

The Eternal 131

Chapter 131: A Deal

Yunxiao laughed. “No, thanks for asking, Elder Yin! If I need any help, I’ll come to you. Just don’t reject me when the time comes.”

“No, I won’t!” Yin Zhaoyang quickly waved his hand and shook his head. He thought for a moment, then took out a gold card from his ring and handed it to Yunxiao. “Young Master Yun, this is the Honored Guest Gold Card of the Commerce Alliance. With it, you can purchase goods at a thirty percent discount from any members of the alliance. In fact, you should use a higher-level card, but as the Guardian Elder of a small branch, I can only issue gold cards.”

Yunxiao’s eyes lit up, and he took the card with a smile and put it away. “This is a good thing, thank you.”

Yin Zhaoyang felt happy when he saw the other putting it away. ‘I finally did him a small favor. There are few people on the Heavenly Martial Continent that Third Elder takes so seriously. Although this lad is young now, he will certainly be a figure soaring in the clouds in the future. It is only right for me to curry favor with him now, because when he becomes a dragon, he won’t even look me in the eye.’

Suddenly, Yunxiao thought of something. “Does Myriad Treasures Store have Pure Sacred Crystal and Dark Sulfur Mist?”

Yin Zhaoyang smiled and said, “Anything that exists in the world, Myriad Treasures Store has it. Even if the Firecrow branch is temporarily out of stock, we can transfer them from other branches. I’m only responsible for the security work, so I’m not very clear about the inventory of goods. I’ll get someone to find out now.”

He was about to ask his men to find out when Ding Ling’er strode over and said, “Young Master Yun, both Pure Sacred Crystal and Dark Sulfur Mist are available in my company. I’ll have them sent to you now.”

Yin Zhaoyang’s face flickered. He gave her an angry look, furious that she had robbed him of his chance to curry favor with Yunxiao. “Young Master Yun, at Myriad Treasures Store, the quality of the same item is always better than that of any other company! I will order my men to look for them now!” he said hurriedly.

Ding Ling'er quickly said, "I've just informed my people, and they are on their way here with the things now!"

"You!"

Yin Zhaoyang flushed with anger. He was trying every means to make friends with this promising lad, but Ding Ling'er just would not stop interfering with him. It made his nostrils flare. If it were not for the fact that Yunxiao was still here, he might have grabbed her and thrown her away.

"Well, I appreciate Elder Yin's effort, but I will take Miss Ling'er's." Of course, Yunxiao knew Yin Zhaoyang's intention, so he just gave him an apologetic smile.

Ding Ling'er's face beamed with joy, but she was smiling wryly on the inside. She came to Yunxiao because she wanted him to help her with something. She thought that with Tianyuan Trading Company's reputation and strength, it would be easy to cow him, and the key lay in whether he was worth her effort.

But now, it seemed that it was not the case at all, because even the Guardian Elder of Myriad Treasure Store had to flatter him. She suddenly lost her confidence, and did not know what to do. Fortunately, she hit the right note and won Yunxiao's favor for the time being.

Li Chunyang and the others stood by silently, not knowing what to say anymore. They had mobilized the whole state and even searched the whole Tianshui several times, but they could not find what Yunxiao wanted. And now, there were two famous trading companies fighting each other to bring him the things, and even showing displeasure after being rejected by him. All they wanted to know now was what Yunxiao had told Yin Zhaoyang. They were ready to interrogate him as soon as they got back.

"Oh, right!" Yin Zhaoyang suddenly took out a small golden jade medallion and handed it to Yunxiao. "Young Master Yun, this is an Honored Medallion for the auction to be held the day after tomorrow. Please come and join us! The list of items to be auctioned is still being added, and I will have it sent to you as soon as it is finalized."

After saying that, he gave Ding Ling'er a hard look and then smiled triumphantly. The look on his face simply said: 'You can't possibly have this, can you?'

Yunxiao felt a bit uncomfortable. He did not expect that his brief contact with Yuwen Bo would cause such a big reaction. After thanking them, he was no longer in the mood to shop further, so he left with the others.

Ding Ling'er and Yu Rong followed him at a distance, which made him laugh in his heart. He turned and waved at them, then took them both back to his residence.

Li Chunyang and the others wanted to interrogate Yunxiao, but the presence of outsiders made them give up the idea. Dejected, they all went back to their own rooms to meditate. Meanwhile, Yunxiao brought Ding Ling'er and Yu Rong to the meeting hall. "Just say what you have to say. I am very busy."

Ding Ling'er summoned up her courage and said nervously, "Tianyuan Trading Company is facing a crisis and we need your help. I promise the remuneration will be satisfactory!"

In the beginning, she had come with a lofty attitude, wanting to see if Yunxiao was worth her effort. But now, she only had a pleading look on her face, and she was nervous, fearing that he would refuse her. She also did not dare to say too much about the remuneration, because as long as Yunxiao agreed to help, she would pay anything that he wanted!

Yunxiao looked up and thought for a moment. "Is this year the time for the two tournaments of the Commerce Alliance?"

Ding Ling'er's eyes flashed with surprise, then she smiled wryly and said, "Young Master Yun, you are really someone special! I can't believe you know about the two tournaments, even though you live in such a remote place like Tianshui. In that case, you should also know about the crisis my company is facing now."

Yunxiao leaned his forehead against his index finger and thought for a moment, and then said, "How can I help you when I am not from Tianyuan Trading Company?"

"It's only a small problem. When the time comes, I'll give you an identity. We still have about half a year, and this year's venue is in the city of Songyueyang."

“Songyueyang?” Yunxiao arched an eyebrow and said, “Fine, I will help you. But, you have to pay me in advance. I can’t wait for half a year.”

“Pay you in advance?” Yu Rong complained, “How do we know if you will honor your words? Or, will you still be alive when the time comes?”

Yunxiao laughed. “Mister Yu, you must be thinking that I will soon die because I’ve offended Xingyang Family and Cheng Family, right?” His face suddenly blackened as he waved a hand and said coldly, “You can leave now!”

Ding Ling’er gave Yu Rong a reproachful glare, then quickly smiled at Yunxiao and said, “Young Master Yun, don’t listen to Sir Yu’s nonsense. Even Myriad Treasures Store has to act in accordance with your will, so I don’t think Xingyang Family and Cheng Family can cause you any harm. However, I wonder what the remuneration you want is...”

Yunxiao thought for a moment and said, “I want fifty hoverchariots!”

“What!” Yu Rong almost bit his tongue. In a fit of rage, he jumped up and said, “Do you think hoverchariots are made of wood? Fifty hoverchariots! Even the lowest-class hoverchariot is a fourth-tier alchemy product. Do you know how much fifty hoverchariots would cost?”

Yunxiao looked at him coldly. “Do I need you to tell me how much they cost? If you can’t afford it, get the hell out of here! Remember, it is you who asked me to help you, not the other way! I don’t like the way you talk, so my remuneration has increased now. You must pay me at least one hundred hoverchariots, or you can leave now!”

“Come back to me when you’ve made up your mind! I’m very busy!” With his face cold, Yunxiao stood up and turned to leave.

“You!” Yu Rong flew into a rage. He was a mighty Martial King, and yet Yunxiao did not show him even a little bit of respect. He could not suffer such humiliation anymore. His aura exploded out, and he was about to strike when an even stronger killing intent suddenly blocked his aura, then poured over and targeted him.

'A peak eight-stars Martial King!' Yu Rong was shocked. Only then did he remember that there was indeed such an expert among Yunxiao's followers, and he froze in place with an embarrassed look on his face.

Looking at the departing Yunxiao, Ding Ling'er gritted her teeth as she rushed over and said, "Young Master Yun, if you can guarantee that you will win in the two tournaments, I'll give you fifty hoverchariots!"

Yunxiao stopped, then turned his head and said coldly, "You know why I want hoverchariots, but without them, I still have other ways. I can promise to get the first place for you in both tournaments and make Tianyuan Trading Company a permanent member of the Commerce Alliance, but I want one hundred hoverchariots now, and not fifty!"

Shocked, Ding Ling'er's eyes grew wide in an instant, and she cried out, "First place in both tournaments? Are you serious? Do you have the confidence!"

Yunxiao snorted coldly and said in a disdainful voice, "In six months, my martial arts will at least step into the Four Quadrants Realm, and my alchemy will at least reach the peak of the fourth-tier. In the whole Commerce Alliance, will there be seven young guys who can surpass me?"

The so-called two tournaments referred to the martial arts and alchemy tournaments. They were used to examine the potential of the members of the Commerce Alliance, and the result would determine the distribution of power. It was the rule laid down from the very beginning of the alliance's establishment. Every time after the two tournaments, at least one or two permanent members would be replaced, along with even more ordinary members.

Originally, the Commerce Alliance was only focused on doing business. But in the recent years, with its continuous growth, it had become one of the superpowers on the continent. Therefore, it also began to develop toward the direction of power, and the assessment of its members also changed into martial arts and alchemy. All participants of the two tournaments must be members of the trading companies they represented, and not over thirty years old, so they could better portray the potential of the companies.

In recent years, Tianyuan Trading Company's strength had been ranked in the bottom three of the twenty ordinary members, becoming one of the targets that other rising companies wanted to pull down. So, Ding Ling'er's father, Ding Shan, the president of the company, was trying every means to attract young talents everywhere.

Ding Ling'er said in shock, "If you really can reach this level within six months, then we indeed have a good chance of becoming a permanent member! But Young Master Yun, how can you guarantee that?"

Yunxiao smiled. "If I can't make you become one of the permanent members, I will pay you back ten times the remuneration I ask today in the future!" With his potential, when he became a Martial Lord, he could at least compete with a Martial King. As for his alchemy, few young people under the age of thirty could surpass him.

Chapter 132: Three Arrays

"Fine!" There was a trace of madness in Ding Ling'er's eyes. Her body shivered uncontrollably as she said in excitement, "It's a deal! But, my company cannot come out with one hundred hoverchariots in such a short time. Even if I need to purchase them, I will need some time."

Yunxiao pondered for a moment, then shook his head and said, "I don't have time for you to purchase them. How many do you have now?"

Ding Ling'er calculated in her mind. "We have about thirty right now, and three fifth-tier Tigerking hoverchariots."

"Oh?" Yunxiao's eyes lit up. A fourth-tier hoverchariot was called Bluewolf, and a fifth-tier one was called Tigerking. Exulted, he said, "Give me all the Tigerkings, they will make up for thirty Bluewolves. As for the rest, you can pay me in fourth-tier herbs or mystic weapons."

After considering for a while, Ding Ling'er agreed. The cost of one hundred fourth-tier alchemy products was indeed an astronomical figure, and even a state might not be wealthy enough to pay. But, for the sake of Tianyuan Trading Company's current crisis, no matter how expensive it was, it had to pay.

