

IMMORTALITY CULTIVATION: I FARM IN THE SYSTEM SPACE

Chapter 141: In the Blink of an Eye, Half a Year

Chapter 141: In the Blink of an Eye, Half a Year

Lin Jing couldn't help but cry and laugh at the same time:

"Okay..."

At this moment, Li Qingqing, who was standing to the side, sized up Lin Jing and then turned her head to ask Huang Qingling:

"Does Lin Daoyou also cook?"

"Of course..." Huang Qingling opened her mouth as if it were obvious.

"Lin Daoyou, how are his cooking skills?" Li Qingqing asked.

"Well, let's just say, he's quite on par with the head chefs of the Drunken Immortal Pavilion..."

"Really?"

"Then one of these days, I must try Brother Lin's skills," Li Tangyu said.

"Count me in!" Zhang Yuan also chimed in at that moment.

"Qing Ling Daoyou is exaggerating. Although my cooking is passable, it's not comparable to the chefs of the Drunken Immortal Pavilion," Lin Jing modestly claimed.

"Talk is cheap. In a few days, you all come over, and let him show off his skills..."

Huang Qingling promptly decided.

"Okay..." the group responded.

.....

After the banquet ended, everyone dispersed.

Lin Jing and Huang Qingling said goodbye to Li Tangyu and the other three and went back as well.

The day after returning, Elder Yu started his seclusion.

Since he needed a long time for this seclusion, he also had some matters to discuss with Lin Jing before he began.

In the days following Elder Yu's seclusion, members from both the Zhang Family and the Liu Clan underwent their Tribulations.

This time, perhaps learning from Li Family's lesson, both families were well-prepared, and both individuals succeeded in their Tribulations.

As for Fang Market, no one underwent Tribulation there. It was said that they had already sent the Cultivation True Elixir away.

The five Cultivation True Elixirs refined by Elder Master Li this time allowed three people to break through to the Golden Core Stage.

In Fang Market, this added three Golden Core Immortals.

For a while, Fang Market once again bustled with excitement.

Next...

After the hustle, days returned to their tranquil state.

.....

Time passed in a whirl, and before they knew it, more than half a year had gone by.

By the end of October, the weather was cool and refreshing.

However, the nighttime weather was already cold enough to chill the bones.

On this day...

Lin Jing gathered with several others in his courtyard.

They were Huang Qingling and the siblings Li Tangyu and Zhang Yuan, among others.

Lin Jing was busy in the kitchen at the time, while Li Tangyu and Zhang Yuan were helping.

Meanwhile, Huang Qingling and Li Qingqing were chatting leisurely in the courtyard.

It was then that Li Tangyu suddenly spoke up:

"Brother Zhang, I heard that your uncle has stabilized his cultivation and emerged from seclusion?"

What Li Tangyu referred to was naturally the Zhang Family's newly ascended Golden Core and also one of Zhang Yuan's uncles.

"Mm, he just came out yesterday..." Zhang Yuan replied.

"It seems, if nothing unexpected occurs, Elder Yu should be exiting seclusion soon too..." Li Tangyu then turned to Lin Jing and said.

"Should be, and Elder Bai should be returning soon from his trip as well," Lin Jing replied.

"Oh, by the way, Brother Li..."

"I heard that you refined a batch of third-grade Elixir Medicine yesterday. How did it go?" Lin Jing turned his head and asked Li Tangyu.

Li Tangyu replied, "Not too bad, I managed a couple of Medium Grade ones at best."

After speaking, Li Tangyu sighed:

"Sigh..."

"The Spirit Plants needed to refine third-grade Elixir Medicines are too hard to find; this furnace was only the third one I've refined since advancing to a third-grade Alchemist."

"If I had the chance to refine a few more times and get more practice, I should be able to produce Superior grade Elixir Medicine."

Finding the Spirit Plants for third-grade Elixir Medicines indeed proved challenging, and even Li Tangyu, a scion of an Alchemy Dao family, rarely had the opportunity to refine third-grade Elixir Medicines.

Let alone Lin Jing.

Since Lin Jing became a third-grade Alchemist half a year ago, thanks to his proficiency.

Until now, he had not yet refined even one furnace of third-grade Elixir Medicine.

The most important reason is that the materials are hard to come by.

For Li Tangyu, Lin Jing was very envious. Born into an alchemic family, he could obtain those rare spirit plants with the help of his clan.

Whereas Lin Jing could only fend for himself.

"Are you done yet? We're starving..."

By now, Huang Qingling and Li Qingqing, who had been in the courtyard, came to the kitchen door and urged them on.

Li Tangyu looked up at the two and teased them with a smile,

"You two don't help at all, yet you have the nerve to rush us without feeling guilty?"

"Brother, don't you want to cook a delicious meal for your dearest sister..."

Having said that, Li Qingqing put on a fragile look and blinked at Li Tangyu.

Then, she turned her head towards Huang Qingling.

Huang Qingling caught on and spoke directly,

"Tang Yu..."

Before Huang Qingling finished speaking, Li Tangyu interrupted her.

"Alright..."

"No more words, I shouldn't have spoken. The two young misses, please go wait."

Li Tangyu seemed weary of the two, while Lin Jing and Zhang Yuan exchanged glances but kept a tacit silence.

At that moment, silence was the wisest decision.

Soon after, the preparations were finished, and the food was served. Everyone sat down to eat together.

"It smells so good..."

Upon smelling the aroma of the dishes, Li Qingqing's appetite was instantly aroused.

"Which dish did my brother make? I want to try that first."

"This vegetable and pork fish soup was made by him," Lin Jing said.

"Good... Let me try..."

"Lin Jing, have the Detoxification Elixir ready, just in case I accidentally poison myself. Please save me in time, Brother Lin Jing..." Li Qingqing's performance was quite exaggerated.

Since Li Qingqing was the youngest, she started calling Lin Jing "brother" after they became familiar with each other.

To differentiate from Li Tangyu, she also added Lin Jing's name, thus it became the address she used now.

Li Tangyu's face was lined with frustration.

Watching his mischievous sister, he gripped his chopsticks a bit tighter, almost ready to rap them on Li Qingqing's head next.

Li Qingqing took a spoon, scooped up some of the vegetable and pork fish soup into her bowl, picked up a slice of fish, and put it in her mouth.

"Not bad at all; my brother's cooking has improved. You all should try too..."

After speaking, she scooped soup into bowls for the others.

Lin Jing also picked up a piece of fish and tasted it.

"Hmm..."

"The fish is fresh, and the soup is delightful... Indeed, it's quite good..."

Huang Qingling and Zhang Yuan also nodded in agreement.

Just as Li Tangyu was smiling proudly to himself,

A remark from Huang Qingling made Li Tangyu's smile freeze instantly on his face.

"If you work a little harder, you might reach half the level of Lin Jing..."

"Yes, yes... I was about to say that..."

Li Qingqing nodded repeatedly, expressing her agreement.

Actually...

Li Tangyu's cooking skills were quite good, and he had at least eighty percent of Lin Jing's proficiency.

And this vegetable and pork fish soup was Li Tangyu's specialty, which he doubted even Lin Jing could surpass.

However...

Huang Qingling and Li Qingqing were just used to teasing and belittling Li Tangyu.

Outside the home, Li Tangyu was always polite and gentlemanly.

Not only was he handsome, but he also possessed cultivation at the Foundation Establishment Stage.

Moreover...

He was the youngest third-grade alchemist in Fang Market.

Many daughters from families within the market had feelings for him.

But Huang Qingling felt nothing towards him.

She and Li Qingqing spent their days mocking and belittling him for fun.

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Chapter 142: Striking at Foundation Establishment

Li Tangyu also knew that it was pointless to reason with them, so he quickly changed the subject:

“Brother Lin, how is your recent progress in making second rank elixir medicines? Do you have any questions or anything that confuses you?”

Li Qingqing then eagerly spoke up:

“Yes, Brother Lin Jing...”

“If there’s anything you don’t understand, you can ask my brother. Although he isn’t as good at cooking as you are, his alchemy skills are still very impressive...”

Upon hearing his sister’s praise, Li Tangyu immediately felt a sense of contentment.

Lin Jing clasped his fist and said:

“Thank you for your concern, Brother Li.”

“I’ve only recently become a second-grade alchemist, and so far, it’s been going well. I haven’t encountered any problems yet, but if I do, I will seek advice from Brother Li at that time.”

Two months earlier...

Lin Jing felt that the time was right, and hence he elevated his hidden cultivation to the seventh level of Qi Refinement.

At the same time...

He also revealed some of his alchemy skills, becoming a second -grade alchemist.

After all, if he continued to hide his abilities, it wouldn’t be good. Elde always been optimistic about him, believing in his talent for alchemy.

Now, after so much time had passed, it would be unreasonable for him not to advance.

