): 10 Lower Grade Spirit Stones."

"Energy Restoration Elixir recipe (First Rank): 10 Lower Grade Spirit Stones."

"Fasting Pill recipe (First Rank): 5 Lower Grade Spirit Stones."

"Poison Avoidance Elixir recipe (First Rank): 5 Lower Grade Spirit Stones."

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"Energy Gathering Pill ingredients, 1 Lower Grade Spirit Stone per portion; Energy Restoration Elixir ingredients, 1 Lower Grade Spirit Stone per portion; Fasting Pill ingredients, 1 Lower Grade Spirit Stone for 5 portions..."

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Subsequently, he bought several First Rank elixir recipes and one hundred portions of Fasting Pill ingredients.

For ingredients like those for Energy Gathering Pills, Energy Restoration Elixirs, and Blood Coagulation Pills, he requested ten portions of each, planning to practice with them when he returned.

Soon, he had finished his purchases.

This trip directly cost him over two hundred Lower Grade Spirit Stones.

The Spirit Stones he had just earned were gone again...

Chapter 12 - 12 Got Trapped?

Chapter 12 Got Trapped?

Having left Yuebaolou, Lin Jing did not linger outside and hurried home instead.

"Ning Daoyou, my brother and I have been a bit tight on money recently, I apologize for the inconvenience. Could you give us a few more days? We will pay you back after that," someone spoke.

Just as he turned into the alley, Lin Jing heard the conversation.

Lin Jing looked up and saw Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin, two brothers, talking with his young female neighbor.

And behind the neighbor, a cute little girl was timidly hiding.

The young woman's brows were furrowed as she looked at the two men coldly.

At that moment, Zhang Sen, seeing Lin Jing approaching, hurriedly greeted him.

"Brother Lin."

Zhang Sen's face lit up with a smile as he walked towards Lin Jing.

"Brother Zhang."

Since the other party had already come over, it was not good for Lin Jing to avoid him.

"Brother Lin might not be acquainted with Ning Daoyou yet. We will be neighbors from now on, and we'll inevitably need to help each other. Let me introduce you."

Saying this, he led Lin Jing over to the young woman.

"This is Ning Yue, Ning Daoyou."

After finishing, he turned to Ning Yue and introduced:

"Ning Daoyou, this is Lin Jing, Lin Daoyou."

"He lives right next to you and moved in over two months ago. He doesn't often go out; I presume you haven't met before."

As Zhang Sen introduced Lin Jing, the little girl poked her head out from behind and glanced at Lin Jing.

Feeling her gaze, Lin Jing also looked back, and like a startled rabbit, the little girl quickly hid behind her mother again.

"Brother Lin," Zhang Sen said with a beaming smile: "It's an act of mercy to help those in urgent need."

"We previously borrowed some Spirit Stones from Ning Daoyou, and now she suddenly needs them for an emergency. But my hands are tied these few days; I can't gather enough."

"I would like to ask Brother Lin to lend me some Spirit Stones, so I can repay Ning Daoyou first."

"Not much, just five Spirit Stones will do."

"Rest assured, Brother Lin, as soon as my finances are better in a few days, I will definitely repay you."

Lin Jing frowned.

"Brother Lin, please help," Zhang Sen spoke again.

"Please be at ease, Brother Lin. Once I've earned some Spirit Stones in a few days, I will pay you back immediately."

Seeing how earnest Zhang Sen was, Lin Jing decided to trust him for once.

"Alright then."

Saying this, Lin Jing took out five Spirit Stones from his bosom and handed them over.

When outside, Lin Jing always hid his Storage Bag and only carried a few Spirit Stones on him.

For someone at the Second Rank of Qi Refinement like him, possessing a Storage Bag was not ordinary. If seen by others, it may evoke malicious intentions.

After all...

A Storage Bag costs at least a few hundred Spirit Stones, not something a minor Cultivator at the Second Rank of Qi Refinement could afford.

In short, with his current low strength, it was still best to be cautious.

"Thank you very much, Brother Lin," Zhang Sen couldn't hide his joy.

Taking the Spirit Stones, Zhang Sen handed them straight to Ning Yue.

"Ning Daoyou, we are even now."

"Hmm."

Ning Yue took the Spirit Stones and nodded slightly.

"Ning Daoyou, Brother Lin, we brothers have matters to attend to and will take our leave now."

With their business concluded, Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin prepared to leave.

"Rest assured, Brother Lin, I will return the Spirit Stones to you in a few days."

Zhang Sen continued:

"Also, I forgot to mention, Ning Daoyou here is an alchemist. If you need Elixir Medicine crafted in the future, you can seek her assistance."

"Ning Daoyou, Brother Lin, we bid you farewell."

After speaking, the two turned and left.

"Alchemist."

Lin Jing looked at Ning Yue. She had a graceful figure but wasn't very pretty, her complexion sallow as if she had been malnourished for a long time, and there was a brown patch on her cheek.

"Uncle, you've been deceived," a timid voice came.

It was the little girl, holding onto Ning Yue's skirt and peering out with her head, her voice trembling.

"Mother said, those two are bad people who often borrow money and don't pay back. You've been tricked by them."

"Luo Luo, don't talk nonsense," Ning Yue chided.

The little girl upon hearing this, quickly shrank her head back.

"Lin Daoyou, I will take my leave now," she said.

Having said that, without waiting for Lin Jing to react, she took the little girl and returned to her own courtyard.

Then, with a loud "bang," the courtyard door closed behind them, leaving only Lin Jing behind.

Lin Jing understood that, clearly, she still didn't trust him and was wary of him, not wanting to get involved with him.

Afterward, he let it go, thinking how he wasn't any different, as he also disliked trouble.

Having thought it through, he headed towards his own house.

Once back in his room, Lin Jing took out the Pill Furnace from his Storage Bag, ready to begin Alchemy.

First, he studied the pill recipe, familiarized himself with the production process, and then Lin Jing took out the materials.

"Let's start with the simplest Fasting Pill."

After processing the spirit materials needed for the Fasting Pill, he placed them into the furnace in order and began to light the fire.

The flames surged, and after a while, the Pill Furnace began to react.

"Controlling Fire Technique."

Lin Jing carefully used the Controlling Fire Technique to manipulate the flames, regulating the temperature to ensure it wasn't too fierce.

At the same time, he extended his Divine Sense into the furnace to monitor the condition of the Elixir Medicine inside.

However, with the strength of Lin Jing's Divine Sense at the moment, it barely lasted for long, and soon Lin Jing couldn't hold on and withdrew it.

After an incense stick's time.

"Boom."

A muffled sound came from within the Pill Furnace.

"Did it explode?"

Lin Jing frowned and went to check.

He lifted the lid of the furnace and looked inside to see black shards filling it—there was no sign of Elixir Medicine.

Then he checked the body of the furnace, which was undamaged.

"That's good," Lin Jing was relieved.

Lin Jing recalled the alchemy steps he had just performed and after pondering for a while, started preparing materials again to continue Alchemy.

He knew that Alchemy could not possibly go smoothly from the start; it was bound to fail a few times at the beginning, so Lin Jing was not discouraged at all.

During the second attempt at Alchemy, he took the lessons from the last time to heart, being even more careful with controlling the flame.

As expected, with another "boom," the second batch of Elixir Medicine was declared a failure.

"Again."

This time Lin Jing started without any pause.

"Boom."

This time, the duration of the alchemy process was a bit longer than the previous two attempts.

Lin Jing had some insight, but felt as if he was always grasping at something just out of reach.

"Boom"

"Boom"

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Lin Jing continued the Alchemy process, but the results were far from satisfactory, repeatedly ending in explosions.

However, Lin Jing did not give up but persisted in Alchemy.

Finally, on the eighth attempt, there was no "boom" sound.

"Did it succeed?"

Just as a smile began to form on Lin Jing's face, a foul odor escaped from the furnace.

"This smell..."

His brow furrowed, he stepped forward and lifted the furnace lid, with the stench assaulting his nostrils.

"Ugh..."

The intense foul odor almost made him vomit last night's dinner.

Afterward, Lin Jing ran out of the room, taking deep breaths of fresh air.

A long while passed before the smell in the room had mostly dissipated, and Lin Jing dared to go back inside.

Returning to the room, Lin Jing first cleared out the source of the foul smell in the Pill Furnace, a pool of viscous liquid, and then along with the previous alchemy failures, he cleaned out all the residue.

Only then did Lin Jing begin to reflect.

The Alchemy Technique he got from Manager Li obviously had problems.

It wasn't until Lin Jing started to engage in Alchemy himself that he realized that the Alchemy Technique was full of errors and omissions, and even some parts were glossed over.