Ignoring the unimaginably great power and convenience enjoyed by an ordinary member of the alliance, if it fell from the seat of an ordinary member, the rest of the companies would definitely take the opportunity to carve up its business. In fact, the companies who had lost their ordinary member status in the past were all devoured by other companies within a few years, completely vanishing from the continent.

So, Tianyuan Trading Company had come to the moment of life and death. There was no other way out, and Ding Ling'er had to gamble.

"I've made a serious mistake that cost the company to pay double!"

After leaving the City Lord Mansion, Yu Rong was extremely depressed. When he thought that the company was forced to pay twice as much because of him, he was filled with grief and anger.

"It's alright," said Ding Ling'er with a gentle smile. "If the company can survive this crisis, the price is small enough to ignore. Otherwise, we would lose these things anyway. In fact, it is better that we can give him more, so that he owes us greater favor and, at the same time, we can help him grow faster. In the end, it will all come back to us."

Yu Rong was overwhelmed with gratitude. To him, the way she justified his serious mistake with that was a kindness he could never repay. In a fit of guilt, he said, "But, don't you think it is too much of a joke for that Li Yunxiao to say that he will become a Martial Lord and a fourth-tier alchemist in six months? I think he is too pompous to be trusted!"

There was a flicker of confusion in Ding Ling'er's eyes. "But Sir Yu, you personally investigated Li Yunxiao's information, and it was you who told me that he had gone from a good-for-nothing to a four-stars Martial Master and a third-tier alchemist in a few months. If he continues to grow at this rate, he will soon become a Martial Lord and a fourth-tier alchemist, right?"

Yu Rong paused, and beads of cold sweat began to ooze out of his forehead. "But..." he said hastily, "even though that is the result of my investigation, it is too absurd for even me to believe!"

Ding Ling'er fell silent. Suddenly, she smiled and said, "It doesn't matter if he can't reach that level. Among all the young people below the age of thirty in the alliance, only a few have reached the level of a third-tier alchemist. As long as he can gain a strong foothold in the alchemy tournament, I'll be satisfied. As for the martial arts tournament..." Her eyes flashed, and a confident look crept up her face. "We still have six months, and it is more than enough for me to break through into the Five Elements Realm and become a Martial King!"

Right after Ding Ling'er and Yu Rong left, Xiao Qingwang walked into the hall. His eyes were filled with shock as he said incredulously, "Just like that, we've gotten ourselves one hundred fourth-tier alchemy products? Am I dreaming, Young Master Yun?"

"Now is not the time for dreaming," said Yunxiao in a cold voice. "It seems Tianyuan Trading Company is indeed at the edge of a cliff. Otherwise, they would not have agreed so briskly. But...if the situation hadn't forced me to, I would never have agreed to this price."

Xiao Qingwang's face grew grave, and he said worriedly, "Are you referring to the Xingyang and Cheng families? We have killed their descendants, and they will definitely not let this matter rest, given how proud and arrogant they are. We need to be prepared for battles."

Although Xingyang Family was also an aristocratic family in Firecrow, Yanwu should have no problem resisting them with the help of him and the others. But, Cheng Family, with its thousands of years of history, had reserves that were too deep to be fathomed, and they might not be able to resist it even with the strength of the whole Tianshui. This was what worried him the most.

"Don't worry, I have my own plans!" There was a look of absolute confidence in Yunxiao's eyes.

Xiao Qingwang had no idea where his confidence came from, so he could only sigh, "I hope so. In any case, just call me when you need my help. It's a pity that my injury has not been cured fully, which has stopped me from progressing further. In the future, my help to you may be very limited."

"You don't have to belittle yourself," Yunxiao laughed. "Within a month, I will not only completely cure your cold poison, but also make you break through the Six Directions Realm and become a Martial Grandmaster!"

"What!" Xiao Qingwang stared at Yunxiao in shock. Although the latter often uttered startling words, he knew his condition best. 'But, every time he said something startling, he did it in the end...'

Yunxiao gave him a mysterious look as he laughed and said, "You will know when the time comes."

Xiao Qingwang shook his head with a wry smile and left without believing it, but there was an immense anticipation inside him.

Yunxiao smiled, and then his face grew calm. He took out a jade medallion and sent a stream of divine sense into it, calling his grandfather over, "Send this jade medallion back to the capital and give it to Zhang Qingfan as soon as possible."

Knowing what was at stake, Li Chunyang dared not slack off and set off for the capital at once.

After that, Yunxiao asked Jia Rong to accompany him out of the City Lord Mansion and walked around the city. His most important task at present was to know the condition of the city. Initially, he had intended to be an idle City Lord who was only in charge of money, but he did not expect that he would have to take over everything so soon.

"What's that place?"

Standing at the top of the tallest building in the city and pointing to a stretch of green hills dozens of miles away outside the city, Yunxiao asked Wu Zishi, who was beside him.

After waking up from sleep, Wu Zishi realized that he was not dreaming. He was overjoyed, and just as he was about to share the good news with his family, Yunxiao came to him and took him out to the highest place in the city.

He glanced in that direction and replied respectfully, "My lord, the highest mountain there is called Mount Qiyun, and the whole mountain range is also called Qiyun Mountains. It is said that there are many demon beasts living in it. The average hunters and herb gatherers would venture only to the outskirts of the mountains."

"Demon beasts?" Yunxiao frowned and asked, "Do you know if there are aristocratic families or sects in these mountains?"

Wu Zishi paused a moment. He was just an ordinary man, and his first reaction to the question was: 'Who except hunters would want to live in the mountains?' But, he soon realized that Yunxiao was referring to those existences with mighty power. He shook his head and said, "I don't know. But, I often hear stories of people running into immortals in the mountains."

Yunxiao nodded slightly and said to himself, “Although the Spirit Qi of this mountain is not as good as that of those famous rivers and mountains, it is already considered very good in Tianshui. Since there are demon beasts in it, there are probably aristocratic families or sects as well. Judging from the concentration of the Spirit Qi, they should not be any powerful figures. Well, I’ll borrow their Spirit Qi for the time being.”

“Borrowing Spirit Qi?” Jia Rong, who was standing behind him, asked curiously, “Young Master Yun, how do you borrow Spirit Qi? Do you need to return it?”

Yunxiao laughed. “Bring two thousand members of the Dubhe and set up these three arrays under the city as fast as you can.” He threw three array diagrams to Jia Rong.

With an excited look on his face, Jia Rong took the diagrams and glanced through them. Although Yunxiao made him do all the laborious work every time, he always gained tremendous benefits afterward.

“The Nine Dragons Energy Absorbing Array, the Universe Sky City Treasure Array, the Great Sun and Golden Light Sword Array!”

“What are these arrays? I’ve never heard of them.” Jia Rong felt a little dumbfounded. Looking at the complicated layout of the drawings, his first reaction was dizziness.

Yunxiao explained, “The Nine Dragons Energy Absorbing Array can bring Spirit Qi from all directions into the city. I’ve studied the surroundings just now. There is no spirit mountain or treasure land here, and this Mount Qiyun is the only place with some Spirit Qi, so I’ve slightly modified the array. When it is activated, it will focus on absorbing the Spirit Qi of the mountain. As for the other two arrays, they are guardian arrays for sects—one is offensive and the other is defensive. I have also greatly simplified them.”

“Guardian arrays!” Jia Rong was shocked. A guardian array was something that only those super strong aristocratic families and sects with at least thousands of years of history could have. In Firecrow Empire, it was likely that only Jutian Sect had similar things. He could not believe Yunxiao just gave him two!

“I...I am only a mere second-tier alchemist. Do I have the ability to set them up?” Jia Rong began to feel nervous, fearing that he would screw things up.

“Each of the two arrays, in its full version, has 3,600 restrictive spells and 108 variations. If a Martial Supreme is caught in it, he too will die!” Looking at Jia Rong, whose jaws almost dropped to the ground, Yunxiao chuckled and said, “Apart from the fact that you don’t have the ability to set up these formations right now, the Primordial Stones needed to maintain their operation are astronomical. Therefore, there are only 18 restrictive spells and zero variations in my simplified version. They only have simple defensive and offensive abilities. But even so, they are a rare means at present.”

Chapter 133: The Sword of Tigertooth

Yunxiao took out a storage bag from his ring and threw it to Jia Rong as he said seriously, “From now on, all Primordial Stones are at your disposal. If these are not enough, come and get more from me at any time.” Then, he turned and took out another storage bag, handing it to Wu Zishi. “Exchange everything inside for Primordial Stones while the trade fair is still being held in the city.”

Although Wu Zishi did not understand what they were saying, he could tell they were preparing to do something big, and it would cost a lot of Primordial Stones. He took the bag and looked inside. What he saw startled him, and he almost fell off the building.

He did not know the value of all kinds of rare treasures in it, but the mountains of gold coins themselves pricked his eyes.

‘Heavens! Although I am in charge of the finances of the richest city in Tianshui, I have never seen so many gold coins! What did this King of Wucheng do before? Where did he get so much money? I can’t believe he trusts me so much and has entrusted me with such a large fortune! I must deliver results, so as to live up to his appreciation and trust in me!’

Jia Rong, on the other hand, was overwhelmed by Yunxiao’s knowledge, and he screamed inside his head, ‘Heavens! He even knows the arrays that can kill Martial Emperors! I must learn them! I must set up these simplified versions of the arrays perfectly, so as to get Young Master Yun’s approval and let him teach me more advanced things in the future!’

Both men’s thoughts were almost identical, and they were high in spirits, eager to start working at once.

When Yunxiao had finished, he asked them to carry out the tasks immediately while he himself returned to the City Lord Mansion. Meng Wu had been waiting at the door. When she saw him, she hurried

forward and said, "Young Master Yun, the people of Tianyuan Trading Company delivered Pure Sacred Crystal and Dark Sulfur Mist just now, and Myriad Treasures Store also sent you the catalog of auction items."

Yunxiao took everything from her and gave them a quick glance, then put them into his ring. All of a sudden, he smiled and said, "I need a steward in this City Lord Mansion to take care of daily affairs. Meng Wu, I want you to take up this position."

"Ah? Steward? Me?" Meng Wu was taken aback, and then she said, "No, no, no...How can I do it? This is such an important..."

"Well, if I say you can, you can!" Yunxiao's eyes sparkled as he said firmly. "However, taking care of daily affairs is secondary. The most important thing for you is to cultivate yourself. Leave all the trifles to the servants, and only handle the major issues yourself."

Before Meng Wu could refuse, Yunxiao laughed and went into his room. Meanwhile, she stood there, thinking, 'Why is he putting me in charge of something so important? And...as his steward, doesn't that mean I need to take care of his daily life? Could it be...could it be that he wants me to be his wife? How is that possible? Only stunning beauties with distinguished status like Teacher Luo and Princess Ruxue deserve to be his wife. I'm just a nobody! But, it may be possible...After all, he had touched me all over that day. Oh, no! What if he wants me to warm his bed?'