Upon becoming a second-grade alchemist, he naturally became an official alchemist under the Yuebaolou, and his alchemy tasks were upgraded to making second rank elixirs.

However...

He had only been a second-grade alchemist for a short while.

Therefore, with special permission from Elder Bai, the number of elixir medicines he needed to turn in was less than others.

“Hmm, good...”

“If there’s anything you don’t understand, feel free to come and ask me,” said Li Tangyu.

Afterwards, the group shifted the topic again and began to talk about other things.

At one point, they even mentioned Liu Yiyuan, remarking that they hadn’t seen him for a long time and he had stopped pestering Huang Qingling.

Since the last time at the underworld market, Lin Jing had also not seen Liu Yiyuan for quite a while; he seemed to have disappeared.

Soon..

After a full meal and pleasant conversation, as night deepened, everyone bid farewell to Lin Jing and went their separate ways.

After Lin Jing saw them off...

He came back, cleaned the remaining mess on the table, put everything back in the kitchen, and then entered the System Space.

Inside the System Space, the Spirit Fields were still lush with Spirit Plants.

The last batch of Spirit Plants had already been harvested, earning another batch of Harvest Points, and the current batch had only recently been planted, with all being only seedlings.

Since third-grade Spirit Plants were hard to find, Lin Jing had to continue planting these second-grade Spirit Grasses in the space.

During this period, he had sold elixir medicines at the underworld market a few times, and had managed to save up some Spirit Stones, slowly starting to become prosperous.

However, during one visit to the underworld market, he encountered a cultivator selling a third -grade Spirit Plant that had just been picked and still had its roots.

Without any hesitation, Lin Jing purchased it.

That third -grade Spirit Plant was an auxiliary ingredient for making the Cultivation True Elixir, but it wasn’t cheap; just buying that one plant cost Lin Jing more than half of his Spirit Stones.

Nevertheless, acquiring that Spirit Plant was worth it for Lin Jing.

In the meantime, Lin Jing's cultivation had also been steadily rising. Over four months ago, he had already crossed the ninth level of Qi Refinement, reaching the peak of Qi Refinement.

Now, his cultivation was overflowing, nearing the breakthrough point.

He entered the System Space this time to break through to the Foundation Establishment Stage.

Moreover, as soon as he had reached the peak of Qi Refinement, he started preparing the Foundation Building Elixir.

This time, for his Foundation Establishment, he directly prepared five flawless Foundation Building Elixirs. With these, even with his Five Elements Mixed Spirit Root, he should hopefully be able to break through.

Following that, Lin Jing went to the Alchemy Room.

As soon as he stepped into the Alchemy Room, Lin Jing felt that his Divine Sense had grown much stronger and become more substantial, and even the slight tipsiness from the alcohol vanished.

With the strengthening effect of the Alchemy Room on his Divine Sense, his breakthrough would be a little easier.

Upon entering the Alchemy Room, Lin Jing didn't rush to make his breakthrough but chose to sit cross-legged first, restoring his condition.

This meditation took Lin Jing a full hour.

An hour later, Lin Jing opened his eyes, feeling that his condition had completely recovered.

Next...

He reached into his Storage Bag and pulled out five Pure Jade Boxes, which contained the Foundation Building Elixirs he had prepared.

Then, Lin Jing opened one of the Pure Jade Boxes, and instantly a fragrance filled the Alchemy Room.

Lin Jing picked up the Foundation Building Elixir inside and placed it directly into his mouth.

No sooner had the Elixir entered his mouth than it turned into a warm stream, flowing into his stomach, and then...

With a “boom”...

The vast Spiritual Power contained within the Elixir exploded within Lin Jing’s body.

Lin Jing hurriedly collected his thoughts, fully operating the Immortal Dao Five Elements Art to dissipate that huge amount of Spiritual Power.

One quarter of an hour...

Two quarters of an hour...

Time slowly passed...

Fine beads of sweat started to form on Lin Jing’s forehead.

Clearly, Lin Jing’s breakthrough was not an easy task.

After all, he had a Five Elements Mixed Spirit Root, which made his breakthrough several times more difficult than others.

Especially at the critical juncture of advancing to the next realm, it was particularly tough.

If he didn’t have so many pure Foundation Building Elixirs, he might have needed decades, even a hundred years of accumulation, to have a slim chance of breakthrough.

Just like the Zhang Family Patriarch, other Golden Core Immortals were generally in their two or three hundreds of age.

Yet, he was already over five hundred years old, nearing his life’s limit, and still only at the mid Golden Core stage.

And this was with relatively good resources and luck.

The difficulty of a Five Elements Mixed Spirit Root breaking through is evident.

Before long, more than two hours had passed, and Lin Jing felt he still hadn’t reached the threshold for a breakthrough.

He then opened his eyes once more.

He opened the two Pure Jade Boxes he had set aside...

This time, he directly consumed two pure Foundation Building Elixirs.

As the liquid flowed down his throat into his lower abdomen, the mighty Spiritual Power erupted once again; this time, the explosion was even more intense, and Lin Jing felt like he was almost burst by that instantaneous force.

After the explosion of Spiritual Power, Lin Jing closed his eyes and continued to refine the liquid with all his heart and effort.

Time went by slowly...

Lin Jing, fully committed to his breakthrough, finally felt the bottleneck, like a towering mountain lying before him.

At this moment, there was still a lot of Spiritual Power generated from the two pure Foundation Building Elixirs he had refined, but Lin Jing didn't rush to challenge the bottleneck of the new realm. Instead, he continued refining...

Another hour passed, the medicinal power was completely refined, and Lin Jing operated the Immortal Dao Five Elements Art, gathering all the Spiritual Power in his body to strike at that bottleneck.

Once, without any movement...

Twice, there was some reaction...

Thrice, the bottleneck finally showed signs of loosening.

And this, was already Lin Jing's limit, it was evident...

The Spiritual Power wasn't enough...

This was the difficulty of breaking through with a Five Elements Mixed Spirit Root; even three pure Foundation Building Elixirs hadn't achieved a successful breakthrough.

He couldn't help but admire the Zhang Family Patriarch, wondering how he had managed to break through in the past.

That process must have been incredibly arduous as well....

Chapter 143: Successful Foundation Establishment

Then, Lin Jing opened his eyes again.

He stuffed the remaining two Pure Foundation Building Elixirs into his mouth in one go...

This time, Lin Jing didn't believe he could still fail to break through that bottleneck.

After almost four hours of refining, Spiritual Energy was everywhere within Lin Jing's body, and he felt as if he was about to burst from it.

Following that, Lin Jing circulated his Cultivation Technique, and launched a direct assault.

"Boom"

A mighty surge of Spiritual Power broke through, creating many cracks in the calm surface, and Lin Jing felt the Foundation Establishment Stage was right before his eyes.

And then, he continued to attack...

"Boom"

"Crack"

As if something had shattered, the obstruction vanished in an instant, and at that moment, Lin Jing felt an utter relief throughout his body, particularly within his Divine Sense.

It had suddenly become several times more powerful.

Even the Spiritual Power that had filled his body just a moment ago was instantly drawn into his meridians, flowing through them.

At this time, a system prompt sounded.

"Ding"

"System prompt: Congratulations to the host for successfully breaking through to a new realm, reward: 20 Harvest Points."

"I did it..."

As Lin Jing was indulging in the joy of his breakthrough, he suddenly smelled a foul odor and felt something sticky on his body.

Lin Jing opened his eyes and saw that many sticky black substances had seeped out from his body, which were the source of the stench.

Elder Yu had once mentioned that everyone purges impurities from their body during Foundation Building, and Lin Jing knew that this must be the impurities being expelled from his body.

Enduring the foul smell, Lin Jing took off his clothes and then used the Spiritual Energy Water Technique to wash away the filth.

After cleaning himself, Lin Jing circulated his Cultivation Technique to dry off the moisture, and then took out a clean set of clothes from his Storage Bag and put them on.

He then felt refreshed.

Next, Lin Jing cleaned up the clothes he had taken off and the water used to wash his body, wrapping them together.

He planned to take them out of the System Space later for disposal.

Such impurities were toxic, and while it would have been fine to bury them randomly outside, he was inside the System Space and could not simply discard them.

After all, this was his personal space. Lin Jing then said out loud,

“Open the system panel.”

Immediately, a panel appeared before Lin Jing’s eyes. He hadn’t checked the system panel in a long time, so he looked up... System Space (Level 3)

Remaining Time: 212 hours (Accumulable: 300 hours)

Host: Lin Jing

Spirit Field Range: 30 mu

Spiritual Energy Concentration: 3 Time Flow Speed: 3

Daily Entry Time: 6 hours

Upgrade Required: (1260/2000 Harvest Points)

Special Functions: Alert, Observe, Time Accumulation, Four Seasons,

Environmental Terrain, Spirit Plant Repair, Enhancement Attachment.