This led him to a continuous cycle of trial and error.

"It seems that Senior Han probably didn't really understand either that this Alchemy Technique, starting from the First Rank Elixir Medicines, has a much higher failure rate than other alchemy techniques."

"Could it be that Manager Li has tricked me?"

Chapter 13 - ough ratings

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Chapter 13: Successful Alchemy, Opening the Alchemy Room

"Since it won't work here."

"I'll wait until tonight and try in the System Space, where the spiritual energy is dense, maybe that will do the trick."

With that in mind, Lin Jing first cleaned the Three-legged Copper Furnace, packed it away, and then opened both the windows and the door to air out the scent from the room.

He himself took an elixir book and went out into the courtyard to continue his research.

It wasn't until the sun hung over the mountain and the sky gradually darkened that Lin Jing lifted his head.

By that time, smoke was rising from many courtyards nearby, and the fragrance of various dishes also began to waft through the air.

A sense of worldly liveliness unique to mortals permeated this cultivator-inhabited Fang Market.

Indeed, cultivators also need to eat.

This place was inhabited by the lower echelons of the cultivation world, mostly those at the early and middle stages of Qi Refinement.

They were not yet capable of fasting and could hardly afford Fasting Pills, so they had to cook their own meals.

Moreover, most people here, just like mortals, ate very ordinary rice.

For them, Spirit Rice was far too expensive.

Of course, there were a very few who were in the Late Stage Qi Refining, with stronger cultivation and hence more Spirit Stones to their names, and could afford Spirit Rice.

For example, Lin Jing's neighbor, Ning Daoyou with her child, was at the Late Stage Qi Refining.

When meal times came around, the aroma of steamed Spirit Rice always emerged from her house.

Seeing that the day had turned dark, Lin Jing also prepared to start a fire and cook.

Previously, with the Spirit Rice he had sold, aside from what he sold to Shopkeeper Cheng, he still had a few hundred jin left, enough to last him until the Spirit Rice in the System Space matured again.

For this period, Lin Jing had been eating this kind of Spirit Rice.

Whether it was his imagination or not, Lin Jing felt that the Spirit Rice he grown was somewhat sweeter than other Spirit Rice out there.

For this reason, he had specifically purchased some Medium Grade Spirit Rice for comparison.

And indeed, it was the case.

No wonder Shopkeeper Cheng had been so anxious back then, desperate to reserve the next year's supply of Spirit Rice.

Starting a fire, cooking rice, stir-frying dishes, all done in one go...

Then, by the last light of dusk, Lin Jing sat down to enjoy his dinner.

After eating and tidying up, Lin Jing returned to the room and continued perusing elixir books.

Night deepened, and soon it was the wee hours of the next day.

"System Space time refresh, time remaining to enter: 4 hours."

The system prompt sounded again.

A smile crossed Lin Jing's face.

"Enter the System Space."

Once in the System Space, Lin Jing called up the familiar panel and directly checked his own information.

Lin Jing (23/90)

Spiritual Root: Five Elements Mixed Spirit Root (Low Grade)

Cultivation: Qi Refinement Second Layer (8%)

Cultivation Technique: Qingyuan Dao Method (Level One), Qingyuan Sword Control Technique (Entry Level), Controlling Fire Technique (Entry Level)

Secondary Profession: None

The Secondary Profession column still displayed none.

Time was precious inside the System Space, so Lin Jing dared not waste a moment.

He took out the Three-legged Copper Furnace from the Storage Bag, then prepared the materials, and Lin Jingshen took a deep breath to relax.

In alchemy, the most important thing is the state of mind.

Once everything was ready, Lin Jing began to ignite the fire, added various spiritual materials into the Pill Furnace, and started alchemy...

"Boom"

As expected, the first furnace blew up.

After contemplating for a moment, Lin Jing continued.

The second furnace did not explode but produced elixirs of irregular shapes without any fragrance.

Lin Jing pinched one with his hand, and the irregular elixir crumbled immediately, revealing it was full of dregs, clearly a failed product.

However, this was still a great improvement over the first attempt.

After a couple more trials, he finally stumbled upon some tricks of the trade.

Alchemy in the System Space was indeed much more successful than in the outside world; it seems that the density of spiritual energy is extremely important for alchemy.

This point was not mentioned in the alchemy book given by Manager Li.

Immediately after, Lin Jing prepared the materials and started crafting the fifth batch of elixir medicine.

He still deposited the spiritual materials into the furnace in the correct order, and when the flames rose, he quickly and carefully controlled them to avoid an excessively high temperature that could cause an explosion. Meanwhile, his Divine Sense frequently reached out to check the situation inside the pill furnace.

Everything was carried out in an orderly manner.

After a stick of incense burned down, a faint aroma wafted out from the pill furnace.

"Success!"

Lin Jing's eyes sparkled and his heart thumped rapidly.

Taking a deep breath, Lin Jing hurriedly calmed his emotions.

So as not to throw all his efforts away at the last moment.

As time slowly passed, the aroma from inside the pill furnace grew stronger and stronger.

By now, Lin Jing's forehead was covered in sweat as he carefully controlled the flames.

However, his eyes shone brightly, and he appeared extremely excited.

"Ding"

"System notification: Congratulations to the host for successfully crafting a batch of elixir medicine and unlocking the secondary profession: Alchemist."

"Elixir crafting success, Alchemy proficiency +3"

"System notification: As this is the host's first successful elixir crafting, you are rewarded with 10 Harvest Points."

"System notification: Secondary profession Alchemist identity activated, Alchemy Room now available to open."

"Opening the Alchemy Room requires 10 Harvest Points, does the host wish to proceed?"

A series of system notifications left Lin Jing stunned.

"Alchemy Room? What is this?"

Trusting the system to produce only the best, Lin Jing did not hesitate and chose to open the Alchemy Room immediately.

"System, open the Alchemy Room."

"System notification: Alchemy Room opening successful, 10 Harvest Points deducted, remaining balance: 29 Harvest Points."

Next, a small room sprouted next to the Spirit Field as if growing out of the ground, taking no more than moments to take shape.

Now that the elixir medicine was ready, Lin Jing had no time to marvel at the system's miraculous work and quickly extinguished the fire.

After waiting for a short while for the temperature of the furnace to drop slightly, Lin Jing lifted the lid and was immediately greeted by a burst of fragrance that spread throughout the area.

He reached into the pill furnace and took out the elixir medicine. There were three pills in this batch, and Lin Jing examined them closely in front of his eyes.

The elixir pills were not smooth and shiny, and even their shapes varied somewhat.

Clearly, these were three low-grade elixir medicines.

But, Lin Jing was still very happy.

In his elation, Lin Jing looked up and saw the Alchemy Room standing proudly to the side.

Immediately intrigued, he walked toward the Alchemy Room to see what it looked like inside.

The Alchemy Room wasn't big, about the size of a single room, with black bricks and green tiles in a circular shape.

If it were a bit larger, it would resemble a round palace.

Lin Jing pushed open the door and walked into the Alchemy Room. Inside, a huge Tai Chi and Eight Trigrams symbol covered the entire floor of the room.

There was nothing else.

"Is this it...?"

Looking at the empty Alchemy Room, Lin Jing didn't really know what to say.

"System, what functions does the Alchemy Room have?"

"The Alchemy Room panel has been opened for the host."

Alchemy Room: Level 1

Divine Sense strength increase: 10%

Elixir crafting success rate increase: (Tier 1 10%)

Elixir quality improvement: (Tier 1 10%)

Chance of producing Pure Elixir Medicine: (Tier 1 10%)

Required for upgrade: (29/100 Harvest Points)

That it actually increased the chances of successful elixir crafting, Lin Jing couldn't contain his excitement.

"I'm going to make a fortune in the future."

Chapter 14 - 14 Revisiting Yuebaolou

Chapter 14 Revisiting Yuebaolou

Then something felt off.

"Pah!"

"What riches!"

"I almost forgot this is the Cultivation World, where the law of the jungle prevails, and might makes right. What's the use of having wealth when you're just seen as prey in the eyes of others?"

"I need to consume it myself, to enhance my strength."

"Given my talent for cultivation, if I rely solely on myself, I'm afraid it will be difficult to break through to the Foundation Establishment Stage in this lifetime."

"So, I still have to rely on popping pills... no, I mean taking elixirs."

Having realized this, Lin Jing no longer hesitated and decided to try it out himself first.

He picked up a Fasting Pill and put it in his mouth. The elixir immediately dissolved, sliding down his throat and into his stomach.