Her face blushed in an instant. After thinking for a long time, she sighed plaintively and said, "It seems that I can only obey him. What choice do I have?"

"Obey him? Obey who? Sis?" At some point, Meng Bai appeared in front of her and asked curiously, "Why is your face so warm again? I've noticed that you often have a fever recently."

"Hey!" Furious from embarrassment, Meng Wu threw a palm at her brother. "How can you hide aside and eavesdrop on me? What did you hear? Tell me quickly!"

"I didn't hide!" Looking aggrieved, Meng Bai quickly threw his head back and dodged the slap. "I've been standing in front of you for several minutes, but you didn't seem to see me. You must have a very bad fever."

“Shut your mouth!”

Meng Wu felt very embarrassed. At the thought that her brother might have heard everything, her neck turned red with shyness. She stamped her foot and started chasing him.

As the two siblings were equal in strength, they soon fought together while laughing and running up and down the mansion.

After returning to his bedroom, Yunxiao took out the catalog sent to him by Myriad Treasures Store and carefully flipped through it. His eyes gleamed with surprise, and he soon remembered all the auction items in his mind. With a wry smile on his face, he muttered to himself, “So many good things, but I have too little money unfortunately.”

He went through the catalog several times before closing it, his eyes flashing as he seemed to have a plan. After that, he sat cross-legged down. With a flip of a hand, a pile of materials appeared on the ground in front of him, including the Bloodstriped Tiger and the mysterious spirit fruit.

“Hah, a Four Quadrants Fruit! If it weren’t for my One Qi of Destiny, I would not be able to enjoy this fruit.”

Without hesitation, he put the fruit into his mouth and swallowed it in one gulp. If anyone saw him do that, their jaws would have dropped in shock and they would have scolded him for waste.

Spirit fruits were the best alchemy materials because they contained the purest Primordial Qi. However, ordinary people could not absorb the Qi by eating them directly, and could only turn them into pills before taking them. Demon beasts, on the other hand, could directly absorb this kind of spirit fruits.

After swallowing the fruit, Yunxiao immediately began to exercise One Qi of Destiny. Streams of powerful energy poured out of his stomach and were absorbed by his bones and flesh. He felt an indescribable comfort in his meridians and bones, as if they were being washed by spring water.

At the same time, fog-like white aura emerged outside his body, obscuring his appearance. He looked like he was in an immortal realm, and the Qi around him was so rich that it seemed to be already corporeal, moving rhythmically with his breath, as if it were alive.

Bam!

A force slammed and broke through his bottleneck, allowing him to step into the realm of five-stars in an instant. However, Yunxiao did not show any joy, as if all of this were supposed to happen. He continued to meditate, absorbing the rest of the spirit fruit's Primordial Qi.

"Phew! I'm so full!"

After some time, Yunxiao finally woke up from his meditation. There was a foul smell on him, which came from the toxins excreted from his body. He felt extremely relaxed and pleasant, with streams of powerful Primordial Qi flowing back and forth in him. "If only I could eat a spirit fruit every day..." He had a look of discontentment on his face. "It's a pity that this Four Quadrants Fruit had lost too much Primordial Qi after it was picked. Otherwise, I would have made more progress."

He flexed his body and performed a few postures in the Tyrant Body Tempering Technique before he began to study the Bloodstriped Tiger. Apart from being covered with blood-red stripes and having two tusks like elephants, it was no different from ordinary tigers.

"Oh, what a pity!" Yunxiao gave a sudden cry and slapped himself on the thigh. "It was a Bloodstriped Tiger about to evolve into a tiger king! It would have evolved if it had eaten the fruit. No wonder it fought so desperately with the python!"

He began to quickly dismember the tiger's body, bottle its blood, skin it, and remove its bones. Soon, a whole Bloodstriped Tiger was turned into bits and pieces by him.

"With these two tiger teeth and tiger blood, my sword can finally take shape!"

He took out the sword embryo from his ring, then pointed a finger between his eyebrows. Immediately, a shadow of the Phoenix Flame appeared in the air in front of him, and the temperature in the room began to rise sharply.

"Go!"

The sword made a few circuits in the air before flying into the shadow flame, and a powerful wave of spiritual energy immediately spread out in all directions like a tidal wave.

“Hehe! This Phoenix Flame is indeed a divine object of heaven and earth. Just a trace of its shadow is already powerful enough to subdue a third-tier sword embryo instantly!” There was a triumphant smile on Yunxiao’s face as he threw a bottle of tiger blood he had just collected into the flames. “With this blood as the catalyst, it will be easier to refine the teeth!”

As soon as the tiger blood was thrown into the flame, the air was stained with the color of blood and hung with a faint aura of violence. But, in the next moment, the shadow flame, which was still and unmoving, gave a little dance. Next, all of the violent aura vanished while the color of blood began to condense over the flame. Soon afterward, a drop of evil-looking blood was formed and fell on the sword embryo.

Zi!

The sword embryo emanated an extremely painful spiritual wave, as if it had feelings. Meanwhile, Yunxiao narrowed his eyes slightly and threw the two tiger teeth over as he began to refine them with the sword. There seemed to be an unyielding will in the teeth, but under the mighty power of the divine flame, all resistance was futile. In the blink of an eye, the will surrendered, and the teeth began to fuse with the sword embryo.

Yunxiao’s face began to grow serious. After all, he was refining something that was beyond the third-tier, which was still very difficult for him at present. His hands flashed in incantation gestures; one spirit seal after another flew into the flame and imprinted into the sword embryo. With each new seal, the sword’s Spirit Qi grew stronger. After a few hours, the Spirit Qi finally built up to a terrifying level.

“It’s time to take shape! Refine the sword embryo, divine flame!”

With his soft cry, the shadow flame seemed to become slightly corporeal, and his face instantly turned as pale as a sheet while the Primordial Qi in his body was completely drained. It scared the wits out of him. Hastily, he pushed the flame back into the Divine Realm Tablet and threw a handful of medicinal pills into his mouth.

Rumble!

Meanwhile, dark clouds began to gather in the sky over the City Lord Mansion, with lightning flashing within.

“Fu*k! Does it attract thunder tribulation every time I refine something? This Phoenix Divine Flame is just too heaven-defying!” Yunxiao was taken aback. He had thought the Bodhi pill was an accident, but that seemed to not be the case.

Bam!

Just as he was startled, a tiny thunderbolt fell from the sky, smashing through the roof and striking on the sword embryo. Then, the dark clouds in the sky began to dissipate. Yunxiao did not know whether to laugh or cry. Could this even be considered a thunder tribulation? Nevertheless, after being struck by the thunderbolt, the aura of the sword became much stronger!

Clang!

The sword made a shrill sound and whirled in the air several times before plunging into the wall. Blood-red lines appeared on the blade, and there seemed to be tigers leaping faintly out of them.

“Phew!” Yunxiao sat on the ground, exhausted. Looking at the sword stuck in the wall, he chuckled and said, “Since you have the will of a tiger, I’ll call you Tigertooth!”

Chapter 134: The Auction

The auction was held in a venue temporarily constructed on the largest square in Yanwu. Although it would be used only for a very short time, the materials were all transported from Firecrow Empire, and their specifications were much stricter than those of regular buildings.

The construction had begun even before the trade fair started. In just seven days, a magnificent auction hall was built, which took the shape of an unfolded fan, enough to accommodate ten thousand people. Many separated rooms for distinguished guests were ready on the second floor, waiting to serve those with high status.

Before the auction, all the aristocratic families of Firecrow Empire would receive a detailed list of the auction items. Many of these families would send representatives, such as their stewards, to bid for the items they wanted. So, even though the venue was large, it would be packed when all the invited people had arrived.

At the handle of the fan-shaped auction hall was the place where the auction items were stored in the offices for all back-end works. There was a separate small room further inside, in which, a heated argument was taking place.

“Yin Zhaoyang, I don’t care what your reason is, but I will not agree with this!” The other Guardian Elder of Myriad Treasures Store, Gan Deming, looked angry as he said in a cold voice. “Our rules are iron clad, and no one can break them!”

Yin Zhaoyang gave a disdainful snort as he folded his arms over his chest and said, “As the Guardian Elder of Firecrow branch, do I not have the right to auction an item?”

“Of course, you have! But, you need to add it before the list of auction items is released,” Gan Deming said. “With the list delivered to all the aristocratic families, how will others look at us if we add some items now?”

Not convinced, Yin Zhaoyang said with a sneer, “This is not the first time. I remember once Elder Gan’s junior had brought a fifth-tier alchemy product, which was added directly to the list even after the list was sent out.”

Gan Deming flared. “A fifth-tier alchemy product is naturally qualified to be added at any time!”

“Elder Gan is right,” said Xu Zizhuo, the manager of the Firecrow branch, who was standing to the side in silence. “I will not stop Elder Yin if the item is a fifth-tier alchemy product. But, the funny thing is, Elder Yin, even you have no idea what the item is. If we allow it to be added, and it turns out to be just a first or second-tier item, we will make ourselves a laughing stock of others, and Myriad Treasures Store’s reputation will be damaged.”

There was a faint confused look in Yin Zhaoyang’s eyes, but he said firmly, “I’m sure the quality of the item will not be inferior. If anything happens, I will bear full responsibility!”

That gave Xu Zizhuo a pause. His eyes flashed with surprise at Yin Zhaoyang's resolute look, and he fell silent while pondering.

"Haha! You will bear full responsibility? Can you?" Gan Deming sneered. "If you are bent on your own way, I will report this and the murder in the trade fair several days ago to Lord Xie Yuhang. Let's see how you are going to bear the responsibility!"

Yin Zhaoyang's face flickered, and his heart sunk a little. Although he and Gan Deming did not like each other and had fought for many years, their battles were limited to ordinary affairs and would never involve the higher-ups. Both of them knew that to cut others some slack was to give oneself the leeway in time of need, and none of them could afford the anger from above. But this time, Gan Deming had threatened him blatantly.

"Hmph! Suit yourself!" Yin Zhaoyang said coldly. "I will explain if Lord Xie Yuhang asks me about it. You have no right to know!" With a flick of his sleeve, he turned and left. He was a little nervous at first, but when he thought of what Yuwen Bo told him, he immediately calmed down. 'Treat him the same way you treat me'

Gan Deming's face fell and he bellowed, "Don't you regret it, Yin Zhaoyang!"

Paying him no more mind, Yin Zhaoyang walked straight out of the auction hall. Gan Deming, on the other hand, was fuming with rage as he said, "My lord, you've heard him too! He's just too much! He has broken our rules in a row! I can't stand it anymore this time. I will report him to Lord Xie Yuhang!"

Xu Zizhuo's face was full of suspicion, and there was a look of uncertainty in his eyes as he watched Yin Zhaoyang walk away. "Elder Gan, what do you think of Yin Zhaoyang?"