In the past half a year, thanks to frequent Alchemy, Lin Jing had earned quite a few Harvest Points just from making Pure Elixirs.

In addition to those he got from mature Spirit Plants, he now had accumulated 1260 Harvest Points, and the next system upgrade was not far away. Next, Lin Jing reached out and clicked on the 'Host' section of the panel.

His own information panel appeared before his eyes.

Lin Jing (26/300)

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

Cultivation: Foundation Establishment Stage – First Layer (8%)

Cultivation Techniques: Immortal Dao Five Elements Art, Ling Yin Imperial

Sword Technique (Second Layer), Controlling Fire Technique (Perfection)

Secondary Occupation: Third-Rank Pill Master (2613/30000)

Advancing to Foundation Establishment had significantly increased Lin Jing's lifespan. He now had a full three hundred years, and he was only 26 years old. According to the flow of time in the System Space, his actual age should have already exceeded 28 years.

However, when he was inside the System Space, his body's transformation seemed to be calculated based on the external flow of time.

That is to say...

Now, his body's growth rate inside the System Space had been slowed down by three times, always the same as the people outside.

This discovery left Lin Jing somewhat incredulous.

At the same time, he couldn't help but marvel at the power of the System.

Lin Jing looked on, and everything else on the panel was normal, except his cultivation had increased by an additional 8%...

Besides...

His Controlling Fire Technique had also been cultivated to perfection, incapable of any further improvement.

Then, Lin Jing had no intention of leaving the System Space.

Instead, he sat down directly and started to meditate and consolidate his cultivation.

He had just advanced to the Foundation Establishment Stage and needed to stabilize his realm, and the dense spiritual energy within the System Space could speed up the stabilization of his realm.

Therefore, Lin Jing did not go out.

Time passed, and when Lin Jing felt it was about right and came out, it was already close to midday.

Lin Jing did a quick calculation and realized that he had spent no short period inside the System Space, exceeding one day's time.

Next, Lin Jing buried the black impurities and the set of clothes he had changed out of by digging a hole in the backyard and covering it.

After covering it up, Lin Jing cleaned himself again, and after sniffing, he found no strange smell on his body, which set his mind at ease. Subsequently, Lin Jing opened the door and headed out.

Today, he had to make a trip to Yuebaolou.

Upon arriving at Yuebaolou, Lin Jing walked straight through the hall to the backyard of Yuebaolou.

Along the way...

He encountered quite a few people, many of whom greeted Lin Jing.

Lin Jing also nodded in response.

Ever since Elder Yu had advanced to the Golden Core stage, Lin Jing's name had gradually become known to more people, many of whom recognized him and were exceptionally enthusiastic towards him.

This made Lin Jing rather uncomfortable, so he rarely visited Yuebaolou unless it was necessary.

Especially since Elder Yu was in closed-door cultivation, and Elder Bai was also away from Fang Market due to other matters, he was less likely to visit without a reason.

But, today was different...

Because today was the day he needed to turn in Elixir Medicines and collect alchemy materials.

Upon reaching the backyard, he unexpectedly encountered the pill master surnamed Wang and Yu Yan once again.

It seemed as if he was fated to run into these two, as it had happened several times already.

“Lin Daoyou...”

When there was still a considerable distance between them, the alchemist surnamed Wang started greeting Lin Jing.

Only when the three of them drew closer did Yu Yan also start to greet him:

“Lin Daoyou...”

“Wang Daoyou, Yu Daoyou...” Lin Jing responded.

At this moment, the alchemist surnamed Wang spoke up again and asked:

“Daoyou, are you also here to turn in Elixir Medicines?”

“Yes...” Lin Jing answered.

“Just recently promoted to a second-grade Pill Master, Lin Daoyou can complete tasks with ease, truly admirable,” the alchemist surnamed Wang complimented.

“I just managed to do so somehow...”

Lin Jing simply responded, then took his leave from the two men.

“I still have several batches of Elixir Furnace Medicine to concoct today, so I

won’t chat any longer... Wang Daoyou, Yu Daoyou, farewell.”

“Since Lin Daoyou is busy, we won’t disturb you. Farewell, Lin Daoyou,” the alchemist surnamed Wang said with a fist salute.

“Farewell...” Yu Yan also saluted with his fist.

Lin Jing returned the salute and then departed.

After Lin Jing had walked some distance away, the alchemist surnamed Wang finally expressed his admiration.

“Being the nephew of the true person Yu and still so dedicated, Lin Daoyou truly is a role model for our generation...”

Yu Yan, standing beside him, looked at the alchemist surnamed Wang with a complicated expression but did not speak..

Chapter 144: Elder Yu Emerges from Seclusion

Lin Jing, after parting with the two individuals, arrived at the place where elixir medicines were to be submitted.

Upon entering the room, Lin Jing did not see the steward who had always been present there before.

Instead, it was Steward Cheng.

Steward Cheng, seeing Lin Jing's arrival, greeted him with a smile, saying,

"Ah, have you refined enough elixir medicines to come make your submission?"

Lin Jing replied,

"Yes, Steward Cheng..."

Having said this, Lin Jing then inquired,

"Steward Cheng, how come you're here, where's the previous steward?"

"He has some urgent matters to attend to, so he asked me to fill in for him temporarily."

"I see..." Lin Jing responded.

Then, Lin Jing took out several small porcelain bottles from the Storage Bag and handed them to Steward Cheng,

"Steward Cheng, these are the elixir medicines I need to submit, thirty in total, please examine them."

Since Lin Jing was now a Second Rank Alchemist, the elixir medicines he needed to submit were also upgraded to second rank medicines.

And because Lin Jing had only recently been promoted to Second-Grade Alchemist, Elder Bai had given him a certain level of consideration.

Therefore...

Lin Jing now only needed to submit thirty second rank elixir medicines each month.

While other Offering Priests had to submit at least fifty second rank elixir medicines, and they also had to include a certain number of superior grade elixir medicines to qualify.

There was no such quality requirement for the elixir medicines Lin Jing submitted.

Of course...

This consideration was definitely time-limited, it was estimated that after half a year, Lin Jing's alchemy requirements would gradually increase until they matched everyone else's.

In order not to draw attention, most of the elixir medicines Lin Jing submitted were of Low Grade, though there were also a few of Medium Grade.

According to the refinement success rate of a newly advanced Second-Grade Pill Master, this was just about right and would not arouse suspicion from others.

Steward Cheng opened the small porcelain bottles, checked them, and then nodded, saying,

"Hmm, this is fine, you've made great progress..."

"Compared to the elixir medicines you submitted last month, these are already quite good, keep it up."

"It's mostly thanks to Elder Yu's previous guidance," Lin Jing said humbly.

Steward Cheng waved his hand and said,

"Elder Yu's guidance is only part of it..."

"Of course, you've worked hard yourself, there's no need to be overly modest..."

After saying this, Steward Cheng changed the topic,

"Up next, you'll want to collect the alchemy ingredients, right..."

"Yes, Steward Cheng..." Lin Jing said.

"I have already prepared everything..."

Upon saying this, Steward Cheng took out a package from within his Storage Bag.

"A total of 100 portions of second rank alchemy ingredients, all already sorted, so you don't need to sort them yourself and can use them directly for alchemy." "Thank you, Steward Cheng..." Lin Jing bowed with his hands clasped.

Having collected the materials and leaving the inner courtyard, Lin Jing was about to head back when, he saw Elder Bai walking toward this place.

Elder Bai had actually returned!

Lin Jing calculated that this time Elder Bai had been away was not short, a good month or more.

Lin Jing stepped forward and bowed with his hands clasped, saying,

‘Elder Bai...’

Elder Bai had already spotted Lin Jing. “Hmm...”

Elder Bai nodded and then spoke,

“Running into you is perfect, Elder Yu will exit seclusion tomorrow; you call Qing Ling over, and both of you come by tomorrow...”

“Once Elder Yu exits seclusion, we might have to leave for a while, and there are some matters I need to instruct you about.”

Lin Jing, puzzled, spoke,

“Elder Bai, you’ve just returned and are going out again?”

Elder Bai nodded:

‘Yes!’

“This time leaving is different from before, and the time may be longer...” “So before departing, there are still some matters I must explain to you.”

“Understood, Elder Bai...” Lin Jing nodded. Elder Bai gave an approving nod and said:

“Alright...”

“You may go back first, I still have some matters to attend to here.”

“Elder Bai, I take my leave.” Lin Jing bowed with his hands clasped and bid farewell to Elder Bai.

“Hmm...”

Elder Bai uttered a response and then headed inside Yuebaolou.

After returning from Yuebaolou, Lin Jing did not go back to the small courtyard where he lived but instead sought out Huang Qingling first.

After informing Huang Qingling about the matters entrusted by Elder Bai, Lin Jing returned home.

Back at his own small courtyard, Lin Jing took a brief rest, then summoned the system and entered the System Space.