Instantly, a sensation of fullness came over him, while a sweet aftertaste lingered in his mouth.

"The introduction said that after taking a Fasting Pill, you can go without food for at least three days. I wonder how effective this pill I concocted is?"

It was time to test its effects.

After finishing this round of alchemy, Lin Jing didn't stay in the System Space any longer and chose to leave first.

Since he had decided to rely on taking elixirs to enhance his abilities, the most important thing right now was to get a complete Alchemy Technique.

The Alchemy Technique he was currently studying was terrible, with a too high rate of failure. If he continued to concoct pills this way, he feared it wouldn't be long before his expenses outpaced his income.

"It seems I must visit Yuebaolou tomorrow."

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The next day, only when the sun was three poles high did Lin Jing finally get up.

Perhaps because alchemy had exhausted him yesterday, he slept particularly well last night.

Even after sleeping for so long, he still felt groggy when he woke up.

Having taken a Fasting Pill last night, he wasn't hungry at all right now.

After getting up and freshening up, Lin Jing left his home and headed straight for Yuebaolou.

Upon arriving at Yuebaolou, he was greeted by a different maid this time. Lin Jing explained his intention, and the maid led him straight to Elder Yu.

"Elder Yu," Lin Jing greeted when he saw Elder Yu.

"Fellow Daoist, you've come again today. Is there something else you would like?" Elder Yu asked with a smile.

Lin Jing leaned in and whispered, "Elder Yu, do you have any Alchemy Techniques here?"

Elder Yu was taken aback for a moment, then replied:

"Did Fellow Daoist fail at alchemy yesterday? Every beginner goes through failure. It's very normal for beginners, and you don't have to blame the Alchemy Technique."

"Moreover, the Alchemy Technique is very rare. It's hardly ever seen, so I don't have it here."

"No..." Lin Jing replied, somewhat disheartened.

"Don't be in a hurry, Fellow Daoist. I only said I don't have it, not that Yuebaolou doesn't have it," Elder Yu reassured.

Lin Jing's eyes lit up upon hearing this.

"There's hope."

Elder Yu continued, "Yuebaolou holds a large exchange meeting every month. There are all kinds of good items on these meetings, and as long as you have the money, you can buy anything."

"Of course, this includes Alchemy Techniques."

"Two years ago, somebody did purchase an Alchemy Technique from the exchange meeting, which was said to be for their family's disciples to cultivate with."

"Elder Yu, how many Spirit Stones did that Alchemy Technique sell for? Do you know?" Lin Jing asked.

"Of course, I remember it very clearly," Elder Yu replied.

"That Alchemy Technique sold for thirty thousand Spirit Stones."

"The seller was a third-grade Alchemist, and the deal also included the Alchemist's own experiences in alchemy."

"If it hadn't been for that Alchemist's urgent need for Spirit Stones, it wouldn't have sold so cheap. It should have cost at least twenty to thirty percent more."

"The person certainly got a great deal."

Elder Yu was filled with emotion, thinking that if he had not been short of Spirit Stones at the time, he would have wanted to acquire it himself.

Especially the Alchemy experience of a third-grade Alchemist, the temptation for an Alchemist is not small.

"If a fellow Daoist wants to buy an Alchemy book, you'd need to prepare tens of thousands of Spirit Stones at least."

"Tens of thousands..."

Upon hearing this number, Lin Jing's eyes widened in shock, and his eyelid twitched uncontrollably.

It took a while for Lin Jing to regain his composure.

"Hehe..."

Lin Jing felt somewhat embarrassed.

"I still think my Alchemy book is quite adequate, I won't change it for now."

Seeing Lin Jing's reaction, Elder Yu knew he didn't have that much money.

He quickly started to give guidance: "In Alchemy, the most important thing is the mindset. As long as one's mindset is stable, the success rate will naturally be high."

"Of course, besides mindset, other factors are also crucial, not just the Alchemy book."

"For instance, the cultivator's own cultivation level, strength of Divine Sense, Alchemy experience, and control of flames are all extremely important."

"Besides these, there are also some external factors, like the Pill Furnace, environment, and Spiritual Energy, which are all essential."

"So, an Alchemist must first control their own mindset, then improve their own abilities and experience, and finally address the external environmental factors."

"Once you have achieved these, your Alchemy success rate will definitely increase substantially."

"Lastly, one more thing, if possible, try to find a prestigious teacher to instruct you."

"It is said that listening to a wise person's words is better than reading books for ten years. Sometimes, a single sentence from a teacher is worth years of your own research."

"Elder Yu, I have learned much."

Lin Jing clasped his hands together and gave Elder Yu a salute.

Elder Yu's words were like enlightening Lin Jing.

"Right, he is just a Qi Refinement Level Two minor cultivator, having just studied for a little while and he thinks he knows it all?"

"Though the Alchemy book from Manager Li has some flaws, the overall direction is correct. I can start practicing with that, then summarizing my experience and filling in the mistakes."

"In any case, I have the System Space, and I won't lack money. I don't need to run around tirelessly like other cultivators."

"So, I should first improve myself. As for changing the Alchemy book, that can wait until later."

Elder Yu hurriedly helped Lin Jing up: "Fellow Daoist, there's no need for such formalities. I'm merely offering some advice as a senior."

"My name is Lin Jing. Elder Yu can call me by my name. 'To the capable goes the teaching.' You are a senior, I dare not presume to be called a fellow Daoist," Lin Jing said humbly.

The term 'senior' deeply touched Elder Yu's heart, and he no longer insisted on formality: "Then, as you wish, I will call you Lin Xiaozi (young Lin)."

"Lin Xiaozi, how many times did you fail at Alchemy yesterday?" Elder Yu was intent on giving guidance, hence the question.

"Elder Yu, after I returned yesterday, out of thirteen attempts at Alchemy, I succeeded in making Elixir Medicine in one batch."

While speaking, Lin Jing took out a small porcelain bottle from his person and handed it over.

"However, it's just Low Grade Fasting Pills, a total of three. I consumed one, and the remaining two are all here."

"I didn't expect you would actually succeed," Elder Yu said in surprise.

"It's rare for someone to succeed on their first attempt at Alchemy. When you came to ask about the Alchemy Technique before, I thought all of your attempts had failed."

"It was purely luck," Lin Jing spoke.

He knew that if it were not for the existence of the System Space, he would not have had any chance of success.

Elder Yu looked at Lin Jing as if seeing him for the first time, examining him carefully.

"There is no such thing as luck in Alchemy."

"Lin Xiaozi, your talent in Alchemy is perhaps not low," he said.

Chapter 15 - 15 Pure Elixir

Chapter 15 Pure Elixir

"Do you know how others start practicing alchemy?"

Lin Jing shook his head. He didn't know any other Alchemists and was completely self-taught.

"Generally, they would refine two to three furnaces a day, and at most four to five furnaces."

"After each furnace, they would stop to rest and reflect."

"Once the reflection was complete and their state fully recovered, they would then start making the next furnace and continue accumulating experience."

"Your thirteen furnaces in one day must have been refined consecutively, right?"

Lin Jing hadn't expected that one needed to rest after refining an Elixir Furnace. Embarrassed, he said,

"Indeed, that's the case."

"That's why I said that your talent in alchemy isn't bad, managing to refine successfully even under such conditions."

" "

Lin Jing was somewhat speechless. It seemed that he had indeed benefitted from the System Space.

"However, even if your alchemy talent is high, you can't become complacent. You still need to do as I've advised, honing your abilities and taking it step by step."

"I understand. Thank you for your instruction, Elder Yu," Lin Jing said as he clasped his hands in gratitude.

At that moment, Lin Jing suddenly remembered something. When the System Space initiated the Alchemy Room, there was an increased chance of producing a Pure Elixir.

This 'Pure Elixir' was something he had not heard of before, and he didn't know what it was. He took the opportunity to ask Elder Yu about it.

"Elder Yu, I've heard by chance of an Elixir Medicine called the Pure Elixir. Could you tell me what a Pure Elixir is?"

After hearing Lin Jing's question, Elder Yu frowned and asked,

"It's not recorded in your alchemy book?"

"Elder Yu, the alchemy book that I've been studying does not have such record," Lin Jing replied.

"It seems that your alchemy book is indeed somewhat flawed."

"Since that is the case, I will introduce it to you."

Elder Yu started speaking, and Lin Jing pricked up his ears to listen attentively.

"Actually, this has to start with the components of the Elixir Medicine. You should know that impurities are present in Elixir Medicine, and even Supreme Elixirs are no exception."