Gan Deming froze for a moment, then sneered. "Narrow-minded and selfish. Apart from his cultivation base, his character is good for nothing!"

A wry smile brushed Xu Zizhuo's lips. The fight between the two had been a headache for him. Although Gan Deming was a little biased, what he said was not far from the truth. "This is what puzzles me. Why does someone like him insist on doing that, even at the risk of being punished by Lord Xie Yuhang?"

“Ugh? Why?” Gan Deming felt strange as well.

Rubbing his temple with a thumb, Xu Zizhuo said in a low voice, “Do you know who the victims in the murder a few days ago were? Xingyang Jie, the only heir of the Xingyang Family, and Cheng Feiche, the direct descendant of the Cheng Family. In addition to them, two Martial Kings, five Martial Lords, and some thirty men with weaker cultivation levels also died.”

“Ah!” Gan Deming jumped to his feet, aghast. “How did that happen! Who killed them? How could Yin Zhaoyang never tell us anything? I thought the victims were just some insignificant men! Did he not then make two great enemies for the Myriad Treasures Store?”

With a confused look, Xu Zizhuo shook his head slightly and said, “It’s too early to say that he has made two great enemies for us. After all, we didn’t kill them, so they can just blame us for poor management at most, which can be settled with Primordial Stones. What puzzles me is why would Yin Zhaoyang, an egoist, be willing to take such a big risk for a mere City Lord of Yanwu?”

“The City Lord of Yanwu?” Gan Deming frowned. “You mean those people were killed by the City Lord? But, why would he want to kill Xingyang Jie and Cheng Feiche? Isn’t that a sure way of getting himself killed? What was Yin Zhaoyang even thinking?”

Xu Zizhuo’s face grew serious. “There must be some information we don’t know, and that information must have been learned by Yin Zhaoyang. And because of that, he is protecting the City Lord of Yanwu at the risk of offending both families, and even insisted on adding an item unknown even to him in the list of auction items at the risk of being punished by Lord Xie Yuhang. With his character, he would not have done so if he had not been absolutely sure!”

“You mean...the City Lord of Yanwu is the one who wants to add the item? But, how can a man of a low status like him have such an influence?” Gan Deming said incredulously. “Even their emperor cannot make Yin Zhaoyang do this. I wonder what information has he learned!”

“I’ve sent my men to investigate. Over the last few days, this mysterious City Lord is the only person Yin Zhaoyang has been in touch with. So, the item must be his. As for what information he has learned, I do not know. But, I’m sure it must be related to this City Lord.”

Xu Zizhuo stood up and paced back and forth in the room, then said, "I was angered by his decision of sending the bodies of Xingyang Jie and Cheng Feiche back in such a hasty manner, and I've ordered them to be seized. But, from what I can see now, he should have no fear at all. If that is the case, I will not be worried for him anymore. I will let them send the bodies back to Firecrow Empire, and I'll let him do what he wants in this auction. I, too, want to know what the item the City Lord wishes to auction off is."

Still, Gan Deming said with some reluctance, "But, what if it is just some ordinary item? That will make us a laughing stock!"

Xu Zizhuo chuckled. "Didn't Yin Zhaoyang say he would take full responsibility? If he's so confident, everything should be fine. Besides..." His eyes narrowed slightly, and his gaze seemed to penetrate layers of walls and look at the City Lord Mansion in the distance. "I actually wish something can happen, so that we will know what gave him the courage to be so arrogant!"

Very soon, the Thousand Treasures Trade Fair came to an end after it was held for several days. There was one last event to take place, which was also one that everyone was concerned about the most—the auction.

True aristocratic families had deep reserves, so they were disdainful to participate in ordinary auctions, but they would all flock to auctions held by Myriad Treasures Store. After all, not only could they fight for some rare items, but being able to participate in such events was itself a symbol of status. Even the imperial members of Firecrow Empire would send their representatives.

Xu Zizhuo gave a quick glance at a room for distinguished guests next to the room designated for the imperial members of Firecrow Empire on the second floor. He was shocked as he just saw Yin Zhaoyang bring a group of people into the room, and the leading fifteen-year-old youth was the City Lord of Yanwu, whom he had been investigating for days. What startled him was the fact that in Yin Zhaoyang's heart, the status of this City Lord was equivalent to that of the Firecrow's imperial members!

The discovery further strengthened his speculation, that was, Yin Zhaoyang must have learned something they did not know, which was related to this new City Lord, Li Yunxiao!

Looking at the packed hall, which was already fully seated, Xu Zizhuo smiled and said, "Welcome to the yearly auction hosted by Myriad Treasures Store! I, Xu Zizhuo, thank every one of you for the business over the last year. Now, I present to you the chief auctioneer of Myriad Treasures Store, Mister Mei."

His voice was not loud, but it rang softly in every ear, as if he were talking right in front of everyone. Apart from his strength as a Great Martial Master, the reason he could do that was because of the auction hall's structure.

Although he was just a Great Martial Master, he was also a fifth-tier alchemist, and he was a very famous figure in Firecrow. As soon as he had finished speaking, applause broke out among the crowd. Then, a hunchback old man with a head of white hair walked up to the auction stand, and the crowd fell silent instantly.

Chapter 135: The Cauldron of Five Elements

"Mister Mei? A member of the Mei Family?" Yunxiao was surprised as he looked at the old man on the stand. "Myriad Treasures Store is indeed wealthy. Although this is just an auction held by your Firecrow branch, you can still hire a member of the Mei Family to host it."

"Well, all our previous auctions were hosted by this same Mister Mei," said Yin Zhaoyang with a smile. "Young Master Yun, I've arranged for your item to be auctioned during the halftime. May I know what that item is?" He asked carefully. He was still a little nervous, fearing it would just be some ordinary item.

Yunxiao smiled at him and said, "Thank you for the help, Elder Yin! You will know when the time comes. With Mister Mei here, I don't have to worry about nobody knowing the value of my item."

He was accompanied by Xiao Qingwang, Chen Dasheng, Luo Yunshang, Meng Wu, and Meng Bai. They all had the same puzzled look on their faces while Meng Bai asked, "Master, who is this Mister Mei? Is he very famous?"

"I don't know this Mister Mei. Everyone who comes from the Mei Family is called Mister Mei, but I do know their family head is called Mei Yixian. Members of this family all have a strange quality, that is, they are innately sensitive to all kinds of treasures, and they always provide the most reasonable price of the treasure they appraise. Therefore, any auction that is slightly famous across the continent must be hosted by them."

Amazed, Xiao Qingwang said, "Oh, they can do that? Is it because they have an art of appraisal passed down from their ancestors?"

Yunxiao said, "I've thought about that before, but I think their bloodline is the reason. There must be an ability to identify treasures in their bloodline. And together with some appraisal techniques, they are able to achieve such results."

Yin Zhaoyang was so shocked that he could hardly speak. The Mei Family had always been mysterious; few knew the name of their family head, and he was not one of them. He did not expect Yunxiao to say the name and seem to understand this family quite well. 'Heavens, he is only fifteen years old! How does he know so much?'

Meng Bai's eyes lit up when he heard that, and he said excitedly, "There is actually such an ability? I want to learn it, then use it to look for treasures in deep mountains and ancient forests! I will be rich!"

"Don't embarrass me!" Yunxiao kicked him away.

Yin Zhaoyang laughed dryly. "Young Master Yun, among all the auction items, which one do you need?"

Yunxiao smiled and said lightly, "Elder Yin will know when the time comes."

The snub sent Yin Zhaoyang to stand lamely to the side and shut his mouth. Xiao Qingwang and others exchanged a look, all smiling wryly in their hearts. Of all the people they knew, perhaps only Yunxiao alone dared to treat a Martial Grandmaster like that, and they had begun to get used to it.

Soon, the auction began. The first item was a fourth-tier Purple Spirit Pill, which could reinforce the vital essence, strengthen the Primordial Qi, and greatly increase the efficiency of meditation and breaking through bottlenecks. It was one of the few rarest fourth-tier medicinal pills.

However, such a medicinal pill was only in high demand among those lone warriors, because aristocratic families with deep reserves usually had large stockpiles. As a result, the bidders were all lone warriors, and no one from the twelve distinguished rooms on the second floor had called a bid.

"Elder Yin, do the Cheng Family and Xinyang Family have representatives here in this auction?" Yunxiao asked suddenly.

With a wry smile, Yin Zhaoyang said, "No. We didn't prepare a distinguished room for the Xingyang Family, and when the members of the Cheng Family died, their room was vacated, which was given to you, Young Master Yun."

"The people in the other distinguished rooms are not ordinary people either," said Xiao Qingwang in a deep voice. "Although each room is tightly sealed, I can still sense waves of powerful aura leaking out of them. They are likely no common aristocratic families."

A faint smile brushed Yunxiao's lips. He had long found out the situation of all the other distinguished rooms with his divine sense. "Which room is taken by the Zhou Family?"

Xiao Qingwang and the others were taken aback, and they immediately thought of Zhou Yushan. While frowning, Yin Zhaoyang said, "The third room from the left."

Yunxiao nodded slightly and did not speak another word. Everyone was a little confused as to the intention of his question.

"Two thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones!"

"Two thousand five hundred!"

"Three thousand!"

The bid of the first item, a Purple Spirit Pill, stopped at three thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones. A warrior with a scar on his face breathed a heavy sigh of relief, but he had a pained expression at the same time.

Three thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones were almost half his wealth, but he had been stuck at the peak-level of a nine-stars Great Martial Master for two years. If he could make the breakthrough with this Purple Spirit Pill, it would be worth it even if it cost thirty-thousand.

“Congratulations to our friend in seat 133 for winning the first item! What a great start for today’s auction! The second item is a third-tier Spirit Severing Saber, which is a work of Master Luotian,” said Mister Mei.

“What? A third-tier Spirit Severing Saber refined by Master Luotian?”

At first, the crowd lost their interest when they heard it was a third-tier item, but as soon as they heard that it was refined by Luotian, they became high in spirits and their eyes shone with curiosity, while some alchemists straightened their bodies. A third-tier weapon was useless to them, but they could study Master Luotian’s refining techniques through it.

In alchemy, it was extremely difficult for one to make progress, and all alchemists were willing to pay any price for even just the smallest progress. It was also the reason why Zhang Qingfan and the others were so grateful for Yunxiao.

“Oh? An item refined by Luotian?” There was a surprising look in Yunxiao’s eyes as he smiled and said, “Even if it is real, it should be his work when he was young, not worth looking at. These alchemists are going to waste their money.”

Meng Bai leaned over again and asked carefully, “Now, who is this Luotian? A third-tier weapon is nothing, my Master can refine it as well!” He paid close attention to Yunxiao, and when he saw the first sign he was turning around, he covered his head with both hands and jumped away with a wary look.