Upon arriving at the System Space, Lin Jing walked to Spirit Field Number One and looked at the few spirit plants in the field.

The Youth-Retaining Fruit Tree had already grown to ten feet tall and was still more than seven years from maturity.

There was also the Biling Flower, which grew quite slowly; it looked like only a seedling now, still eight years away from maturity.

The last was the Second Rank spirit plant Rockheart Grass, an auxiliary herb for creating Cultivation True Elixir, also growing in Spirit Field Number One.

These three spirit plants were the most precious ones Lin Jing had acquired so far.

Lin Jing checked the growing condition of the three spirit plants and found everything to be normal, so he paid them no further attention. He then went directly to the Alchemy Room to start stabilizing his cultivation base.

After cultivating through the night, Lin Jing tidied up and left the house, heading straight for Huang Qingling's courtyard.

Arriving at Huang Qingling's gate, he knocked.

Before long, Huang Qingling came out, and it appeared that it was just Huang Qingling alone.

Lin Jing asked:

"Where's Little Sparrow?"

"It has flown out to hunt, no need to mind it. It will return on its own when it's time," Huang Qingling replied. "It has been like this for a while." "I see..."

"Let's go then..." Lin Jing said.

"Alright..." Huang Qingling nodded.

Thereafter, the two of them walked together towards Yuebaolou.

Arriving at Yuebaolou, Lin Jing followed Huang Qingling, heading straight up the building, all the way to the top floor where Elder Bai used for his cultivation practice.

Just stepping into the top floor, the area was shrouded in formations as before, with a misty expanse around them.

“Old Man Bai, we’re here...” Huang Qingling called out.

No sooner had the words been spoken than the formation opened, and the white mist in front of them instantly dissipated.

They walked straight in and upon entering the room, saw Elder Bai and Elder Yu sitting there, drinking tea.

Seeing Lin Jing come over, Elder Yu spoke up immediately:

“Lin lad, I hear that during the time of my seclusion, you’ve advanced to a Second - Grade Alchemist?”

“Yes, Elder Yu...” Lin Jing replied.

“Not bad at all, just today I’ve seen the elixir medicines you submitted.

Although there are some imperfections, they indeed are at the level of a

Second -Grade Alchemist. ”

“It seems my judgement was not wrong, your talent for alchemy is indeed undeniable.”

“Thanks to Elder Yu’s guidance, without you, I could not have made such quick progress...” Lin Jing spoke.

Touching his beard, Elder Yu’s smile could not be concealed.

“Old man, I haven’t really done much to help you; it’s all due to your own efforts.”

“Enough about this...”

Continuing...

Elder Yu changed the subject and continued:

“You must already know about the departure of Old Bai and me....”

Chapter 145: Yiyun Pavilion

“Yes...” Lin Jing replied.

“Where are you guys planning to go? It even requires both of you to leave together,” Huang Qingling asked at this time.

Elder Bai looked up and said to Huang Qingling:

“Elder Yu has advanced to Golden Core and needs to report back to the pavilion.

I left a while ago to report this matter to the pavilion.”

“Now, I need to take Elder Yu back to the pavilion again.”

Lin Jing knew that behind Yuebaolou was a mysterious organization, which allowed it to grow and expand in the Nanming Domain, but he had never heard Elder Bai or Elder Yu mention this organization.

However, this ‘pavilion’ mentioned by Elder Bai just now must certainly be the power behind Yuebaolou.

“The pavilion? What is that?” Huang Qingling asked.

Elder Bai then turned to the two of them and said:

“I suppose neither of you knows about it, so let me tell you both...”

Lin Jing turned his head and looked at Huang Qingling beside him, somewhat incredulous.

It made sense for Lin Jing not to know about the power behind Yuebaolou since he hadn’t been involved with Yuebaolou for long.

But the fact that Huang Qingling, who was Elder Bai’s niece, also didn’t know about the power behind Yuebaolou, surprised Lin Jing.

Elder Bai glanced at Lin Jing, as if seeing through his doubts, but didn’t explain.

Instead, he continued:

“Right now, in the Nanming Domain, on the surface, there are two major powers, one is the Qingyuan Sword Sect, and the other is the Nanming Immortal Sect.”

“These two powers, one in the east and one in the west, occupy more than half of the entire Nanming Domain.”

“Other sects and families occupy the rest of the regions.”

“However...”

“Between these two major powers, there is another great power that has always been hidden in the background. This power has enough strength to compete with the Qingyuan Sword Sect and the Nanming Immortal Sect.” “And this power is our Yuebaolou’s backing organization—Yiyun Pavilion.”

“Yiyun Pavilion rose to prominence ten thousand years ago, but unlike other sects...”

“Yiyun Pavilion has always been hidden, developing in the form of an organization, and then establishing a business guild, gradually taking control of a vast amount of resources.”

“Aside from Yuebaolou, there are also Nanyun Chamber of Commerce branches throughout the Nanming Domain, which are also forces under Yiyun Pavilion.” “Of course...”

“Besides these, there are many other forces, in fact, that are supported by Yiyun Pavilion in the background. But I won’t go into detail about that with you...”

At this point, Elder Bai paused, and then continued:

“Now...”

“Elder Yu needs to return to the Yiyun Pavilion headquarters to report his duty after his promotion to Golden Core.”

“Which is why I need to take Elder Yu back with me.”

“This trip might be very short or quite long. In our absence, Yuebaolou will temporarily be managed by Steward Cheng.”

“If other matters arise and cause a prolonged delay, then the pavilion will dispatch other Golden Core Cultivators to temporarily manage the Yuebaolou in Nanshan Market.”

“During this period, the two of you should stay here and not go out causing trouble.”

“Especially you, Qing Ling...”

Elder Bai said this and then turned to Huang Qingling:

“Old Man Bai, do you really have so little confidence in me?”

Elder Bai's mouth twitched, ignoring her.

He instead turned to Lin Jing and said:

“During the time we're away, you need to keep a good watch on her, don't let her cause any trouble...”

“Of course...”

Elder Bai's tone then changed as he continued:

“If anyone thinks to take advantage of my absence and wants to do something to you, there's no need to panic...”

“If you encounter any other unexpected events, you can also go directly to the Li Family Patriarch or the Zhang Family Patriarch. I will warn them in advance...”

“Old Man Bai, is there someone who wants to harm us?” Huang Qingling asked, puzzled.

“I've received some information; someone may be looking for trouble with me.”

“And you may also be implicated,”

“It's just that things are not very certain right now...”

“Before I leave, I will try my best to arrange this matter properly.”

“Also, do not let your guard down, you must always be vigilant because anything can happen,” Elder Bai reminded them once again.

“Elder Bai, Elder Yu...”

“Your return to report so soon, isn't it?” Lin Jing asked.

“It is usually quick, this time upon returning, there might be some rewards in the pavilion, and perhaps Elder Yu will also be given an opportunity for training.”

“At that time...”

“It is very possible that Elder Yu will be reassigned to another place.”

“I will help sort things out and see if I can get him reassigned to one of the nearby Immortal Cities or back to Nanshan Market.”

“I see...” Lin Jing suddenly understood.

“Elder Bai, Elder Yu, please be assured”

“I will definitely pay extra attention when the time comes.”

Regarding what Elder Bai said last, Lin Jing also had some thoughts. If there was anyone in the Fang Market they had an issue with, it could only be Liu

Yiyuan.

Speaking of which...

Ever since that time in the black market when Liu Yiyuan saw him and Huang Qingling so intimate, there had been no word from him.

Previously, he was always pestering Huang Qingling, which was well-known to everyone, and now this...

“Could it be that Liu Yiyuan, out of love turned to hatred, intends to target the two of them?”

Lin Jing couldn't help but think to himself.

“But a single Liu Yiyuan simply couldn't be the reason Elder Bai is taking this so seriously...”

“Unless, it's the person behind Liu Yiyuan...”

In the end, after finishing their discussion, Lin Jing and Huang Qingling left.

In the following days...

After Elder Bai and Elder Yu had made all the arrangements, they left.

And Lin Jing's life returned to its peaceful routine.

During this time, Lin Jing and Huang Qingling's life remained much the same, without much change.

Meanwhile, they were invited to the Li Family's Spirit Field.

Of course, Huang Qingling was not interested in these matters.

But Lin Jing was another story; during that time, he learned a great deal from Li Tangyu about the cultivation of Spirit Plants, and in the end, Li Tangyu even gave Lin Jing several related books.

However, Lin Jing had no immediate use for this knowledge.

Strangely enough, the Spirit Plants in the System Space did not require his care at all and were growing remarkably well.

Even the most common pests in the outside world were absent, which couldn't be explained by the mere richness of Spiritual Energy.

For this reason, Lin Jing specifically conducted an experiment.

He caught a black-lined worm that was nibbling on a Spirit Plant in the Li Family's Spirit Field, intending to bring it into the System Space.