"These impurities can't be completely expelled from the body. Over time, with long-term use, they will result in Elixir Toxins."

"Moreover, the lower the quality of the Elixir Medicine, the more impurities it has, and the more severe the Elixir Toxin will be."

"Yes, I have seen this on the alchemy book," Lin Jing nodded.

Elder Yu continued, "Long-term use of Elixir Medicine leads to the accumulation of Elixir Toxin in the body, which decreases the effectiveness of Elixirs and eventually renders them ineffective."

"Even worse, Elixir Toxin can even affect cultivation, making breakthroughs difficult."

"To clear the Elixir Toxin from the body, one would have to take a Clear Accumulation Elixir to remove some of the toxicity,"

"But the Clear Accumulation Elixir is also an Elixir, with limited effectiveness, and it's virtually useless for cultivators in the Nascent Soul Stage or those even more powerful in the Divinity Transformation Stage."

"However"

"Pure Elixirs are different."

"Because, the reason Pure Elixirs are called 'pure' is that they have no Elixir Toxins at all, can be taken freely, and their effectiveness doesn't diminish with use."

"Pure Elixirs are actually that powerful!" Lin Jing was shocked.

To Lin Jing's shock, Elder Yu remained quite indifferent, with not much of a reaction.

Because when he was young and first heard of Pure Elixirs, he had a similar reaction.

"You must know that the chance of a Pure Elixir appearing is very low, and there's a prerequisite condition, which is that a furnace must simultaneously produce two or more Supreme Elixirs."

"During the refining process, these two Supreme Elixirs will expel their own impurities and fuse together to form a Pure Elixir."

"For a furnace to produce two Supreme Elixirs, how could an ordinary Alchemist manage that?"

"And that precisely serves as a testament to an Alchemist's strength."

"Any Alchemist capable of refining a Pure Elixir will be revered as an exalted guest in any faction they join, and naturally, their treatment will not be lacking."

Lin Jing thought to himself, "A furnace of Elixir Medicine generally yields 3-6 Elixirs; indeed, it is not something an ordinary Alchemist could do to refine two Supreme Elixirs in the same furnace."

"Furthermore, Pure Elixirs differ from ordinary Elixir Medicine; the moment they come out of the furnace, they need to be stored in a Pure Jade Box, and only taken out when it's time to consume them."

"Otherwise, if they come into contact with the outside world for too long, Pure Elixirs will be eroded by the ambient Qi and develop Elixir Toxin, degrading into Supreme Elixirs."

"Now you know."

"So this is what a Pure Elixir is." After marveling, Lin Jing continued to ask:

"Elder Yu, you said the chance of a Pure Elixir appearing is very low, but just how low is it?"

"

"Let me put it this way," said Elder Yu, "once, a very famous Pill Master tried to refine a Pure Elixir. He refined a hundred elixir furnaces in a row."

"All of them were his specialty elixirs, and each furnace produced at least two Supreme Elixirs."

"But, in the end, only one Pure Elixir appeared."

"Ah...?"

That low.

Then he remembered the attribute on the Alchemy Room panel, the one that increases the chance of a Pure Elixir appearing by 10%.

That rate would absolutely outclass that Pill Master.

Elder Yu continued, "Of course, Pure Elixirs depend entirely on luck, and there's no pattern to them, so there's no need to deliberately pursue them."

"Some people get one in just over a dozen furnaces, while others might not see a single Pure Elixir even after several hundred furnaces."

"So, you can't force the appearance of a Pure Elixir."

After listening, Lin Jing continued to inquire, "Elder Yu, Yuebaolou should have Pure Elixirs for sale, right?"

"Of course." Elder Yu was quite confident.

"And I have refined a Pure Elixir myself."

"Elder Yu, you..."

Lin Jing looked at the Elder Yu before him and bowed respectfully.

"Forgive my short-sightedness, it turns out Elder Yu is actually an Alchemy Master."

Elder Yu waved his hand dismissively: "Master is too strong a word, I just refined a lot, and the quality of my elixirs has some assurance. Over time, it's normal to produce Pure Elixirs."

"Young man, you must know, even among Pure Elixirs, the value can differ immensely."

"For example, the elixirs I frequently refine are those that increase cultivation or heal injuries and restore spiritual power. These, even if Pure, don't command an outrageous price."

"Basically, they're just twenty or thirty times the price of a regular Supreme Elixir."

"But..."

At this point, Elder Yu paused, then spoke with a hint of longing:

"If one were to refine elixirs for breakthroughs in cultivation stages or extending lifespan, then the value would be completely different."

"Especially the Pure Elixirs for extending lifespan. They're not limited by other elixirs of the same kind, and no matter how many you consume, their effects don't diminish."

"Such Pure Elixirs, whenever they appear, incite countless people to compete fiercely, causing a storm of bloodshed."

Lin Jing's eyes immediately lit up, and his heart began to race.

"With my own Alchemy Room, if I refine lifespan extension elixirs myself and the appearance rate of Pure Elixirs is increased, doesn't that mean I could potentially extend my life indefinitely through consuming Pure Elixirs, achieving immortality?"

"And as the System Space grows, the Spiritual Energy will surely be denser. By then, transplanting Spirit Plants for Lifespan Extension Pills would be even better, right?"

With this thought, Lin Jing became even more excited.

After that, Lin Jing discussed some more questions with Elder Yu before leaving Yuebaolou.

He had gained much from this visit.

.

Over the next month, Lin Jing didn't refine pills as frantically as on the first day, instead reducing the number of times he practiced alchemy daily.

Yet, even when following Elder Yu's instructions to the letter, his success rate was still not high.

In his view, this must be due to his own lack of a pill recipe book.

But since recipe books were too expensive and he couldn't afford them, he was left to fumble his way through and try to improve his success rate.

One day, Lin Jing went to Yuebaolou again, buying more materials for refining Fasting Pills.

On his way back, Lin Jing pondered over future arrangements.

Suddenly, a commotion up ahead disrupted his thoughts.

"Whose little girl is this?"

"Why is she all alone here? How pitiful."

Chapter 16 - 16 Luo Luo

Chapter 16 Luo Luo

Lin Jing looked up, following the direction of the voice.

He saw a familiar figure.

"Isn't that the little girl from the neighbor's house? I remember her name is Luo Luo."

"How come she is here?"

At this moment, Luo Luo stood helplessly by the street, her head lowered, and her little hands tightly pinching the corners of her clothes.

Meanwhile, a crowd of people had gathered around her.

Among them, a middle-aged woman stepped forward to ask, "Little girl, why are you here all by yourself? Where is your family?"

The middle-aged woman's voice was very soft, for fear of scaring her.

But Luo Luo did not dare to look up, remaining rooted to the spot, and the little hands that pinched the corner of her clothes turned white, seeming even more nervous.

Seeing this, Lin Jing walked over.

"Luo Luo."

Lin Jing called out.

The little girl, hearing her name being called, hurriedly looked up.

"Uncle Lin."

The little girl said, then tears began to pour out immediately.

Lin Jing quickened his pace towards her, and the watching crowd made way.

Upon reaching the little girl, Lin Jing asked,

"Why are you here all by yourself? Where is your mother?"

"Uncle, I got lost and can't find my home."

"Can you take me home?"

Luo Luo said between sobs, tears flowing down profusely.

"Of course."

Lin Jing said while gently patting the little girl's head.

"Alright, don't cry now, Uncle is going to take you home."

"Mm-hmm..."

Luo Luo nodded, then gradually stopped sobbing.

At this point, the kind-hearted woman from earlier spoke.

"Are you a member of her family?"

"I'm her neighbor; this little girl lives next to my house."

"Oh ... well, hurry up and take her back to her family. It's a good thing this is in Fang Market; it would be terrible if it were somewhere else."

"Her family is too careless, letting a child wander about outside all alone. Such a lovely child—if she was lost, what would they do?"

Seeing that the middle-aged woman meant well, Lin Jing expressed his gratitude.

"Thank you, big sister. Rest assured, I'll take her home now, back to her family."

Then he took Luo Luo by the hand, ready to head back.

This time, probably because someone familiar was with her, she didn't seem so nervous.

Luo Luo waved her little hand, thanking the middle-aged woman.

"Thank you, Auntie, Luo Luo won't run off again."

"Good girl, go home with Uncle, and make sure a family member is with you next time you come out."

"Luo Luo remembers, goodbye Auntie."

.

Walking on the road, Lin Jing asked again.

"Luo Luo, where is your mother?"

Luo Luo replied, "My mother has gone to help someone with Alchemy."

"Why are you by yourself on the street?" Lin Jing was somewhat puzzled.