His funny look made Luo Yunshang chuckle, and she said, “Master Luotian is an elder at the headquarters of the alchemist association, a renowned ninth-tier Alchemy Sovereign!” When she had finished, her glance drifted over to Yunxiao, and she thought, ‘That man is also a ninth-tier Alchemy Sovereign...’

A ninth-tier Alchemy Sovereign!

Xiao Qingwang and Chen Dasheng were taken aback. To them, a ninth-tier Alchemy Sovereign was like a god, and they could only look up at one in reverence.

Meanwhile, the price for the saber had shot up to five thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones. Alchemy truly was the richest profession, for bids were called and countered heatedly and no one seemed to find it expensive. Eventually, it was sold for eight thousand.

Yunxiao was amazed by the price, and he could not help but say, "With Luotian's current strength, he can refine at least one hundred third-tier items in a day. Wait, that means he can make eight hundred thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones every day?" Even he was shocked by that figure. With eyes lighting up and an evil smile on his face, he said, "Next time when I see him, I should lock him in a room for a few days and make him refine items for me..."

That frightened everyone behind him, while Yin Zhaoyang said with cold sweat breaking out of his forehead, "Young Master Yun, you shouldn't make that joke. A deadly disaster will befall you if someone were to spread it!"

Yunxiao only smiled and said nothing as the auction continued. Most of the items were third-tier and fourth-tier, and there were occasionally fifth-tier items, all of which were sold at astronomical prices. The rule of the auction was that Myriad Treasures Store would deduct twenty percent from the winning bids as fees. At this rate, the claim that Myriad Treasures Store was the richest organization in the world should be true.

Before very long, an item caught Yunxiao's attention, and his eyes gradually grew large.

Mister Mei gently caressed a small purple cauldron, his eyes filled with deep admiration as he said with a faint smile, "This is a fifth-tier purple cauldron, named the Cauldron of Five Elements. It is refined by the legendary ninth-tier Alchemy Sovereign Lord Gu Feiyang. It is not only an ordinary fifth-tier alchemy cauldron, but also contains the complete essence of the Five Elements Realm. When a fourth-tier alchemist is using it, he can muster the natural power of five elements, producing an alchemy product that is beyond the fourth-tier."

"A cauldron left behind by Lord Gu Feiyang!"

"What? The complete essence of the Five Elements Realm? Doesn't that mean it contains the Dao Fruit of Five Elements? Damn it! If I can get it and study the essence, I can immediately become a peak Martial King!"

“You bet! This is not a wisp of martial arts conception, but martial essence!”

“Isn’t that nonsense? This is not just a simple alchemy cauldron. By itself, it is already a fifth-tier mystic weapon with great power!”

“A fifth-tier purple cauldron doubling as a mystic weapon that contains the Dao Fruit of Five Elements...Heavens, how could there be such a heaven-defying thing in the world?”

“Hmph! You know nothing! Have you forgotten that Gu Feiyang is the Martial Sovereign Vanquisher? I won’t be surprised even if the cauldron contains a wisp of the Nine Heavens conception, let alone the Dao Fruit of Five Elements.”

A trace of a smile appeared on Mister Mei’s face as he listened to the chatter. “That’s right, this Cauldron of Five Elements is one of the rarest items of today’s auction. Its value is beyond measure, so we have not set a base price for it. You may call your bids at will.”

The crowd fell silent in an instant. Everyone knew a storm of bidding was coming, and the atmosphere in the hall grew intense.

“It is his thing...” Luo Yunshang had a look of shock in her eyes. She glanced at Yunxiao, hoping to see something from his expression, but she was disappointed. Yunxiao’s face was as calm as the still water of an ancient well.

Suddenly, Yunxiao smiled and said, “Elder Yin, do you also want to bid on this cauldron? I can sense the restlessness in your heart, and your palms are sweating.”

There was a flicker of shock in Yin Zhaoyang’s eyes, but then he sighed. “Although I’ve reached the perfection of the Five Elements and stepped into the realm of Martial Grandmasters, this is, after all, a fifth-tier mystic weapon, and is of the best quality! Yes, Myriad Treasures Store is wealthy, but a fifth-tier mystic weapon is not something you will find every day.”

Chapter 136: Three Jade Slips

“I see.” Yunxiao smiled.

Yin Zhaoyang felt extremely uncomfortable. No matter how he looked, this Li Yunxiao was only fifteen years old. And yet, when standing in front of this young man, he had a feeling that he was facing a grandmaster who seemed capable of seeing through all his deeds, words, and thoughts. He did not like that feeling.

“Are you interested in this cauldron as well, Young Master Yun?” he asked carefully.

Yunxiao smiled softly and said, “Yes, this cauldron is also one of the items I want to get.”

Upon hearing that, everyone in the room felt nervous, and they turned to look at the auction stand together.

“Ten thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones!”

After a brief moment of silence, someone finally called a bid, wrinkling the calmness in the air. All kinds of bids erupted out in the next instant, the voices so loud that they rumbled like a thunderstorm.

“Fu*k! Do you think you can buy this with only ten thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones? Get the hell out of here, you poor bast*rd! Fifty thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones!”

“Fifty thousand? You are as poor as that guy! How can you buy the Cauldron of Five Elements with just medial-grade Primordial Stones? Fu*k! One thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!”

“Three thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!”

Yunxiao was dumbfounded as he watched the price rise rapidly.

“Ten thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!”

Suddenly, a voice rang out from the distinguished room next to his. Although soft, it drowned all other voices and was heard by everyone.

“What! Ten thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!”

“Fu*k! Did I hear that right? Ten thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones are equivalent to one million medial-grade Primordial Stones! Who is this spendthrift?”

“Keep your voice low! Didn’t you hear it is coming from the distinguished room in the center? That’s where the imperial members of the Firecrow Empire stay.”

“Damn it! Now that the imperial members of Firecrow have joined the bidding, I think we can give up already! Who can be richer than them?”

For a moment, curses rang out everywhere. Among the crowd, many were not afraid of the imperial family, and because most of them were lone warriors, they had not much to worry about. While smiling, Mister Mei slammed his hammer on the table and shouted, “Quiet please! Ten thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones, going once, going twice...”

“Twelve thousand!”

No longer able to hold himself back, Yunxiao called out a bid. If truth be told, he did not have twelve thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones. But, if he did not fight now, the cauldron would fall into the hands of the Firecrow’s imperial family, and it would be extremely difficult for him to get it back.

“What! Twelve thousand!”

“Which room called the bid? Who is in that room?”

“Who knows? But I do know that all the rooms up there are occupied by super aristocratic families with at least a thousand years of history. Ah well, we can never compete with them.”

“That’s true. Let them fight among themselves, the fiercer the better!”

In the middle distinguished room, a comely young man sat lazily in a chair. He frowned slightly and asked a middle-aged man, "Uncle Yue, who is in the room next to us?"

The man was called Yue Jiulin, and he said, "It is likely to be the Cheng Family, Your Highness. My divine sense was stopped by a very strong divine sense, so there must be at least a fourth-tier alchemist in that room. I've looked through all the other rooms and have not seen anyone from the Cheng Family."

The handsome young man was actually the crown prince of Firecrow, Xin Ruyu. "I thought some said the people of Cheng Family were murdered a few days ago?" he said suspiciously.

Yue Jiulin chuckled. "After all, our men did not see that with their own eyes. Besides, only a handful of powers dare to kill anyone from Cheng Family, but none of them would want to offend them so openly. I guess they were just seriously wounded, but not dead."

Xin Ruyu nodded lightly and said, "Since there is a fourth-tier alchemist in the room, then it is very likely that they are from the Cheng Family. Call a few more bids. Although this Cauldron of Five Elements is amazing, it is already overpriced."

"I understand!" Yue Jiulin answered softly. He considered a moment before shouting, "Fifteen thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!"

"Fifteen thousand!" The crowd was stunned by the addition of three thousand in just one bid. These were all superior-grade Primordial Stones!

Yunxiao sucked in a cold breath and fell back to his chair, his face shocked. The price was completely beyond his imagination. He could not help but smile wryly in his heart. 'If I had known this thing was so valuable, I would have refined more to sell in my previous life...'

Mister Mei was slightly excited as well. In a loud, clear voice, he shouted, "Fifteen thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones, going once, going twice..."

"Eighteen thousand!"

Another voice joined the bidding game, shocking everyone with another addition of three thousand. The crowd looked up and saw the voice come from the third room on the left.

Xin Ruyu's face flickered. "Zhou Family?"

Yue Jiulin was surprised as well, "Why do they want this cauldron?"

After pondering for a moment, Xin Ruyu chuckled and said, "I know the reason. Zhou Yushan has recently gotten quite a good fortune, and it seems the fortune is greater than I've expected. Is he about to make a breakthrough and become a Martial King?"

Startled, Yue Jiulin said, "Your Highness is referring to... Yes, it is possible. If he can get this Cauldron of Five Elements and study the Dao Fruit of Five Elements in it, the chances for him to become a Martial King are very high! And if he can fully understand it, he will be almost invincible in the realm of Martial Kings. After all, this is the Dao Fruit of Five Elements left behind by Gu Feiyang!"

"Yes. If Zhou Yushan can become a Martial King, he will add some strength to the empire," said Xin Ruyu with a smile. "Let him get the cauldron. But, with its price soaring to such a high level, it seems Myriad Treasures Store is laughing now with the profit."

A man who looked like a steward was breaking out in a cold sweat inside the third distinguished room on the left. His eyes were fixed on the purple cauldron, and he was breathing rapidly, as if he could hardly withstand the mental pressure.

Behind him stood two old men, whose faces were livid. Judging from their aura, both of them were Martial Kings. One of them was named Pang Chengwen, and he said, "I can't believe it reached such a high price! But, His Lordship has ordered us to bring the cauldron back no matter what. We have no other choice but to fight to the end!"

The steward, Zhou Chuan, wiped the cold sweat on his face with a hand and said in a trembling voice, "Luckily, it is the imperial family we are bidding against. Otherwise, I will be flayed by His Lordship for buying the cauldron at this insane price!"

Another Martial King, Shi Ruida, said seriously, "We wouldn't have to lose so much money if not because Young Master Yushan urgently needed to study this Dao Fruit of Five Elements after he obtained that great fortune recently."

The three men watched and waited nervously, but no one dared to call another bid. After asking three times in an excited voice, Mister Mei slammed his hammer on the table.

"The Cauldron of Five Elements is sold for eighteen thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!"

Everyone breathed a long sigh of relief while Zhou Chuan simply sat down on the floor, gasping for breath. Such a high price had already gone beyond his bottom line, and certainly His Lordship's. He did not know whether it was good or bad to bring it back now.

"Ah, it is bought by the Zhou Family." Yunxiao, too, breathed a sigh of relief, and he had a bright smile on his face. "Excellent, this is excellent!"

Xiao Qingwang and others exchanged a look. Yunxiao's relaxed smile suddenly gave them a bad feeling. What was the meaning behind that smile, when the Zhou Family was his sworn enemy now?