However, as soon as it entered the space, it turned directly into ash.

It seemed that, besides Lin Jing and these Spirit Plants, the System Space could not accommodate any living thing.

But not having to worry about pests for these Spirit Plants also spared Lin Jing a lot of trouble.

He just needed to plant the Spirit Plants and then harvest them when the time was right.

Just like that...

Lin Jing continued his previous lifestyle, cultivating daily, practicing Alchemy, and occasionally gathering with a few people in his small courtyard.

Life was quite comfortable.

That is, until two months later, when news finally came.

There was a message from Yuebaolou, but Elder Bai and Elder Yu had not returned.

Instead, Yuebaolou had a new steward..

Chapter 146: Deacon Zheng

When the new steward arrived,

Lin Jing had been busy with alchemy and was unaware of the new arrival; it was Huang Qingling who told him about it.

At the same time, Huang Qingling also brought another piece of news that caught Lin Jing's attention.

After the arrival of the new steward, they had visited the Liu Clan and called on the Wu Cai Immortal.

This matter couldn't help but cause Lin Jing to think a bit more.

It seems that the Wu Cai Immortal and this steward from Yuebaolou know each other.

However, even if they knew each other, it wouldn't be surprising.

After all, belonging to the same rank of Golden Core Immortals, they would have their own network of connections. It's normal for them to know each other.

Eventually, he remembered what Elder Bai had said and decided to pay a bit more attention to it.

After Huang Qingling left, Lin Jing continued with his alchemy and no longer thought about the new steward's affairs.

Two days later...

Lin Jing had just finished refining a batch of Elixir Medicine and, after some rest, was organizing alchemy ingredients, planning to start another refinement...

At this moment, the System alert suddenly went off.

"Warning!"

"Someone has intruded the alert perimeter, please host respond in time." Lin Jing put down the alchemy ingredients in his hands and frowned...

Because Huang Qingling had just come over in the morning, she told him that she was going to the Li Family to find Li Qingqing and said she might not come back today.

She had originally wanted to bring Lin Jing along, but he had declined, citing alchemy as his reason.

Therefore, the visitor at this time shouldn't be Huang Qingling.

Besides Huang Qingling, who else could it be at this time?

Lin Jing pondered for a moment, then summoned the System.

“System.”

“Enter Observation Mode.”

Next, Lin Jing’s perspective shifted, appearing above the small courtyard, before moving his view to the front gate of the yard and saw a person standing there.

This person was none other than Yu Yan, who often accompanied the Wang surname Pill Master.

Yu Yan knocked on the door again and then spoke up:

“Lin Daoyou, are you there?”

“It looks like he must be here for some matter,” Lin Jing thought to himself. “System, exit Observation Mode, leave System Space.”

Afterward, Lin Jing left System Space and appeared inside the room.

After tidying up his clothes, Lin Jing walked towards the door.

Upon reaching the door, Lin Jing reached out to open the courtyard gate and saw Yu Yan.

“It’s Yu Daoyou...”

“I was just cultivating, my apologies for making you wait...” “No worries...” Yu Yan waved his hand.

“It is I who has come unannounced and disturbed Lin Daoyou...” “Yu Daoyou, may I know the reason for your sudden visit?” Lin Jing asked.

“Lin Daoyou, here’s the thing...”

Yu Yan began to speak:

“The newly arrived Steward Zheng wishes to gather all Pill Master Offerings tomorrow, saying that some important matters will be discussed, and specifically asked me to notify Lin Daoyou...” Hearing this, Lin Jing thought to himself:

“To gather all Pill Master Offerings...”

“The new steward has just come and already wants to gather all Pill Master Offerings, but it is unclear what this means...”

On the surface, Lin Jing remained composed and cupped his fists to Yu Yan: "I see, thank you, Yu Daoyou, for making a special trip to remind me..."

"It's nothing, Lin Daoyou, please don't be so polite..." Yu Yan also responded with a fist salute.

After speaking...

Yu Yan glanced left and right, then stepped closer and whispered to Lin Jing:

"Lin Daoyou."

"Besides discussing matters, I've unintentionally heard that there might also be an assessment this time."

"It's said to examine the Alchemy Dao level of all Offerings, and those who do not qualify will be stripped of their Offering status."

"Moreover, all benefits provided by Yuebaolou will be retracted."

"You should be more cautious..."

Yu Yan's reminder was quite clear.

Because the alchemy level Lin Jing currently showed fell short of the standards of a Yuebaolou Offering.

So, if Lin Jing fails to pass the assessment this time, his identity as an offering Pill Master might very likely be revoked.

"All right, I have delivered the message."

"I need to inform the other Daoyous, so I will take my leave now..." Having said that, Yu Yan turned and prepared to leave.

"Thank you, Yu Daoyou, for informing me of this matter," Lin Jing said, clasping his fists in gratitude.

"It's not necessary..."

"Lin Daoyou, it would be best if you prepare in advance..."

Yu Yan turned back, advising Lin Jing.

After finishing his words, Yu Yan left.

After Yu Yan departed, Lin Jing shut the door and returned to his small courtyard.

Back inside his house, Lin Jing sat there pondering the matter.

He wondered whether the assessment mentioned by Yu Yan was a spontaneous decision by Steward Zheng or if there were other reasons behind it...

Lin Jing had no way of knowing.

But...

He wasn't worried at all, as with his true level, passing the assessment would be a breeze.

If even with his skill level of a third-grade alchemist he couldn't pass this assessment, then even less so could anyone else.

Moreover...

Lin Jing also didn't have to worry about his true strength being exposed because, aside from technique, luck also played a significant part in alchemy.

Even those alchemists whose skills were not quite mature could sometimes have exceptionally good luck, producing elixirs that were even better than those made by more experienced Pill Masters.

It was even possible to directly produce a Pure Elixir.

So there was absolutely no need for concern.

Having thought this through, Lin Jing continued back to the System Space to start making elixirs.

The next day...

Lin Jing arrived early at the Yuebaolou.

After reaching Yuebaolou, he was told to directly gather at the alchemy room of Yuebaolou.

"Alchemy room..."

Lin Jing's heart stirred, and he thought to himself: "As expected, is this the assessment?"

Then, Lin Jing made his way toward the alchemy room.

On the way, Lin Jing also encountered several Pill Master offering priests.

And like Lin Jing, they were also heading to the alchemy room to gather.

Lin Jing followed them and together they arrived at the alchemy room.

Upon entering, Lin Jing found that many Pill Master offering priests were already there.

At the same time...

Lin Jing also saw Yu Yan and a Pill Master with the surname Wang.

After Lin Jing arrived,

Many people greeted Lin Jing upon seeing him, and Lin Jing responded simply to their greetings.

Afterward, he stayed in an inconspicuous corner, waiting for everyone to arrive.

As they did so, they waited another half an hour before all the offering priests were fully assembled.

It was only then...

Two people pushed the door and walked in.

Lin Jing recognized one of them; it was Steward Cheng, who was close to Elder

The other, a dark-faced elder who walked in front of Steward Cheng, was someone Lin Jing had never seen before.

Presumably, he must be the new Steward Zheng.

The two made their way through the crowd and came to the front of everyone.

At this moment, the dark-faced elder began to speak.

"I apologize for keeping everyone waiting..."

"I assume some of you do not know me yet, so let me introduce myself."

"I am the new steward of Yuebaolou, my surname is Zheng, and you can just call me Steward Zheng."

"We have seen Steward Zheng..."

Immediately, some people clasped their hands and addressed Steward Zheng. "There is no need to be so formal..." Steward Zheng raised his hand to stop them.

"Before Elder Bai returns, I will be temporarily managing the Yuebaolou in Nanshan Market."

"The reason I called everyone here today is to simply talk to you all and also to have you witness something.."

Chapter 147: Assessment

"What would you like us to witness, Steward Zheng?"

Someone asked.

"Of course, it's to witness the fairness and integrity of Yuebaolou," Steward Zheng said, his expression suddenly became serious.

I've just arrived at Yuebaolou of Nanshan Market, and I've discovered something.

"As Pill Masters offering their services to Yuebaolou, some are receiving special treatment..."

"I was quite shocked to learn about this; after all, Yuebaolou has always been fair, treating every Offering Priest the same."

"And now, someone has been given special privileges..."

"Doesn't this compromise the principles of fairness and integrity of Yuebaolou..."

Lin Jing immediately understood.

Among all the Offering Priests, only he received special treatment.

Steward Zheng continued to speak:

"To ensure the credibility of Yuebaolou, I've decided to conduct an assessment of all Offering Priests."

"Those who pass will continue as Yuebaolou's Offering Alchemists."

“But those who fail will have their status as Offering Priests revoked and all benefits provided by Yuebaolou will be withdrawn.”

The newly arrived Steward Zheng spoke in front, while the Offering Priests all listened in silence, paying close attention.