"Didn't your mother take you with her?"

"No."

The little girl sounded a bit dejected.

"It's not convenient for my mother when she goes out, so she left me at the inn, saying someone would bring me food."

"I was really bored staying at the inn, and when I saw lots of kids playing together in the street, I followed them."

"Playing around, I somehow ended up here, and then they all disappeared, and I couldn't find my way back."

As she spoke, she seemed to remember the incident again, and tears started falling to the ground pitter-patter.

"Uncle, I won't run around anymore."

"Don't cry, Luo Luo, Uncle will take you home."

Lin Jing did not have experience in comforting children and felt somewhat at a loss for a moment, only able to offer verbal consolation.

And just then, a hawker's cry on the street caught Lin Jing's attention.

"Candied hawthorn sticks..."

"Deliciously sweet and sour candied hawthorn sticks..."

Lin Jing immediately got an idea.

"Luo Luo, would you like some candied hawthorn sticks? Uncle will treat you to some."

The little girl's gaze immediately shifted to the hawthorn stick seller, forgetting to cry.

"Luo Luo doesn't want candied hawthorn sticks."

Although she said that, her gaze toward the candied hawthorn and the bobbing of her throat had already betrayed her.

Lin Jing smiled.

"Although children aren't easy to soothe, they sure are easy to deceive..."

Then he led Luo Luo toward the candied hawthorn vendor.

"Candied hawthorn seller, give me two skewers."

"Alright."

"Uncle wants to eat some—how about we each have one, and you can keep Uncle company while eating, is that okay?"

The little girl looked up at Lin Jing, saw his serious face, and then nodded.

"Okay."

Lin Jing took the candied hawthorn and handed one skewer straight to Luo Luo.

No longer hiding her desire, she took a bite, and it was sour and sweet.

"Uncle, the candied hawthorn is really tasty."

Lin Jing also took a bite, and memories suddenly flooded his mind.

"Yeah, it's still the same flavor, unchanged."

This might be the taste closest to home.

Alone in a foreign land, I stand as a stranger.

Many times, Lin Jing would unconsciously think of the past, wondering what he would be like now had he not transcended time...

"Uncle."

A voice interrupted his reverie.

"Luo Luo, what's the matter?"

"Uncle, are you missing home too?"

Lin Jing looked surprised, turning to the little girl.

"How did Luo Luo know?"

"Because when my mother misses home, she looks just like Uncle does."

Lin Jing asked, "Then why doesn't she go home?"

The little girl frowned.

"Every time I ask her, she won't tell me."

"Perhaps she also has her difficulties," Lin Jing said.

Then there was a silence between them, not knowing if the little girl understood...

After a while...

"Luo Luo, is the candied hawthorn tasty?"

"It's tasty."

"Then will you join Uncle again next time to eat some more, okay?"

"Okay..."

.

Returning to the alley and arriving in front of Luo Luo's house, the courtyard door was locked.

It seemed Luo Luo's mother hadn't come back yet.

So, Lin Jing took Luo Luo back to his own house first.

He told the little girl to play in the yard while he started browsing through the alchemy book, gaining a new understanding of the Alchemy path after today's conversation with Elder Yu.

Time flew swiftly, and soon the sun set in the west.

Smoke from cooking fires began to rise outside, and Lin Jing looked up. Perhaps because of the day's events, the little girl was very quiet, playing by herself.

And Luo Luo's mother still hadn't returned.

"It's time to cook."

Lin Jing said to himself as he watched the crimson sunset on the horizon.

"Luo Luo, you keep playing. Uncle will cook some food for you."

"Thank you, Uncle."

The little girl must have been hungry a while ago but was too shy to disturb him.

As the cooking smoke rose, Lin Jing busied himself in the kitchen.

Before long, a delicious meal was served on the table.

Of course, Lin Jing didn't possess such culinary skills—it was his predecessor's, and now that he had inherited everything from his predecessor, it naturally became his own.

"Uncle, your rice is really fragrant, even more so than the rice at my house."

"Fragrant, is it? Then eat a little more," Lin Jing said with a smile.

This was Medium Grade Spirit Rice; in the outskirts of Fang Market, there weren't many families that could afford Medium Grade Spirit Rice.

"And..." the little girl continued to speak.

"The food you make tastes much better than my mother's. Even though my mother is very pretty, her cooking is not tasty at all."

"By the way, Uncle, my mother is really beautiful, not at all like what you saw. She also told me not to tell anyone."

Lin Jing was shocked.

"I didn't expect to hear this secret."

"Uncle, you must not tell my mother, okay?"

"Don't worry, Luo Luo. I definitely won't tell anyone," he assured.

Chapter 17 - 17 Ning Yue's Unwilling Request

Chapter 17 Ning Yue's Unwilling Request

Not long after dinner, Luo Luo became sleepy.

Lin Jing carried her to bed, tucked in the blankets, and soon, faint snoring sounds began.

Lin Jing continued to the courtyard, waiting for Luo Luo's mother to return, ready to hand Luo Luo over to her.

Having lost her daughter, she must be anxious as well.

It was deep into the night when Lin Jing finally heard some noise from outside.

Lin Jing stood up and walked outside.

When he opened the courtyard door, he saw Luo Luo's mother, looking dispirited as if all her energy had been drained, slowly shuffling her feet forward.

"Ning Daoyou."

Lin Jing called out to her.

However, she seemed not to hear and continued walking.

"Ning Daoyou."

Lin Jing called out again, this time louder.

Only then did Luo Luo's mother react.

She turned back, with a blank expression and no light in her eyes, and said vaguely,

"I'm not in the mood right now, don't bother me."

After speaking, she turned back and walked toward her own house.

"Ning Daoyou, Luo Luo is at my place resting, please come and take her home."

"What did you say?"

Luo Luo's mother's voice suddenly rose, and then she appeared right in front of Lin Jing, her expression frantic, staring intently at him.

"Today I came across Luo Luo who had gotten lost on the streets, so I brought her back to my house, and she is now asleep there."

Before he finished speaking, Luo Luo's mother had vanished, reappearing within her own courtyard.

"That speed, even with a Godspeed Talisman, I couldn't match it."

Lin Jing felt a bit awkward, touched his nose, and then walked back to his own house.

Entering the room, he saw Luo Luo's mother, her eyes moist, caressing Luo Luo's little face with a look full of tenderness.

Lin Jing didn't disturb them; he just quietly watched.

After a long while,

She finally came to her senses and came before Lin Jing to give a bow.

"Ning Yue is very grateful to Daoyou for helping my daughter."

Lin Jing replied, "Ning Daoyou is too polite, it was just a small effort, nothing worth mentioning."

Ning Yue shook her head.

"Now, it's just Luo Luo and me left, her life is my life."

"Daoyou's great kindness, Ning Yue will surely repay."

"We are neighbors, it was but a small effort. Now that it's late, Daoyou should take Luo Luo home to rest as soon as possible."

Upon Lin Jing's reminder, Ning Yue came back to her senses.

She was in the home of a strange man.

At this thought, her cheeks turned slightly red.

"Daoyou, I've disturbed you. Tomorrow, I will bring Luo Luo over to thank you."

Having said this, she gently picked up the sleeping Luo Luo.

Then she walked outside, and upon reaching the door, Ning Yue turned around, gave Lin Jing a deep bow, and then disappeared into the night.

.

After Ning Yue left, Lin Jing closed the courtyard door and then returned to his room.

"Enter System Space."

Even before, Lin Jing had set the alarm range of System Space to the size of his courtyard; as long as anyone entered the courtyard, Lin Jing would be promptly alerted.

That's why he could enter System Space with peace of mind.

In System Space, Lin Jing didn't plan on cultivating for the time being.

The Alchemy Room was already open, and he hadn't tried it yet. This time, he intended to see what the Alchemy Room was like.

With his Five Elements Mixed Spirit Root's cultivation talent, advancing was undoubtedly much more difficult compared to others.

And so it was.

Even with such preferable conditions in System Space, with its rich spiritual energy, he had been cultivating for over three months now.

Over three months...

His cultivation had only increased by 8%.

He must consume Elixir Medicines...

Otherwise, when would he ever advance?

"Of course, if there were Elixir Medicines that could change the Spiritual Root, that'd be even better."

Lin Jing couldn't help but daydream.

Arriving at the Alchemy Room, Lin Jing steadied his emotions.

Afterward, he prepared all the necessary materials for Alchemy.

Then he began to practice alchemy.

Time flew by.

"Bang"

An explosion resonated throughout the entire Alchemy Room.

Unsurprisingly, Lin Jingshen had failed once again.