Yin Zhaoyang was stunned by the price as well. With a wry smile on his face, he asked, "Is Young Master Yun a friend of the Zhou Family?"

Yunxiao smiled softly and said, "No, I've only met them once. It's good that they have purchased the cauldron. Now, I can borrow it from them."

Sure enough!

Xiao Qingwang and the others were shocked. So, this lad really did plan to rob the cauldron from the Zhou Family, one of the four major families in the Firecrow Empire!

Heavens! He had just killed the people of the Cheng Family, and now he was planning to rob the Zhou Family! Was he going to offend all four families and then wait for them to attack him with great armies?

Although there was bad blood between him and Zhou Yushan, and they had agreed to have a match. But that was, after all, the grudge between two individuals. If he really robbed the Zhou Family this time, the grudge would immediately elevate to the level of the family, and the consequence would be identical to his murder of the people of Cheng Family.

Xiao Qingwang and Chen Dasheng felt they were about to faint. Neither the Zhou Family nor the Cheng Family could be resisted by Tianshui, let alone a mere city of Yanwu.

“Borrow?” Yin Zhaoyang laughed. “Young Master Yun, you may have a great influence, but I don’t think they will lend you such a precious treasure.” He did not know the feud between Yunxiao and Zhou Yushan, and he thought Yunxiao was really going to borrow the cauldron, so he smiled relaxedly. “It’s your item to be auctioned next, Young Master Yun.”

Yunxiao smiled and narrowed his eyes as he said lightly, “It seems I need to sell more things. Otherwise, I may not be able to buy that treasure later on.” He took out three jade slips and pressed them against his forehead, recording something in them. After that, he beckoned Meng Wu over and whispered a few words into her ears, sending her out of the room.

Yin Zhaoyang’s eyelids twitched slightly. ‘Is it jade slips he wants to auction?’

Jade slips were a kind of media used to record some information, especially those containing the Laws of the World, which could not be recorded with ordinary papers or jade medallions. However, the information containing the Laws of the World were all high-level things, which could not be remembered in the heads by ordinary warriors or alchemists.

When he saw Yunxiao himself record something into the jade slips, Yin Zhaoyang felt his head reel, and he knew things were about to turn really bad for him. ‘The things inside them are definitely not beyond the fourth-tier! After all, with his strength of a third-tier alchemist, it is impossible that he can master anything of higher-tier!’

Meng Wu quickly entered the backstage of the auction hall through an aisle. Soon, a beautiful maid came on the stage with three jade slips in a tray and presented them to the crowd.

Mister Mei gave the three jade slips a glance, then smiled and said, “Now, these are items added in the last minute, so I don’t know what they are yet. But, from what I can see, they should be martial

techniques or something similar. And since they are recorded on jade slips, they should be of a high level.”

Chapter 137: Seventh-tier Items

Inside the distinguished room, Yin Zhaoyang slapped himself on the forehead, feeling very dizzy. ‘Higher level my ass! Fourth-tier will be the highest-level information a third-tier alchemist can record in those jade slips!’

Wordless, Xu Zizhuo and Gan Deming were staring at the three jade slips from the backstage as well.

Mister Mei randomly took a jade slip and placed it against his forehead as he began to identify it. The Mei Clan’s art of appraisal was unparalleled. Suddenly, he frowned, his pupils constricted, and then an incredulous look crept up his face.

Yin Zhaoyang almost vomited blood as he watched that. ‘Oh no! They are really rubbish. Even Mister Mei cannot believe something so ridiculous! Ah well, since this lad has Elder Yuwen behind him, they can’t blame me for this.’

Meanwhile, under the gazes of all, Mister Mei’s face turned extremely pale, as if he just saw something terrible.

Puke!

A mouthful of blood sprayed out of his mouth while he moved back a few steps on the stage and fell back on his buttocks, with shock and terror in his eyes.

“Mister Mei!” Xu Zizhuo hurried up from the backstage and helped Mister Mei to his feet as he asked shockingly, “What’s the matter? There’s something wrong with the jade slips?”

Everyone was dumbfounded by the change and became somewhat confused. The intense atmosphere of the auction was slightly relieved, however, as the crowd was eager to know what was going on.

Yin Zhaoyang was startled as he thought to himself, 'What happened? Is it because the thing inside is not even third-tier, and he is so angry that he vomited blood?'

Mister Mei shook his head as he opened his mouth and coughed out another mouthful of blood. Hurriedly, Xu Zizhuo took out a medicinal pill and shoved it into his mouth, and only then did he look better.

After thanking Xu Zizhuo, Mister Mei stared at the jade slip with reverence in his eyes and said, "The information recorded in this jade slip is beyond the sixth-tier. I tried to crack it with force, but as I am not strong enough, it hit back at me. If I had known you have items that are beyond the sixth-tier, I would not dare to come here and host the auction." He gave Xu Zizhuo a somewhat reproachful look as he smiled wryly and said, "I think you have to invite someone better than me in the Mei Family to appraise these few jade slips."

"What! Items that are beyond the sixth-tier? Heavens! Wouldn't that make them seventh-tier items!"

"Seventh-tier? Are you kidding me? Information of the seventh-tier already contains the Laws of the World, and each is a priceless treasure! Who would be so stupid as to auction it off?"

"Didn't you see even Mister Mei get wounded by it? Are you not believing in Mei Family's art of appraisal?"

"Damnit, seventh-tier! How do you expect me to believe that?"

Xu Zizhuo looked shocked too as he swallowed hard and asked, "Mister Mei, are you sure that thing in it is...seventh-tier?" It was a rude question, but he had to ask it, because even he could not believe that.

Mister Mei understood what he meant. He gave a bitter laugh and said, "I don't know if it is truly the seventh-tier, because I have not identified it. But, I'm sure it is beyond the sixth-tier, because I've never failed to identify anything below the sixth-tier."

Everyone was astounded, and they had no more doubts. Their eyes lit up with greed, staring at the jade slips in the tray. All of a sudden, the atmosphere in the hall grew intense.

Xu Zizhuo's face flickered. He was, after all, the manager of the Firecrow branch, so he was very good at handling things. He took a deep breath and shouted, "Elder Gan, increase all security to the special level! No one is allowed to walk in the hall, and no one is permitted to enter or leave! And all of you, please retract your auras! Anyone who dares to release his aura will be deemed as a threat, and he will be killed on the spot!"

Suddenly, dozens of figures were running back and forth around the auction hall, watching closely at every corner. They were all Myriad Treasures Store's guards. Gan Deming also released his divine sense and enveloped the whole place. Anyone who tried to do something reckless would be immediately detected by him.

Xu Zizhuo cried out in a deep voice again, "I hope those in the distinguished rooms on the second floor can help Myriad Treasures Store maintain the order. You all are famous figures in the Firecrow Empire, so if anyone tries to act recklessly later and we can't handle them, I hope you all can lend us a helping hand!"

After all, seventh-tier items were too heaven-defying in such a remote place, so Xu Zizhuo had prepared for the worst.

Just then, Xin Ruyu's voice rang out of the middle room, "Don't worry, Manager Xu! If anyone dares to strike, we, the Xin Family of Firecrow Empire, will not just sit back and watch."

"The Xin Family! They are really from the imperial family!"

The people down below all looked at the room in shock. Everyone knew that the Xin Family was the imperial family of the Firecrow Empire. Upon hearing that, the faces of some lone warriors, who were harboring ill intentions, grew serious as they suppressed their greed. It was no different from digging their own graves if they struck now. After all, nothing was more important than their lives.

Inside the distinguished room next to the imperial family, Yin Zhaoyang, Xiao Qingwang, and the others were staring blankly at the stage with wide eyes, all frozen to the spot. Luo Yunshang and Meng Bai were the only two who looked normal; the former was born in Shexiao Temple, and she knew Gu Feiyang was behind Yunxiao, and the latter simply had no idea about the value of a seventh-tier item.

Meanwhile, Xu Zizhuo had invited Meng Wu up to the stage. With a complicated look in his eyes, he said, “Young lady, what is inside these three jade slips? Can you please introduce them?” Since Mister Mei had failed to identify them, he had to invite the owner to speak. Otherwise, how could the items be auctioned off?

Meng Wu’s face was blank as well, but a voice was soon transmitted into her ear, and she nodded slightly. Realizing that someone was sending her a voice transmission, the crowd tried to tap into it. However, they discovered that the voice was protected by a very strong divine sense, which repelled all the divine senses rushing at it.

“It is that fourth-tier alchemist!” Yue Jiulin said in a low voice. “The divine sense belongs to the fourth-tier alchemist next to us!”

Xin Ruyu was taken aback, and he said incredulously, “The Cheng Family is auctioning off these three jade slips? How’s that possible! What’s their purpose?”

Yue Jiulin narrowed his eyes. “Perhaps we’ve guessed it wrongly. The people next to us may not be from the Cheng Family. They may have really died in the trade fair a few days ago!”

Surprised, Xin Ruyu asked, “Who would they be then?”

“I have a guess, but I don’t know whether it is correct or not. We shall see. Since these three jade slips are seventh-tier items, we cannot let them slip through our hands.”

Xin Ruyu nodded lightly. Seventh-tier items were rare even in the imperial palace.

Meng Wu had come to her senses from the voice transmission, but she was still extremely nervous when there were ten thousand people staring at her at the same time. Carefully, she told Xu Zizhuo, “Young Master Yun said the three jade slips are the recipe of the seventh-tier Shaoyang pill, the recipe of the seventh-tier Fivemountains clothes, and the diagram of the seventh-tier Palewolf array.”

“Sure enough! They are all seventh-tier items!” Everyone was shocked when they heard that, but not many people had any expressions on their faces, because most of them had never heard of these three items.

“What!” Unexpectedly, the first person to shout was Xu Zizhuo. His eyes shone brightly as he grabbed Meng Wu’s shoulders and said, “One of them is the recipe of Shaoyang pill? You didn’t lie to me, did you?”

He shook her so hard that she felt pain. She wrenched free of his clutch and said, “Since Young Master Yun said so, it is true then!”

“Young Master Yun? Who is this Young Master Yun?” The crowd was surprised and chatters filled the hall in an instant.

“Sure enough!” Yue Jiulin said, “The man in the room next to us is Li Yunxiao, who was recently made the King of Wucheng by their emperor Qin Yue and the City Lord of Yanwu!”

Xin Ruyu furrowed his eyebrows in surprise. “Li Yunxiao? Why haven’t I heard you mention this guy? And how does a City Lord of a small state have seventh-tier items?”

Yue Jiulin shook his head and said, “This Li Yunxiao only started to catch my attention after he killed Cheng Feiche. I don’t know much about him right now. It seems that I need to investigate him thoroughly when I get back.”