Steward Zheng scanned the crowd and deliberately paused in the direction where Lin Jing stood, then continued:

“As for the content of the assessment, I have already decided.”

“That is to refine Second Rank Elixir Medicine!”

“Each Offering Priest will have three opportunities.”

“The requirement is to produce at least one Second Rank Superior Elixir Medicine among these three attempts.”

After finishing his speech, Steward Zheng glanced over the crowd and then asked:

“This should be quite easy for all of you, shouldn’t it?”

No sooner had Steward Zheng’s words ended when someone responded:

“No problem, it’s a trivial matter...”

“Of course, there’s no problem at all—it’s just one Superior Elixir Medicine...”

“A Superior Elixir Medicine, as long as we’re not extremely unlucky, with our Alchemy Technique, it should be a breeze.”

And the other Offering Priests also began discussing amongst themselves.

At this time, many people stealthily glanced at Lin Jing.

Because...

Everybody knew that this assessment wouldn’t be a problem for them...

But Lin Jing was different.

They knew Lin Jing’s situation all too well; he had been promoted to a Second -Grade Alchemist less than half a year ago, and facing this assessment now, he was likely to have difficulty passing.

Moreover, Lin Jing was Elder Yu's nephew, and this new Steward Zheng started conducting assessments as soon as he arrived.

This inevitably led people to speculate.

Lin Jing ignored everyone's gazes, standing calmly and steadily without any signs of panic.

Next to Steward Zheng, Steward Cheng furrowed his brow and said in a low voice:

"Steward Zheng, about Lin Jing..."

Before Steward Cheng could continue, he was interrupted by Steward Zheng.

"Haven't I already said that this assessment will be fair and impartial, without favoritism towards anyone?"

"But Elder Yu, he..."

At that moment, Steward Zheng's expression darkened, glancing towards Steward Cheng:

"What, are you planning to defy the rules of Yiyun Pavilion?"

"I wouldn't dare..." Steward Cheng bowed his hands and said.

'Good, as long as you understand," Steward Zheng then withdrew his gaze and turned towards Lin Jing.

He continued:

"Now, since I am the Steward of Yuebaolou at Nanshan Fang Market, it goes without saying that I have Yuebaolou's best interests in mind. Even if Elder Yu were here. I'd do the same "

After that, seeing the crowd had quieted down significantly, Steward Zheng continued:

"Furthermore, yesterday's summon was made on short notice, so I presume none of you had much time to prepare."

"Therefore..."

"Starting tomorrow, I will arrange the order in advance, so that each of you can be assessed in turn,"

"Moreover, I must remind everyone..."

“To prevent cheating, there will be someone supervising on-site during the assessment, so I hope all of you Offering Priests will make the necessary preparations in advance.”
“Understood.”

The crowd responded.

Then, Steward Zheng stepped back, and Steward Cheng came forward to announce the order of the assessment.

And Lin Jing, to his surprise, was ranked first.

In other words, he would be among the first batch to be assessed tomorrow.

Soon...

After the order of the assessment was announced, Steward Zheng came forward again to say a few words, offering the crowd some comfort before he left.

Not long after Zheng left, the crowd also dispersed one after another.

But before leaving, many cast glances toward Lin Jing, each showing different expressions.

Some looked regretful, others sympathetic...

And even some seemed to take pleasure in his misfortune...

Yet Lin Jing remained composed.

Even when some greeted him, Lin Jing responded as simply as he always had.

Finally, as Yu Yan was about to leave, he made a special effort to come over and encourage Lin Jing.

“Lin Daoyou, do your best. I hope you can successfully pass this assessment,” Yu Yan said with a cupped fist gesture.

“Thank you...” Lin Jing responded with the same gesture.

Afterward, Yu Yan left.

Once these people had gone, there were only Steward Cheng and Lin Jing left in the alchemy room.

Steward Cheng, with his head lowered, approached Lin Jing.

“Lin Jing, I’m sorry...” Steward Cheng began. “Elder Yu, before he left, told me to take care of you, but now...”

Having said this, Steward Cheng heaved a sigh:

Then, gathering his spirits, Steward Cheng continued:

“No matter, if you really can’t remain as an alchemist in the building, you can temporarily stay with me, and we’ll discuss the rest when Elder Yu returns.”

If Lin Jing were to fail the assessment, the first thing likely to be taken from him would be the courtyard he was currently living in, which was why Steward Cheng said what he did.

Lin Jing understood that Steward Cheng couldn’t make this decision on his own, nor could he be blamed, after all, the entire Yuebaolou was currently managed by Steward Zheng.

So, he spoke up:

“Steward Cheng, don’t worry...” “I feel I should be alright for this assessment. It doesn’t seem that difficult.”

“But your alchemy skills...”

Steward Cheng started to say, then hesitated, not continuing further...

To avoid causing Steward Cheng further concern, Lin Jing spoke again:

“I’ve been discussing the Alchemy Technique with Li Tangyu for several days in a row recently...”

“After that, it’s as if I’ve had an epiphany. It seems I’ve gained a deeper understanding of the Alchemy Dao. ”

“Li Tangyu...”

Steward Cheng’s eyes brightened, and then he said:

“That’s right, he’s a Third-Grade Alchemist, and you two have a good relationship...”

“Do you really feel confident about this assessment?”

Steward Cheng still had doubts, knowing that even an epiphany couldn’t enable a pill master to immediately produce high-grade elixir medicines.

There must be a process of refinement.

He was well-aware that Lin Jing had only recently been promoted to Second -Grade Alchemist and had a thin foundation, making it not so easy to produce high-quality elixir medicines.

“I can’t guarantee certainty, but I can only try and see...” Lin Jing said earnestly.

“That’s right...”

Steward Cheng nodded, then sighed softly:

“Do the best you can.”

Clearly, Steward Cheng did not hold much hope for Lin Jing..

Chapter 148: Huang (&ling’s Concern

“Forget it, let’s head out too,”

Steward Cheng spoke again:

“You should rest well tonight, for tomorrow you’ll need to consecutively refine three furnaces of elixir medicine, and that is indeed a very taxing task.”

“Mm...” Lin Jing nodded, acknowledging with a hum.

Then, the two of them left together.

Back to his small courtyard...

Lin Jing began to meditate and cultivate as usual.

He continued to cultivate until the afternoon when he was roused by a series of knocks on the door.

Lin Jing got up and went outside.

When he opened the courtyard door, he found Huang Qingling standing at the door, accompanied by Li Tangyu and Li Qingqing.

“Why didn’t you tell me about the examination?”

As soon as the door opened, Huang Qingling asked urgently.

“Qing Ling Daoyou, come in, let’s talk inside...”

Lin Jing said to Huang Qingling.

“Brother Li...”

“Qing Qing Daoyou, please come inside...”

Huang Qingling understood that the doorway was not the place for discussion, so he walked into the courtyard.

Li Tangyu and Li Qingqing also followed him inside.

Lin Jing then closed the courtyard gate and followed them in.

As soon as they entered the room, Huang Qingling started speaking.

“I heard that this new steward Zheng specifically came to trouble you, is that

SO

Huang Qingling’s gaze was penetrating as she looked at Lin Jing and asked.

“It’s just an examination, nothing serious. There’s actually no need to panic, Qing Ling Daoyou,”

Lin Jing’s expression remained calm, showing not the slightest bit of agitation.

“Brother Lin...”

“What did steward Zheng set for your examination this time?” Li Tangyu asked, his expression grave.

Lin Jing looked at Li Tangyu and then spoke:

“The examination is actually quite straightforward.”

“You have to refine a second-rank superior elixir within three furnaces.” “Three furnaces, to refine a single...”

“Indeed, the examination doesn’t seem difficult,” Li Tangyu nodded as he said.

After speaking, Li Tangyu lifted his head and said to Lin Jing:

“But that’s relative to others...”

“I recall that just last month you were only just able to refine medium-grade elixirs.”

After speaking, Li Tangyu’s brow furrowed:

‘You know, those are second rank superior elixirs; with your current skill level, it might be quite challenging.’

While Li Tangyu spoke of the difficulty, in his heart, he didn’t quite believe that Lin Jing could successfully refine it.

Because the improvement in alchemy skills requires a lot of time, non-stop practice and refinement to gradually get better, it’s not something that happens overnight.

And now Lin Jing, who had just advanced to a second rank Pill Master not long ago, didn’t have enough experience; the likelihood of him being able to refine a superior elixir was small.

Of course...

Unless he was very lucky, it was possible to refine one.

But that probability was incredibly slim, relying merely on chance... “If it doesn’t work out, I’ll go to steward Zheng.”

Hearing Li Tangyu’s words, Huang Qingling seemed somewhat anxious. “Qing Ling Daoyou, don’t worry, it’s okay...”

Lin Jing quickly reassured and repeated the same explanation he had given to

Steward Cheng.