This time, he didn't rush to start the second batch; instead, he bowed his head, pondering the alchemy process he had just undergone.

Just like that, until an hour later, when his Spiritual Power had recovered, and his Divine Sense had fully returned.

Lin Jingshen began the second batch of Elixir Medicine.

This time, his luck seemed to be much better.

He succeeded.

Upon opening the lid of the furnace, there were still three Fasting Pills, all of Low Grade.

And his proficiency in Alchemy had increased by three points.

Perhaps this was a good sign.

Then, he continued to rest and prepare for the third batch.

However, the third batch was still not up to expectations.

It was another explosion.

Luckily, Lin Jingshen's Three-legged Copper Furnace was durable enough to remain intact despite so many explosions.

After three attempts at alchemy, Lin Jingshen left the System Space.

The next day

Ning Yue came to express her gratitude, bringing Luo Luo along with her.

"Uncle."

As soon as Luo Luo arrived, she ran over to grab Lin Jingshen's hand, swinging it back and forth.

Perhaps after yesterday's events, she felt particularly close to Lin Jingshen.

Ning Yue bent down, looked at Luo Luo, and said:

"Luo Luo, you stay here and play."

"Your Uncle Lin and I are going to discuss some matters inside the house."

"Remember, you must not run around again, alright?"

Upon hearing this, Luo Luo said, "Mother, don't worry. I'll just stay in this yard and won't go anywhere else."

Lin Jingshen was somewhat puzzled, what could it be that they needed to hide from Luo Luo?

.

Then the two of them entered the house, where Ning Yue got straight to the point.

"Lin Daoyou, you've been learning the Art of Alchemy recently, haven't you?"

She had often been practicing alchemy in her own room lately, causing quite a commotion. As an Alchemist herself, Ning Yue would certainly not be fooled.

"To be honest with my fellow Daoist Ning, indeed, I am studying the Art of Alchemy," Lin Jingshen replied.

"The path of learning alchemy is fraught with difficulties. Especially for beginners, who often fail to grasp the essence and take many detours, resulting in success in perhaps one in ten attempts."

"However, with guidance from others, it could equate to countless painstaking efforts on your own. You probably already know that," she suggested.

"Of course, I am aware of it."

Lin Jingshen nodded, recalling his conversation with Elder Yu on the matter.

"How about I teach you the Art of Alchemy?"

"I am now a Second-Grade Alchemist. With me guiding you, you could avoid many pitfalls."

"Are you serious, fellow Daoist?"

Upon hearing this, Lin Jingshen's heart skipped a beat, his eyes locked on Ning Yue.

Alchemists often pride themselves on their aloofness and would not easily teach others, except their own disciples.

Moreover, the Art of Alchemy is not something that can be simply pointed out for someone to learn; tutoring someone else requires a lot of effort.

Seeing her serious expression and earnest gaze, she didn't seem to be joking.

"Is there actually such good fortune? Lin Jingshen found it hard to believe."

"Is it because I helped Luo Luo?" he asked.

"That's part of it."

"In addition to that, I have a somewhat presumptuous request," Ning Yue continued, her cheeks blushing slightly, embarrassed as if she felt she was trying to repay kindness with a favor.

"I thought so, how could there be pies falling from the sky for no reason?" Lin Jingshen mused internally.

"Please go ahead, fellow Daoist Ning."

"It's like this. I have to go to someone's abode to help with alchemy during this period, and I will only return at night."

"Thus, I would like to ask Lin Daoyou to take care of Luo Luo during the day."

"You're aware of what happened yesterday..."

"I really can't rest assured leaving Luo Luo alone in the inn."

Having said that, Ning Yue looked at Lin Jingshen with hopeful eyes, waiting for his response.

"And here I thought it was something serious."

"Just this?"

"It's a small matter, no problem at all."

Chapter 18 - 18 Wei Zhengqing

Chapter 18 Wei Zhengqing

"

"Thank you, Lin Daoyou."

Ning Yue curtsied in gratitude.

"There is no need for such courtesy," Lin Jing said, wanting to reach out and raise her, but suddenly recalling the difference in their genders, his hand halted midair.

He then quickly recovered.

"Ning Daoyou, I also have a matter to request."

Ning Yue stood up and replied, "Please speak, Daoyou."

Lin Jing took out the Alchemy manual he had obtained from Manager Li and handed it to Ning Yue, saying,

"Ning Daoyou, this manual on pill concoction was acquired by chance, but during the process of making Elixir Medicine, I discovered that this manual is not complete; it contains many errors and omissions."

"Could you please help me see if this manual can still be pursued for study?"

"Is this the manual you are currently studying?" Ning Yue took the manual but did not open it to look through.

"Yes," Lin Jing answered.

"The manual is the foundation that each Alchemist relies upon. Do you trust me so much?" Ning Yue looked at Lin Jing earnestly.

"Naturally, since Ning Daoyou has decided to teach me the Alchemy Technique, what use is there for me to keep this incomplete manual?"

On hearing this, Ning Yue found the reasoning sound and without further words, she started to flip through the manual.

As she turned the pages faster, her brows furrowed deeper and deeper.

In just the time it took to finish a cup of tea, she had looked through it completely.

"Lin Daoyou," Ning Yue said with her brows knitted tightly.

"Please speak, Ning Daoyou. Can this manual be continued?"

Lin Jing looked at Ning Yue, waiting for her response.

"I just had a quick look, and there are countless mistakes in this Alchemy manual of Lin Daoyou's."

"The failure rate of your Alchemy must be guite high, I presume."

Lin Jing nodded and said,

"Just as Ning Daoyou has said, my success rate in Alchemy is indeed low, barely one in ten."

"In that case, Daoyou should stop practicing Alchemy for the time being. I will find time to correct this manual for you, and once you study the new manual, then you can resume Alchemy."

"Thank you, Ning Daoyou."

Lin Jing had been worrying about the manual, and now that Ning Yue had offered to correct it, it exactly matched his wishes; how could he possibly refuse?

So, Lin Jing quickly expressed his gratitude.

Afterward, the two walked out of the house.

Seeing them come out, Luo Luo quickly went up to greet them.

"Mother. Uncle Lin."

Ning Yue walked over and then crouched down to straighten Luo Luo's clothes, after which she touched Luo Luo's head and said,

"Luo Luo, your mother will be busy for a while, so during the daytime, I'll leave you with Uncle Lin to take care of, alright?"

Luo Luo first looked at Ning Yue, then turned to look at Lin Jing, who was smiling.

"Okay..."

"I know Mother is busy, and I will be very good staying with Uncle Lin. I definitely won't cause any trouble for Mother."

Luo Luo's understanding nearly brought tears to Ning Yue's eyes.

But if she did not go to help others with Alchemy, what else could she and her daughter rely on to survive?

Ning Yue stood up, took out a stack of books from her Storage Bag, and handed them to Lin Jing.

"Lin Daoyou, these books I have collected are some Spirit Grass and Demonic Beasts pictorials, along with various anecdotes. Luo Luo loves these books; she becomes completely engrossed in them and won't disturb you."

"Among them, there are also a few of my own notes on Alchemy insights. You may look at them first. When I have some free time, I will help you repair the manual."

"Alchemy insights?"

Aren't Alchemy insights incredibly precious to every Alchemist?

She was even willing to give her Alchemy insights; it seemed that Ning Yue truly intended to teach him.

Thereafter, Ning Yue departed.

The courtyard was left with only Lin Jing and Luo Luo.

"Now that I can't practice Alchemy, and it's impossible to cultivate in this place where the Spiritual Energy is so scarce..."

"Luo Luo."

"What is it, Uncle?"

Luo Luo lifted her little face, looking up at Lin Jing.

"Do you want to go out and play?" Lin Jing rubbed her little head.

"I do..."

It seemed as if she remembered the incident from yesterday, and Luo Luo hesitated.

"But I can't worry my mother."

"It's fine, follow Uncle, Uncle will protect you, so naturally you won't be afraid."

"When we get to the street, I'll also buy you some sugar-coated hawthorns, how does that sound?"

Now that he thought about it, since coming here, apart from exploring to understand the commerce chamber, he hadn't really taken a good stroll through Fang Market.

With nothing pressing at the moment, it was the perfect time to go out and truly experience the customs of this different world.

"Good"

Luo Luo happily agreed.

After all, children are naturally active and don't like to stay in one place for a long time.

The two of them left the house together, and just as they stepped out of the courtyard, they saw the neighbor's door across from them wide open.

Luo Luo ran over with a 'thud thud thud'.

"Uncle Wei."

Lin Jing quickly followed.