Puzzled, Xin Ruyu said, “Since he dares to kill Cheng Feiche, this Li Yunxiao is either a madman or a very strong man. We need to pay him a little more attention.” In his eyes, a City Lord of a small state able to let him ‘pay a little more attention’ was already a very strange thing.

Yue Jiulin sent his divine sense into the next room again, but it was still repelled by another divine sense. Although he was not an alchemist, only an alchemist of fourth-tier or above could have a divine sense stronger than his.

Xu Zizhuo realized that he had forgotten himself. So, he hastily calmed himself down, but there was an excited look in his eyes that could not be concealed. Although the crowd did not know what a Shaoyang pill was, they knew it must be something extraordinary, as even Xu Zizhuo, a fifth-tier alchemist, had forgotten himself because of it!

Suddenly, Mister Mei said, “Young lady, I suggest that these three jade slips are auctioned separately. Otherwise, the price will be too high for ordinary people to afford. And, if you sell them together, they won’t fetch a good price either.”

Meng Wu’s face was blank, but she received Yunxiao’s voice transmission very soon. She bowed slightly and said, “We will do as what Mister Mei suggests.”

After regulating his breath for a moment, Mister Mei finally recovered. He glanced at the three jade slips in great awe, then walked in front of the auction stand and said, “I believe you have all heard that just now. These three jade slips are seventh-tier items. As for their functions, I do not know. May I invite this young lady to explain to us?”

Xu Zizhuo’s face flickered; he did not wish Meng Wu to say anything. After all, not many people here were knowledgeable. If the jade slips were introduced one by one, their value would become immeasurable. He smiled bitterly as he watched Meng Wu listen attentively to the voice transmission. He knew he was about to lose a lot of money this time.

But, no matter how much it would cost, he was determined to get the recipe of the Shaoyang pill!

Chapter 138: An Array Artifact

Meng Wu walked carefully to the auction stand and spoke aloud. Fearing that her voice was too soft to be heard and causing the items to be auctioned off at a poor price, she almost screamed every word out. Her effort turned her face and neck red, making her look especially cute.

“The Shaoyang pill is a seventh-tier medicinal pill. It can restore a man his original pure Yang body, that is, his virgin body!”

“The Five Mountains clothes is a seventh-tier battle suit. It can ignore any attack from anyone below the realm of Martial Supremes!

“The Palewolf Sword Diagram is a set of seventh-tier sword arrays. When activated, it can kill even a Martial Supreme!”

Her voice was clear and pleasant to the ear, but it shocked and petrified all the ten thousand people in the hall!

“Ignore any attack from anyone below the realm of Martial Supremes!”

“It can kill even a Martial Supreme!”

The sound of sucking in breaths rang out across the crowd.

To them, a Martial Supreme was like a god who protected a state. But, such a mighty existence could be killed with a sword array? And a battle suit could resist any attack from anyone below the realm of Martial Supremes?

No one seemed to pay attention to the pill recipe, however. “What? A pill that restores a man his pure Yang body and turns him back to a virgin? What’s the point of that? Even if it works, the man will lose his virginity the same night!”

Only some alchemists were startled on hearing that. To some cultivators, such an effect was no doubt equivalent to a second life, especially those who cultivated strange techniques that required a pure Yang body to reach perfection. And Xu Zizhuo was, in fact, one of such cultivators.

Such an effect was almost equivalent to reshaping the fleshly body, which made it a very powerful medicinal pill. However, it was of not much use to most people. When Xu Zizhuo saw that the crowd focusing on the Fivemountains Clothes and Palewolf Sword Diagram, he breathed a sigh of relief.

In his heart, he was sneering at these philistines who knew nothing about alchemy. It was perfectly normal for a seventh-tier battle suit to ignore any attack from anyone below the realm of Martial Supremes. The problem was, when one had the ability to refine a seventh-tier battle suit, it meant that he were at least a Martial Supreme. In that case, her could already ignore anyone below the realm of Martial Supremes with his strength alone.

As for that Palewolf Sword Diagram...Well, it was indeed somewhat freakish to be able to kill a Martial Supreme, but a seventh-tier sword array could only be controlled with the strength of a Martial

Supreme. 'These frogs in the well are too blind to see. They never take their strength into consideration before drooling at such incredible items. Even if they purchase them, they would have to find a seventh-tier alchemist to refine the item for them. In the whole Firecrow, there is not even a single seven-tier alchemist, and they must go to the Sea of Soul Formation.'

Many people knew that, if truth be told, but in the face of such amazing treasures, it was very difficult for them to suppress their greed. So, a round of frenzied bidding followed, with the bidders mostly coming from those aristocratic families.

When the price of something that could not be used by common people went beyond a certain level in an auction, it was only natural for them to give up. But for aristocratic families, when they purchased something in an auction, it was not for immediate use most of the time, but would be passed down the generations as a kind of reserve of their families. As a result, these families had accumulated unimaginable wealth and treasures, and when they were facing a crisis, they could turn these things into their fighting force to help them sail through the difficult times.

After a heated, almost violent bidding war, three jade slips were auctioned off for a total of twenty-two thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones. The recipe of Shaoyang pill was purchased by Xu Zizhuo with six thousand and five hundred superior-grade Primordial stones. To him, the price was heartbreakingly high, but his eyes still shone with extreme excitement. The recipe of Fivemountains Clothes was won by Xin Ruyu, and the Palewolf Sword Diagram went to another distinguished room.

After all, they were just two recipes and a diagram, and they could not be materialized in the short term. Therefore, their prices were far below that of the Cauldron of Five Elements. Still, the result was beyond Yunxiao's expectation, and he was grinning from ear to ear in his room, "I should really take out more things to sell. What a fortune they have made me this time!" Although he said it like that, he knew in his heart that he would invite trouble if he took out too many things in one go. He might have already caught the attention of all the aristocratic families now.

'Hmph! So what? Since I've already offended half of the four major aristocratic families in Firecrow Empire, I don't mind adding one or two more. As long as my strength can be improved rapidly, they are just a motley crowd!' Yunxiao thought in his head.

His words startled the others, however, causing cold sweats to break out of their foreheads. 'How many things are there in this lad's head? Does he still have other seventh-tier items?'

The fact that a third-tier alchemist could record down things of the seventh-tier with divine sense had already toppled their common sense. Luckily, they had gradually become accustomed to this kind of shock that weakened their hearts. Yin Zhaoyang was the one who received the greatest shock. 'This lad's master must be on the same level as Elder Yuwen...He is simply a monster!'

Xu Zizhuo could hardly contain his excitement after winning the pill recipe. He paced back and forth in the room at the backstage with his eyebrows tightly frowned. After some time, he turned to Gan Deming and said, "Stop all investigations into Li Yunxiao at once!"

Gan Deming was stunned. Puzzled, he asked, "Why? I thought he has become more suspicious after what happened today, and we should crank up the investigation!"

"No!" Xu Zizhuo said coldly. "Who knows what would be the power behind a man who can take out some seventh-tier recipes to be auctioned off! Besides, look at how that Yin Zhaoyang follows behind him like a little pet dog. If our investigation annoys him, I fear the consequence is not something both of us can afford!"

A wary look flashed across Gan Deming's face, but when he thought of Yin Zhaoyang's arrogant face, he felt he was boiling with rage again. "Hmph! That Yin Zhaoyang is nothing but a big flatterer!"

"In any case, we will not help or harm this Li Yunxiao," Xu Zizhuo said faintly. "We will stand in the middle and do what we should, so that even if we can't get any benefits from him, we will not invite trouble to ourselves. Yin Zhaoyang's excessive hospitality may not bring him to a good end. I'll leave for Firecrow Empire in a few days, and I will hand all the affairs here to both of you for the time being."

Gan Deming nodded. He knew Xu Zizhuo was going to look for someone to refine the Shaoyang pill for him.

Xu Zizhuo was cultivating a soul-tempering technique that could bring him a limitless future, but it had a very strict requirement, that was, it could only reach perfection when the cultivator had a pure Yang body. He had thought he would be stuck at the fifth-tier for the rest of his life, but it seemed that the heavens had heard his prayers and brought him the recipe of the Shaoyang pill. With it, his achievement in this life would not just stop at the fifth-tier!

The crowd quieted down after all three jade slips were auctioned off, but their heads were filled with awe and speculation toward the people in Yunxiao's distinguished room.

Mister Mei had returned to normal as well. He chuckled and said, "The items added last minute this year are the most amazing ones I've seen over all my years as an auctioneer. Now, we come back to the items on the list. The next item is a fourth-tier array artifact. Although it is only fourth-tier, it is engraved with an extremely rare soul-tempering array, which has an enhanced effect on the alchemist's soul power and covers a range of one thousand meters. It is truly a peerless treasure that all alchemists wish for!"

Xu Zizhuo's eyes showed a trace of regret. Artifacts that could enhance one's soul power such as this could only be refined by some legendary alchemists, and each was so rare that any alchemist would fight for it when they saw one. Originally, he planned to purchase this array artifact, but he lacked the wealth to buy it after paying for the pill recipe.

"Oh? A treasure that can enhance one's soul power? Those alchemists are going to be crazy this time."

"Haha! That's what I thought. Well, since they are so rich, it is a pleasure to watch them fight against each other."

This kind of thing was of little use to warriors, so most people just looked on as if it was a show. Meanwhile, a handful of alchemists became extremely nervous, with their eyes lighting up.

From his room on the second floor, Yunxiao fixed his eyes at the array artifact on the auction stage. He could not help but sigh. "Even I cannot refine an array artifact that can enhance one's soul power like this. They are all left behind by the almighty experts of the ancient times, and their quantity is getting lesser and lesser."

Meng Bai said shockingly, "What? Even someone so amazing as Master can't refine it? This artifact must be something extraordinary!"

The others just smiled and made no further comment. None of them knew that Yunxiao was referring to his previous life when he said that; he had not been able to master the art of carving the soul-enhancing array like this even when he was at his prime. As for whether someone else on the continent could, he did not know.

He lifted his eyes slightly, which gleamed brightly. This array artifact was his primary target. He had purposely requested the three jade slips to be auctioned off before it, so that he could have enough Primordial Stones to buy it.

As soon as Mister Mei's voice faded away, Yunxiao shouted, "Five thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!"

The people down below all sucked in a cold breath, astonished by the fact that the first bid was already so high. Five thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones were equivalent to five hundred thousand medial-grade Primordial Stones. This was how a rich man should have bid, they thought, and they all knew the man in that room had just gotten himself twenty thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones.

The rest of the alchemists were dumbfounded. If this rich man insisted on buying this array artifact, what hope did they have?

"Six thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!" An alchemist stood up and shouted, his eyes almost turning bloodshot.

"Hah! Ten thousand!" Yunxiao chuckled. Although his voice was not loud, it rumbled like a sudden thunderclap in all ears down below. He had just increased his bid by four thousand!