“During our discussion of alchemy techniques last time, I had some realizations, and it seems like my understanding of Alchemy Dao has improved.”

“Dealing with this examination shouldn’t be a problem...”

“Brother Lin, the last time you mentioned, was it that time I got drunk?” Li Tangyu suddenly looked up and asked Lin Jing.

“Yes, that’s the time!”

“Also, I’ve found that...”

“Brother Li, when you are drunk, you tend to talk quite a bit.”

“You’re much cuter then...,” Lin Jing teased.

“Let’s not bring up that time again. I was so drunk that day that all I remember is saying a lot to you, but as for what exactly, I myself have forgotten...”

Li Tangyu immediately held his forehead.

“Haha, is that so...”

“My brother has always been this way, revealing his true nature whenever he gets drunk...”

“A gentleman who is usually so modest turns into a chatterbox...”

Li Qingqing started to laugh as well, chiming in on the side.

This interruption lightened the originally somewhat heavy atmosphere quite a bit.

“You’re really okay?”

Huang Qingling spoke up, still somewhat worried.

“Qingling Daoyou, just relax...”

“Even if I truly fail, it’s nothing more than losing my Pill Master Offering Priest status at Yuebaolou, nothing serious.”

“Even if that Zheng Steward takes away this courtyard, I can still move to live outside in Fang Market.”

“I don’t suffer any loss myself...”

Lin Jing said, looking at Huang Qingling, trying to reassure her.

Right after Lin Jing finished speaking, Huang Qingling was looking down, as if pondering something.

After a moment, she suddenly looked up at Lin Jing and said bluntly:

“If you fail the assessment, come live at my place...”

“Let’s live together for now, and we’ll see what to do when Old Man Bai and Elder Yu return.”

What Huang Qingling said was so surprising that it made Li Tangyu and Li Qingqing freeze in shock.

Lin Jing was no exception.

After a while, a “gulp” sound came, as Li Qingqing swallowed her saliva, followed by “Hiss...”

A sound of sucking in a cold breath.

“Cough...cough...cough...”

Li Qingqing was actually choked by her own saliva.

She then stammered, unable to speak clearly:

“Cough...you...you two...living together?”

At this point, Li Tangyu also recovered and hurriedly interrupted Li Qingqing:

“Sister Qingling means, I believe...”

“It’s to let Brother Lin stay in her courtyard, not that they are actually going to live together under one roof.”

“Right, that’s what I meant...”

Huang Qingling’s face blushed as she quickly explained.

“After all, my courtyard is not small, and there are many rooms...”

After explaining, Huang Qingling looked at Li Qingqing with a speechless expression:

“Qingqing, your thoughts are too twisted...”

And Lin Jing was caught between laughter and tears.

“Rest assured, Qingling Daoyou...”

“For this assessment, I have at least a seventy percent chance of passing...”

Lin Jing didn’t make his claim overly confidently.

Only then did Huang Qingling start to doubtfully believe Lin Jing.

Early the next day...

Lin Jing took the Pill Furnace from the System Space and put it into the Storage Bag, then changed into a new set of clothes and left.

The previous day, Li Tangyu, worried that he might not pass the assessment, shared many Alchemy experiences with him until late into the night before leaving.

Because Zheng Steward had said yesterday that the assessment would take place in Yuebaolou's Alchemy room,

Lin Jing headed straight to the Yuebaolou's Alchemy room.

Upon entering the courtyard, Lin Jing saw two people already waiting there.

When they saw Lin Jing arrive, they greeted him.

"Lin Daoyou..."

Lin Jing responded to them as well.

Then...

The three of them waited in the courtyard square, not talking but sitting in meditation to conserve their energy.

Because the upcoming Alchemy would be very consuming, it was important for all three to ensure they were fully energized.

It wasn't much longer before the last Offering Priest arrived.

This last Offering Priest to take the assessment was the same Pill Master with the surname Wang who had been with Yu Yan before..

Chapter 149: The Assessment Begins

After the Pill Master with the surname Wang arrived...

He warmly greeted Lin Jing along with two other Offering Priests.

Lin Jing responded briefly before closing his eyes to rest once more.

After a while...

Steward Zheng and Steward Cheng arrived at the scene.

Besides Steward Zheng and Steward Cheng, three other stewards from Yuebaolou were also present.

It seemed that they were responsible for assisting in the supervision of the examination.

Subsequently, Steward Zheng approached everyone and said:

“Today’s examination will only involve the four of you.”

“And the location of the examination will be this very square you are standing in. ”

“Shortly, the four of you will separate, each choosing a corner to conduct the examination.”

“At the same time...”

“During the examination, there will be four stewards overseeing you.” After Steward Zheng finished speaking, the four stewards took a step forward.

Then, with a wave of his hand, Steward Zheng announced:

“Alright..

“Without further ado, go and find your positions.”

No sooner had Steward Zheng’s words fallen than the group dispersed.

Lin Jing turned and headed straight for the southeastern corner.

Seeing this, the Pill Master named Wang followed Lin Jing and made for the northeastern corner.

The other two Offering Priests went directly to the two corners on the west side.

As everyone had selected their spots, Steward Zheng spoke up again:

“As Pill Masters, contending with the external environment is also a form of cultivation. If the slightest disturbance can impact one’s state of mind. “Then, forever will he be unable to qualify as a competent Pill Master.”

“Therefore...

“This examination will not set up any formations.”

Although Steward Zheng’s words seemed reasonable, they raised concerns given the nature of an examination compared to ordinary circumstances.

Steward Cheng and the other three stewards frowned upon hearing this.

Because Yuebaolou had conducted multi-person examinations before, but they always used soundproof formations to prevent mutual disturbance.

This was because the most crucial factor for a Pill Master during alchemy was a quiet environment.

Only then could a Pill Master truly perform to their full potential.

“Steward Zheng, we have never before conducted an examination without using soundproof formations...”

Steward Cheng approached and said to Steward Zheng.

With a snort, Steward Zheng replied:

“Humph..

“If such a minor disturbance can affect the results of alchemy, then that person is not qualified to become one of our Yuebaolou’s Offering Pill Masters.”

“My mind is made up; no need to discuss this further...”

“But...’

Steward Cheng attempted to speak further but was immediately interrupted by Steward Zheng.

“If you have any dissatisfaction, I can find someone else to supervise the examination...”

Steward Zheng’s gaze was icy as he stared intently at Steward Cheng, his words carrying significant weight.

“I wouldn’t dare...” responded Steward Cheng with a cupped fist.

Subsequently, Steward Cheng glanced in Lin Jing’s direction with a silent sigh.

Then he stopped talking and stepped back.

Following that...

Steward Zheng turned his gaze to the four people including Lin Jing, pondered for a moment, and then pointed to an Offering Priest in the northwest corner and said to Steward Cheng:

“You, supervise him, and remember, there must be no negligence...”

“Alright...”

Steward Cheng did not retort this time, but went straight towards the northwest corner.

Then...

Steward Zheng continued with assignments.

Assigned to Lin Jing was a steward he had only seen a few times and was not very familiar with.

Soon, the assignments for all four stewards were completed.

Steward Zheng continued to speak:

“You have until sunset to complete the assessment. If you fail to do so, it will be considered a failure of the assessment.”

“Time waits for no one. Alright, begin now...”

Setting the time limit to sunset, Steward Zheng’s words made everyone a bit nervous.

From now until sunset, to concoct three batches of Second Rank Elixir Medicine, the time was very urgent, as there needed to be a rest period between each batch to recover one’s state.

If the rest was insufficient and the state not fully recovered, it would certainly affect the concoction of the next batch of Elixir Medicine.

Moreover...

The lower the cultivation, the longer the recovery time needed.

In the case of Lin Jing, the cultivation he showed to others was only at the seventh level of Qi Refinement.

A cultivator at the seventh level of Qi Refinement would need at least three to four hours to rest and recover after concocting a batch of Elixir Medicine.

Additionally, the time needed for Alchemy itself was not short.

If Lin Jing did not want to expose his real strength, then he simply would not have enough time, and could not possibly concoct the third batch of Elixir Medicine.

In other words, Lin Jing only had two chances.

Whereas the other three Offering Priests all had at least the cultivation of the Foundation Establishment Stage, with their speed of recovery, they could just about manage to concoct three batches of Elixir Medicine before sunset.

Only the time would be very tight...

After Steward Zheng finished speaking, no one dared to delay and immediately began their preparations.

From their Storage Bags, everyone took out a Pill Furnace, Lin Jing included, who took out the Fire Meteor Four-Pattern Furnace from his Storage Bag.

Lin Jing then took out some firewood for igniting the fire. This wood was of low-level spiritual wood, which, when burned, produced a higher temperature than ordinary firewood.

That way, during Alchemy, the speed would also be faster.

When the others saw Lin Jing take out the firewood, they were all momentarily stunned...