As they reached the entrance, the little girl peeked inside.

"Uncle Wei, are you at home?"

A moment later, a young man dressed in black clothes came out.

His eyes were icy, his expression cold; he didn't seem very approachable.

Seeing this person emerge, Luo Luo approached and said:

"Uncle Wei, I haven't seen you in such a long time, where have you been these days?"

"Uncle Wei had some matters to attend to and left for a while."

The black-clothed young man looked at Luo Luo, his icy gaze tinged with a hint of gentleness.

Then he raised his head, and when he looked at Lin Jing again, his eyes were sharp and cold, as if he was appraising prey.

"Uncle Wei, this is Uncle Lin, he moved here some time ago."

"Why are you with him?" the black-clothed young man asked, looking at Luo Luo.

"My mother has been quite busy recently, so she temporarily entrusted me to Uncle Lin's care," said Luo Luo.

"Uncle Lin is a really good person, he even saved Luo Luo yesterday."

"Uncle Wei, you don't know, but yesterday, I was in the inn..."

The little girl recounted the previous day's events in detail to the black-clothed young man.

After listening to her story, the black-clothed young man's gaze softened slightly as he turned back to Lin Jing.

"Wei Zhengqing, a friend of Luo Luo's father."

The black-clothed young man introduced himself, clearly having given his approval to the young man before him.

"Lin Jing."

Wei Zhengqing nodded.

"Uncle Wei, we are going to browse around Fang Market, do you want to come with us?"

Wei Zhengqing shook his head and said to Luo Luo.

"Luo Luo, Uncle Wei still has things to do. You two go ahead and have fun, just remember not to be out too late, you can't make your mother worry."

"Mhmm, Luo Luo remembers, I won't let Mother worry."

Afterward, Wei Zhengging spoke to Lin Jing.

"Brother Lin, it's fine to wander in Fang Market, but make sure not to leave it. The Demonic Beasts' rampage has been getting more severe, even starting to attack the outskirts of Fang Market."

"The Demonic Beasts' rampage hasn't subsided yet?"

Lin Jing was surprised, having heard about the Demonic Beasts' rampage when he first moved here.

He had thought things had been so quiet lately that the rampage had already settled down.

"Not yet, Fang Market has now started to dispatch more patrols, so for the time being there isn't much of a problem."

"This rampage has indeed lasted a bit longer than usual, hopefully, it will subside in a while."

Although Wei Zhengqing said this, he wasn't certain himself; this rampage of the Demonic Beasts was indeed peculiar.

As Wei Zhengqing still had matters to handle, the two did not stay much longer and left.

Walking on the street, it was still bustling with crowds, continuous shouts from sellers filled the air, and everyone seemed oblivious to the Demonic Beasts' rampage—as if it had become part of their usual life.

After all, Fang Market was located right next to the Night Mist Mountain Range.

Chapter 19: Encountering Zhang Sen

The Night Mist Mountain Range was extremely famous.

It was due to its wealth of resources, with rumors saying that even an average Spirit Grass from deep within the Night Mist Mountain Range could sell for tens of thousands of Spirit Stones.

Although there were many Demonic Beasts inside, it still couldn't stop people from dreaming of overnight riches.

Most people still had some self-awareness.

How easy was it to enter the deep regions of the Night Mist Mountain Range?

Of course, on the outskirts of the Night Mist Mountain Range, many adventurers chose to make their living.

Occasionally harvesting some Spirit Grass or hunting Demonic Beasts to sell their Demonic Beast Inner Cores could provide a decent living.

If it weren't for the abundance of resources near the Night Mist Mountain Range, Nanshan Market would not be of its current scale.

Therefore, the beast tides of the Night Mist Mountain Range had become something everyone was accustomed to.

After all, the Night Mist Mountain Range was huge, and with hordes of Demonic Beasts inside, it was only natural for groups of them to emerge in search of food, leading to beast tides now and then.

On average, Nanshan Market faced a beast tide every few years, so they were no longer surprised by them.

This time, they hadn't walked far before running into the same vendor selling candied hawthorns as last time.

So, each holding a skewer, the two strolled down the street.

They kept wandering until noon when Lin Jing took Luo Luo to a restaurant for lunch.

Afterwards, they wandered around aimlessly for a while and, finding it uninteresting, decided to head home.

Walking along, Lin Jing suddenly heard a familiar voice.

"My luck is truly bad today; I've lost everything."

"Brother, you really shouldn't have bet on that last one."

"What's the use of saying that now? Why didn't you dissuade me back then?"

"Sigh..."

A heavy sigh followed.

The two people in this conversation turned out to be the brothers Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin.

"Listening to them, they must have gone gambling," Lin Jing said with a frown. He had previously had a good impression of Zhang Sen but hadn't expected him to gamble.

If that were the case, it was very likely that everything Luo Luo had said before was true.

At this moment, Zhang Sen also noticed them, his eyes lit up, and he walked over.

"Brother Lin," he called out from a distance.

Luo Luo, hearing the voice, frowned and quickly hid behind Lin Jing, attempting to avoid someone she disliked.

Unfortunately, Zhang Sen had already seen her,

"Luo Luo is here too. Why don't you say hello to your uncle?" he asked.

However, the young girl ignored him.

Zhang Sen didn't mind.

"Brother Lin, when did Luo Luo become so close to you? It seems the neighborhood relationship between your two families has developed quite nicely," he said, winking at Lin Jing insinuatingly.

"Brother Zhang, you're thinking too much. Ning Yue had something to attend to temporarily, so I'm just looking after Luo Luo," Lin Jing clarified.

"I understand, I understand."

"Ning Yue really trusts you to take care of Luo Luo. It seems the relationship between Brother Lin and Ning Yue has become quite extraordinary," Zhang Sen continued, apparently misunderstanding Lin Jing's words.

"Although Ning Yue might not be very good-looking, she's thrifty and a fine woman."

"Brother Lin, when you hold the wedding banquet, let me know. I'll definitely come to offer my congratulations," Zhang Sen said.

"You bad person, you're talking nonsense..." Luo Luo, who had been hiding behind Lin Jing, now stood out, her face flushed red with indignation at the rebuttal.

She was clearly angered, aware of what a wedding banquet implied.

"Okay, okay..."

"I'm the bad person; I'm talking nonsense. Luo Luo, don't be angry," Zhang Sen quickly tried to appease her.

He certainly didn't dare to upset the little Miss. If she got angry and complained to Ning Yue, he wouldn't be able to handle the consequences.

"Brother Zhang, is there anything else? If not, we'll be heading back," Lin Jing said, clearly unhappy.

But Zhang Sen seemed not to hear the displeasure.

"Brother Lin, it's an emergency in the jianghu..." he said.

"Could you lend me a few more Spirit Stones? I'll pay back the one I borrowed last time in a few days."

Lin Jing was extremely displeased, having agreed to lend the stones for only a few days, yet at this point, they had still not been returned, and now another loan was being requested. He frowned and said,

"Brother Zhang, I'm sorry, but I'm not in a position to lend you any Spirit Stones right now"

"Is that so," Zhang Sen scratched his head.

"Well, alright then. Sorry to trouble you, Brother Lin. We'll think of some other way."

Zhang Sen did not persist, mindful that he had yet to repay the previously borrowed Spirit Stones.

"Brother Lin, I'll take my leave."

Having said that, he left with Zhang Lin.

"Big brother, I've heard that the Demonic Beasts are in an uproar. Occasionally, some of them are found alone near the Fang Market. How about we go hunt some? They're quite valuable. If we can kill just one, we wouldn't have to worry anymore."

"Hunting Demonic Beasts, huh? Let me think about it..."

As they talked, the two brothers gradually walked away, but Lin Jing had already stopped paying attention to them.

"Let's go, we're heading home."

Lin Jing held Luo Luo's small hand.

"Humph..."

Luo Luo looked at the departing duo and huffed, clearly still upset.

When they got home, Lin Jing gave Luo Luo a book to read while he himself started reading Ning Yue's Alchemy insights.

It was now October, the deep autumn weather was perfect for them.

They didn't go inside the house; instead, they sat under the shade of a tree by a stone table in the courtyard—the two of them, young and old, each engrossed in a book...

The withering autumn wind had no effect on them.

Sometimes, time seemed to slip away stealthily. When Lin Jing looked up again, it was already time to make dinner.

Seeing Luo Luo, who had fallen asleep on the table at some point, Lin Jing couldn't help but chuckle.

He then picked her up, laid her on the bed inside the house, and went on to start a fire for cooking.

As soon as the meal was ready, Luo Luo came out, her eyes still groggy.