Then they remembered that Lin Jing was only at the seventh level of Qi Refinement.

They shook their heads with a chuckle, not knowing whether it was mockery or something else.

But these people directly used their Foundation Building True Fire, not needing any firewood at all.

Foundation Building True Fire was much better than ordinary fire.

Its temperature was much higher than ordinary fire, and in terms of speed, it was also much faster than ordinary fire in concocting Elixir Medicine.

If it took Lin Jing an hour to concoct Second Rank Elixir Medicine with ordinary fire, using Foundation Building True Fire, only a little over half an hour was needed to complete the concoction.

Moreover...

As the Foundation Building True Fire was a fire from within the body, it was better controlled and made it easier to concoct higher quality Elixir Medicine.

Following that...

The steward overseeing Lin Jing's Alchemy handed him a small package.

Lin Jing took the package, reached out, opened it, and inside were the Alchemy Ingredients for concocting Gathering Yuan Pills—three sets in total.

To standardize this assessment, everyone used Gathering Yuan Pills as the Elixir Medicine for the assessment.

Afterward...

Lin Jing followed the previous steps, processing the Alchemy Ingredients, starting the fire, then placing the ingredients into the furnace in order.

At the same time, in order to not make it too obvious, he also deliberately slowed down his speed a bit, making himself appear somewhat inexperienced.

By the time others had already sealed their furnaces and begun concocting, Lin Jing was still inserting ingredients into the Pill Furnace.

However, if we're truly counting, Lin Jing was not much slower than the other three, at most less than a quarter of an hour.

After a while, Lin Jing also finished the preliminary work and began to seal the furnace.

After sealing the furnace...

Lin Jing formed a hand seal and utilized the Controlling Fire Technique to manipulate the flames beneath the furnace. The flames moved as if they were an extension of his own limb, following Lin Jing's intentions.

He concentrated fully, fixating his attention on the Pill Furnace..

Chapter 150: Exploding Furnace

Just as Lin Jing was using the Controlling Fire Technique, several gazes swept over.

Lin Jing's mastery of the Controlling Fire Technique had already reached perfection; his control over the flames could be described as an extension of his own limbs, incredibly skilled.

As time trickled by.

Their Alchemy gradually entered a critical phase, requiring an increasing amount of concentration, leaving them no spare energy to be concerned with anything else.

Like this, another half an hour passed, and it was now coming down to the wire with everyone's nerves stretched taut.

Fearing even the slightest mistake.

Of course, this didn't include Lin Jing, who still had some time before his Elixir Medicine was ready.

Nevertheless, even so, he still focused intently on his own Pill Furnace, aware that, despite his proficiency in alchemy, he couldn't afford to be careless.

Otherwise, if he truly botched it, there would be nowhere for him to weep.

However, during this process, Lin Jing still deliberately made some small adjustments to appear more like a Second -Grade Alchemist who had just recently been promoted.

At this point, the fragrance of Elixir Medicine wafted through the area, signifying that someone had already succeeded in making it.

Before long...

The Pill Furnace opened, the fragrance of the Elixir billowing out and pervading the entire courtyard.

One of the Offering Priests had completed his concoction.

After opening the Furnace, this person took out the Elixir Medicine, a total of five pills, including one Superior Gathering Yuan Pill.

This was only his first batch, and he had already passed the examination.

By his side, Steward Cheng took the Elixir Medicine from his hand and then passed it to Zheng Steward,

Zheng Steward accepted the Elixir Medicine, inspected it briefly, then nodded his head without uttering a word and continued to watch the remaining few.

And when he looked at Lin Jing, he paused especially longer, observing him for a while.

Just then, another scent drifted from the Elixir Furnace; another Offering Priest clad in blue robes was nearing the completion of his alchemy.

At this time, inside the venue, the only ones without any commotion were Lin Jing and the Wang surnamed Pill Master.

Lin Jing had started sealing the furnace later than the others, and in the middle of the process, he deliberately slowed down his alchemy speed to hide his cultivation and level of alchemy proficiency.

At this point, Lin Jing was still some distance from completing his pill and did not have the urgency, even free to lift his head and check on the others' progress.

The blue-robed Offering Priest was clearly at the final juncture, currently preparing for pill condensation.

The Wang surnamed Pill Master, however, was sweating profusely and looked rather flustered, presumably having encountered some mishap.

“Bang”

A loud explosion rang out, and unbelievably, someone's Pill Furnace had exploded.

This person was none other than the Wang surnamed Pill Master.

The explosion was severe, and the whole Pill Furnace of the Wang surnamed Pill Master was shattered, even several fragments of the furnace were blasted out.

One fragment, in particular, flew directly toward Lin Jing.

Lin Jing just happened to look up, startled by the sudden turn of events.

Then he snapped to his senses and, without bothering to control the flames at the base of the furnace, immediately withdrew his Divine Sense, mobilized his Spiritual Power, and tried to stop the oncoming fragment.

But...

Just as the fragment was about to reach Lin Jing, the Steward beside him swiftly intervened, blocking the shard.

Lin Jing was just about to heave a sigh of relief when, shortly after...

“Bang”

“Bang”

Two muffled sounds in succession, and Lin Jing and the other blue-robed Offering Priest's furnaces exploded at the same time.

“You...

The blue-robed Offering Priest turned his head, his face livid with rage, staring fixedly at the Wang surnamed Pill Master, his gaze as if he wanted to devour him.

Understandably so, for his Elixir Medicine was on the verge of success, but at this critical moment, he was disturbed and this led directly to his furnace exploding.

Anybody in his situation would likely find it unbearable.

Even Lin Jing felt the same, his eyebrows furrowed tight, yet he did not lose his composure like the Offering Priest almost did.

Although he had been conducting the alchemy slowly to conceal his skill, everything was actually under his control.

This Elixir Furnace Medicine, he was eighty percent sure that he could produce a Superior Gathering Yuan Pill.

Now disrupted and turned to ashes, to say Lin Jing wasn't annoyed would be impossible...

At this moment, the Pill Master surnamed Wang hurriedly apologized to both the blue-robed Offering Priest and Lin Jing with a bow:

"Two fellow daoists, I truly apologize. It was my carelessness that caused this explosion of the furnace..."

"After this examination concludes, I will certainly offer some compensation to both fellow daoists to make amends for your losses in this incident..."

At that time, the blue-robed Offering Priest was in a state of extreme anger, absolutely unable to hear any of his explanations:

"What can you compensate with, can you afford it?"

"A Second-Grade Alchemist actually caused the furnace to explode?" "Ridiculous..."

"And to do so at such a critical moment, I believe you did it on purpose." "Today, no matter what, I will teach you a lesson..."

Having said that, the Offering Priest advanced decisively towards the Pill Master surnamed Wang.

The Pill Master surnamed Wang became panicked and quickly spoke up:

"Fellow daoist, I truly did not do it intentionally, please listen to my explanation..."

However, the Offering Priest did not pay him any heed and continued walking towards him, appearing determined to discipline the Pill Master surnamed Wang before letting the matter rest.

Seeing that his attempts at defense were futile, the Pill Master surnamed Wang looked to Steward Zheng for help in desperation.

“Steward Zheng, save me.”

At this time, Steward Zheng’s face had darkened, a well-conducted examination had turned into such a mess.

“Enough...”

Steward Zheng roared loudly.

In his roar, there was the pressure of a Golden Core Cultivator’s Divine Sense.

That Offering Priest, who was initially blinded by rage, gradually had the anger in his eyes dissipate and his clarity restored after the roar.

It was then he suddenly realized, his behavior might have provoked Steward Zheng. Sensing the trouble, he hurriedly turned around and bowed to Steward Zheng:

“Steward Zheng, I was blinded by anger just now. I hope Steward Zheng can excuse my behavior...”

“What are you all doing...”

Steward Zheng spoke in a stern voice:

“We are in the middle of an examination, not a time to settle your personal grievances...”

“Yes, I understand.”

After speaking, the Offering Priest bowed to Steward Zheng and said:

“Steward Zheng, because of this person’s explosion, the Elixir Medicines we were making have been reduced to ashes.” “Please tell us, Steward Zheng, how should this matter be handled?”

This time, he included Lin Jing as well.

Having said that...

The person looked towards Steward Zheng, waiting for him to provide an answer.

Steward Zheng glanced over the three people and then spoke directly:

“Before the examination began, I had already stated that we would not set up soundproof Formations. ”

“That was to observe your temperament and your true Alchemy skills under unique circumstances.”

“You should know, in a real Alchemy competition, with dozens or hundreds of people performing Alchemy simultaneously, the situation is much more complex than this.”

“Now...”

“A single furnace explosion disrupted your Alchemy, causing you to lose focus and leading directly to the explosion.”

“It seems your composure is not strong enough...”

Following this...

Steward Zheng then announced the outcome of the incident. “The current examination stands, the examination continues..”