"Uncle, is dinner ready?" she asked.

The little foodie had woken up without him noticing, but judging by her sleepy eyes, it must have been recent.

"Luo Luo, you're awake. Come wash your face; it's time to eat."

"Okay."

Just then,

"Knock, knock, knock." Someone was at the door.

"Daoist Ning."

Lin Jing opened the door to find Ning Yue returning.

"You're back just in time; dinner's ready. Come join us."

"Mother!" Luo Luo ran over and threw herself into Ning Yue's arms.

"Did you fall asleep here at Uncle Lin's again?" Ning Yue's face sterned as she scolded, seeing Luo Luo's drowsy face.

"I was reading in the afternoon and somehow fell asleep. Mother, Uncle Lin has cooked dinner; let's eat here together."

"How could we impose on your Uncle Lin again? Let's go back home, and I'll cook for you."

Luo Luo's face immediately fell; ever since tasting Lin Jing's cooking, the thought of her mother's...

She decided she had to find a way to keep her mother here.

"Mother..."

Luo Luo acted coquettishly, swaying Ning Yue's hand back and forth.

"Uncle Lin's cooking is delicious; just try it."

"Daoist Ning, Luo Luo didn't eat much at noon. She must be hungry by now. If you go back and start cooking now, it will be late by the time you finish."

"Besides, I made enough food for you as well. Didn't you say you wanted to teach me the Alchemy Technique? We can talk while we eat."

"Otherwise, it would be a waste of time. By the time I learn it, who knows when it will be."

"Yes, Mother, see, I'm hungry."

Saying this, Luo Luo patted her own stomach.

Ning Yue, unwilling to be a burden to Lin Jing and already feeling it was hard to ask such favor of him to look after Luo Luo, hesitated...

She finally sighed and agreed.

"Alright."

Chapter 20 - 20 Repair of the Alchemy Book Completed

Chapter 20 Repair of the Alchemy Book Completed

You all sit first, I'll go get the dishes out.

Lin Jing said, walking toward the kitchen, and soon came out with the dishes in hand.

Immediately after, the three of them sat around the stone table. Lin Jing served the rice, and Luo Luo sensibly placed the first bowl in front of Ning Yue.

"Mother, here."

Ning Yue, with a smile on her face, took the bowl.

"Mom, the food Uncle Lin makes is really delicious. Try it and see."

"Okay."

Ning Yue nodded and picked up a piece of green vegetable to taste.

Instantly, the delicious flavor filled her mouth. Ning Yue's eyes lit up, and she took another piece of egg, silky and tender, still incredibly tasty...

"Mom, how is it? Uncle Lin's cooking is much better than yours, right..."

Luo Luo, unintentionally, spoke her mind.

Upon realizing what she said, she quickly covered her mouth and then buried her head in her bowl.

Ning Yue shot her a glance.

However, she didn't say anything, as it was evident that her own cooking skills were worlds apart from Lin Jing's.

She knew herself well and naturally didn't blame Luo Luo.

"Lin Daoyou, I didn't expect your cooking skills to be so good."

Ning Yue praised him during the meal.

"My mother passed away when I was young and my father was always busy, so I had to develop these cooking skills."

Ning Yue hadn't anticipated that this would touch upon Lin Jing's family history, and she quickly apologized.

"I'm sorry, Lin Daoyou."

"It's fine, it's all in the past."

Afterward, there was a pause of silence...

"Ning Daoyou, why do you need to go to someone else's home to practice alchemy?"

Lin Jing broke the silence first in an attempt to change the subject.

"That family is rather special. They grow their own Spirit Grass and want to turn all the harvested Spirit Grass into Elixir Medicine in response to the recent beast tide."

"They don't want to cooperate with other powers and share the benefits, so they decided to hire Alchemists to come and process the Spirit Grass into Elixir Medicine."

"I see." said Lin Jing.

"Daoyou, I looked at your alchemy book during my free time today and made some amendments, though due to time constraints, I haven't made many changes."

"I estimate that it will take over half a month to complete all the revisions."

"You have worked hard, Ning Daoyou." Lin Jing expressed his gratitude.

"Mom, are you going to teach Uncle Lin alchemy? Didn't you say Grandfather's Alchemy Technique should not be readily passed on to others?"

At this, Ning Yue glared at Luo Luo.

"Eat your meal, don't interrupt adults when they are talking."

"Oh..."

Under Ning Yue's stern gaze, Luo Luo bowed her head and shoveled rice into her mouth, seemingly channeling her dissatisfaction into the food.

Then, Ning Yue resumed discussing alchemy with Lin Jing...

The sunset painted the sky, and beneath the trees, two adults and one child sat at the table, enjoying their dinner.

If a stranger were to see this, they would certainly envy this seemingly blissful family...

Perhaps because Lin Jing's cooking was too delicious, Ning Yue ate two more bowls today than usual.

After dinner, as the evening darkened, Ning Yue did not leave but instead began to explain the Alchemy Technique to Lin Jing.

Luo Luo was also there, but soon found it boring and ran off to count stars.

The two continued talking until it was nearly Zi Time, with Luo Luo nearly unable to keep her eyes open, before they both left.

And Lin Jing, after their departure, did not go to the System Space either.

The System Space was different from the outside world; the Spirit Rice and Seven-Star Grass inside didn't require any care from him.

And now, Ning Yue was helping repair the pill book for Lin Jing, so alchemy could wait until the book was fully restored.

Therefore, there was no need to waste entry time into the System Space; it was entirely possible to accumulate the time instead.

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The following days continued in this fashion.

In the mornings, Ning Yue would bring Luo Luo over and then go practice alchemy.

In the evenings, she would return to explain alchemy knowledge to Lin Jing, each time staying until late at night before leaving.

And the restoration of the pill book was nearing completion.

Lin Jing and Luo Luo spent most of their time at home, though of course, they occasionally went out for a stroll.

During this time, they only saw Wei Zhengqing twice; he seemed to be quite busy as well and often went out.

As for the Zhang siblings, who knew what they were up to during this period—they were frequently seen heading out.

Though they occasionally crossed paths and exchanged greetings, the twins always excused themselves, claiming to be busy and never brought up the matter of returning the Spirit Stones.

However, it was only five Spirit Stones; Lin Jing didn't really care about it.

If this had been a few months earlier, tsk tsk...

Five Spirit Stones would have been unimaginable.

People really do change...

Apart from them, Ning Yue had been eating at Lin Jing's place every day during this period and had visibly filled out a bit, giving her a more charming appearance.

Nevertheless, Ning Yue mentioned that she should be able to finish repairing the pill book by tomorrow, and by then, 70 hours had already accumulated in the System Space.

Next, they just had to wait for the restoration of the pill book...

That day, Ning Yue came back with good news: the pill book was finally repaired.

At the dinner table, Ning Yue handed the repaired pill book to Lin Jing.

"I've made some revisions to the contents and supplemented some of the missing parts; it should be fine now," she said.

"If you encounter any problems while practicing alchemy, tell me in time, and I will offer you solutions," she added.

"Sure," Lin Jing answered.

Today, they wrapped up quite early. After more than half a month of instruction, most of what needed to be conveyed had been covered.

The most critical element of alchemy was still experimentation; only through continuous experimentation could one gradually correct mistakes.

In the evening, Lin Jing, alone, perused the newly repaired pill book. Areas that were previously obscure were now clear to him.

Even some of his previous thoughts were mentioned in the book.

That night, he still didn't practice alchemy but went to bed early instead.

He needed to reread the pill book and understand its contents.

Perhaps because of the time spent listening to Ning Yue's explanations, it only took three days for Lin Jing to memorize the content of the pill book and reach a level of thorough understanding.

Only on this evening did Lin Jing enter the System Space again.

Arriving at the Alchemy Room, Lin Jing prepared the materials and began his first attempt at refinement.

Lighting the fire, he added the Spirit Grass in batches and covered the Pill Furnace.

Lin Jing's movements were fluid and executed in one smooth motion.

He then carefully controlled the flame...

After half an hour, the fragrance wafted through the air, and Lin Jing was certain the pill would be a success.

Indeed

Before long, a system prompt appeared.

"Elixir Medicine refinement successful, Alchemy proficiency +6"

He lifted the lid of the furnace and took out the Elixir, inspecting it in his hand.

The Medium Grade Fasting Pill looked smoother than the previous ones.

Indeed

The problems with the previous pill book had indeed been significant. Now, after the pill book had been repaired, the first refinement yielded a Medium Grade Elixir, and there were three of them.

Then, the Pure Elixir would certainly be within reach soon.