That shut all the mouths in the hall. Mister Mei smiled, and he was about to slam his hammer on the table and count down when Xin Ruyu's voice suddenly rang out of the distinguished room of the imperial family, "Twelve thousand."

Yue Jiulin was slightly taken aback. "Your Highness, why do you need this thing? Besides, the price of twelve thousand is..."

With a smile on his face, Xin Ruyu said, "I'm just having a little fun, testing our neighbor and finding out how high a price can he afford." Perhaps, only a member of the Xin Family could use twelve thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones to have a little fun. Yue Jiulin could only smile wryly and shake his head at the thought.

Chapter 139: Recruiting Talents

Yunxiao frowned slightly and said to himself, 'What the hell!' Then, he shouted in a cold voice, "Fifteen thousand!"

"Haha! Here's the show! He's fighting against the imperial family!"

"It's hard to guess who will win in the end. The imperial family certainly is richer, but would they spend so much to buy an array artifact?"

"I think the imperial family will win. They are richer, and they have their dignity to take care of."

"Not necessarily. Would the mystery man in that room be someone ordinary, when he could take out three seventh-tier recipes to be auctioned off?"

Just as the crowd was speculating, Xin Ruyu thought for a moment and called, "Eighteen thousand!"

Everyone sucked in a cold breath while Yunxiao's eyes burned with rage. "Twenty thousand!" he cried out darkly.

Xin Ruyu's eyes gleamed, and it looked like he wanted to increase the bid again. But, Yue Jiulin could watch it no longer, so he said, with his forehead covered in cold sweat, "Your Highness, I think that's enough. Any more bid will make the loss too tremendous to bear!"

The crown prince glanced at him and chuckled. "I was going to increase the bid just one more time, since our neighbor had just gotten himself twenty-two thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones. Apparently, he had sold the three seventh-tier recipes for this array artifact. Well, since Uncle Yue has said so, I'll just let him save some money."

Yue Jiulin was somewhat speechless. 'Let him save some money? Because of you, he now has to pay ten thousand extra! Perhaps he already hates you to the bone!'

Even Mister Mei had a wry smile on his face. Anyone would feel pain if he had to pay so many extra Primordial Stones for no apparent reason. But, there was still a burst of joy in his heart. After all, the

higher the price, the higher his commission. After shouting three times, he finally slammed his hammer on the table.

Yunxiao's eyes almost spat flames as he said in an icy cold voice, "The imperial family of Firecrow Empire...I swear I will make you pay a thousand times for my ten thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!"

Yin Zhaoyang shook his head with a wry smile. 'This lad surely fears nothing and no one...'

By that time, Meng Wu had returned to the room. So, Yunxiao called her over and whispered into her ears. She listened and nodded, then walked out of the room again.

After that, Yunxiao turned to Yin Zhaoyang and said, "I thank you for the help, Elder Yin. I have to take my leave now as there's another matter that needs my attention. I'll look for you some other day to have a cup of tea and a chat."

That gave Yin Zhaoyang a pause. "The auction is not yet finished. Don't you want to stay to the end, Young Master Yun?"

"No need! I've gotten what I wanted. I'll see you next time!" He signaled Xiao Qingwang and others with his eyes. Seeing that, everyone stood up and left the room, walking out the auction hall through its back door.

Meng Bai did not understand. "Master, where did you send my sister?"

"There's something else I need her to do for me. We left early so we can make preparations."

"Preparations?" Chen Dasheng was slightly taken aback, but when he saw the evil smile in Yunxiao's eyes, he cried out shockingly, "You're not going to rob the imperial family of Firecrow Empire, are you? Are you crazy?"

Yunxiao laughed. "No. I'll deal with the Xin Family at a later time. I must get the Cauldron of Five Elements from the Zhou Family. I've monitored with my divine sense just now, they only sent three

people—two seven-stars Martial Kings and a one-star Great Martial Master. Although their numbers are small, their strength is far greater than ours. We cannot succeed without proper planning.”

‘This lad is truly daring,’ Xiao Qingwang thought with a wry smile. Still, he said, “Two seven-stars Martial Kings? We can give it a try if Li Chunyang and Darkthunder were here, but how are we going to do it now?”

Yunxiao asked, “How long would it take you to kill one of them?”

Xiao Qingwang pondered a moment. “We only know they are seven-stars Martial Kings, but not their actual fighting strength. It would take at least the time for half an incense stick to burn if his strength is at the standard level, and if he determines to flee, I might not be able to kill him.” After all, he was just a peak eight-stars Martial King. Such a gap could be easily overcome with martial techniques and mystic weapons.

Yunxiao told him his plan, “I’ll give you an enhanced origin blasting pill later, which can boost your strength to the peak-level of Martial King realm for a short time. Don’t take it if you can finish him within the time for half an incense stick to burn, because your injury has not been completely healed, and I fear it will trigger other changes. As for the other Martial King, I will think of a way to trap him for about the same length of time. We can just ignore that one-star Great Martial Master.”

“Trap a Martial King for the time it takes for half an incense stick to burn?” Shocked, Xiao Qingwang said incredulously, “With just the few of you?” As an eight-stars Martial King, he knew how strong a seven-stars Martial King was, and he knew a warrior of this level could never be trapped by a few Martial Lords and Martial Masters. In fact, they might be instantly killed by him.

Yunxiao chuckled. “That’s why I want to leave early, because we need to lie in wait on their way back to Firecrow Empire. Qingwang, you are the key to our ambush. I can trap the other Martial King, but it would not be for too long. You need to finish your opponent within the time it takes for half an incense stick to burn.”

Xiao Qingwang said seriously, “With the origin blasting pill as the backup, there will be no problem!”

“Great! Since the Zhou Family is willing to pay such a high price for the cauldron, it only means they need it urgently. They will rush back to Firecrow Empire as soon as the auction is ended. Let’s set up the ambush now!”

After the plan was explained, the group of people vanished outside the auction hall.

By then, the auction was coming to an end. With the last item auctioned off, the crowd was prepared to leave. Suddenly, Xu Zizhuo shouted in a loud voice, “Stay for a while and listen, my friends! This young lady wishes to have a word with you all.”

The crowd looked over in surprise and saw Meng Wu walk gingerly up the stage. After the three jade slips, everyone was somewhat interested in the power this little girl represented, so they all stopped in place, wondering what she was about to say.

The glances made Meng Wu nervous. “My lord is the City Lord of Yanwu, Li Yunxiao, and he has asked me to bring a few words to you all.”

“What? The power behind this girl is actually the City Lord of Yanwu?”

“How’s that possible? How could a City Lord of a small state have such an incredible reserve?”

“She’s bluffing, isn’t she? Let’s hear what she wants to say!”

Meng Wu heard those doubts and hurriedly said, “Young Master Yun said as he has just taken the office of the City Lord, and he wishes to further expand and develop Yanwu, so he needs your help. Therefore, he has asked me to announce the recruitment details here. The remunerations are as follows.”

“If a Great Martial Master is willing to join Yanwu, he or she will be given a second-tier mystic weapon, ten second-tier medicinal pills of any kind, and one hundred superior-grade Primordial Stones.”

“If a Martial Lord is willing to join Yanwu, he or she will be given a third-tier mystic weapon, ten third-tier medicinal pills of any kind, and one thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones.”

“If a Martial King is willing to join Yanwu, he or she will be given a fourth-tier mystic weapon, ten fourth-tier medicinal pills of any kind, and ten thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones.”

“If you are a warrior beyond the Five Elements Realm and you are willing to join us, you can look for Young Master Yun directly and he will certainly come up with something that satisfies you.”

“On top of that, all warriors who join Yanwu will have an unlimited supply of Primordial Stones, medicinal pills, mystic weapons, and other resources to aid their cultivation! However, if anyone joins us just for a free lunch, he or she will have to bear the consequences!”

“What! Such...such treatment!” Everyone was dumbfounded and froze on the spot. “Where does Yanwu get so many resources?”

“Heavens! Is this for real?”

“I think so? You’ve seen him bid just now. He should have deep pockets.”

“He is even recruiting experts beyond the Five Elements Realm! Is he trying to establish a new sect?”

“Even the state of Tianshui as a whole can’t afford that, can it?”

Xu Zizhuo was shocked as well. He did not expect that from her, and the remuneration was enough to tempt any warrior. There were many warriors who followed alchemists, and all they wanted were medicinal pills and mystic weapons, which they might not get even after working hard for the alchemists. But now, anyone who joined Yanwu would immediately get those things. It was simply a heaven-defying offer!

Even Xin Ruyu was slightly taken aback, but he quickly returned to normal. Meanwhile, Yue Jiulin’s face grew serious as he said, “Does this City Lord of Yanwu want to establish a new sect? But, it is plain that he can’t do that just by recruiting a motley crowd like this!”

With a faint smile on his face, Xin Ruyu said, “I’m very interested to meet this City Lord of Yanwu now. I think the people of the Xingyang Family and the Cheng Family will be here to seek revenge in less than

three days. He is just recruiting cannon fodder with what seems to be lucrative remunerations. He doesn't have to pay these people when they are dead."

"I see!" An understanding look jumped up Yue Jiulin's face, and a faint sneer brushed his lips as he watched the excited warriors down below.

"Little girl, what would be the procedure if I wish to join you?" A warrior asked aloud, the beaming look on his face saying he was tempted. Almost all the warriors in the hall had the same thought: 'Let's get the things first before I consider if I want to contribute my force to you.'

"You just need to sign up at the City Lord Mansion tomorrow," said Meng Wu, her cheeks flushing.

"All right! I'll be the first to reach there tomorrow!" The warrior said excitedly. The rest of the people showed interest as well, and someone said, "Even if you don't sign up, it is good to have a look."

Inside the distinguished room of the Zhou Family, Zhou Chuan frowned as he looked at all the excited warriors down below. "This City Lord of Yanwu seems to be that Li Yunxiao who will have a match with Young Master, don't you think so?"

Shi Ruida said in astonishment, "I heard about it too. He seems to have not shown due respect for Young Master during the appointment of Tianshui's crown prince. Some said he is just a young man with the cultivation base of a Martial Master."

"What? He wants to fight Young Master Yushan with just the cultivation base of a Martial Master? He's dreaming!" Pang Chengwen sneered. "Since he is recruiting warriors in large numbers now, he must be planning to go back on his own word. I think he is afraid that Young Master will attack him out of rage, so he is recruiting more men to help him defend against the Zhou Family."

"Hmph! A motley crowd!" Zhou Chuan said disdainfully. "After Young Master makes the breakthrough and become a Martial King, he will come in person to settle the score with this guy! Let's delay no more and go back at once. Young Master is waiting to study the Cauldron of Five Elements!"

Their figures flickered, and they were gone from the distinguished room in the next instant.

Chapter 140: Borrowing the Cauldron

Wangwu Mountain was located some thirty miles outside Yanwu, and was the only way to Firecrow Empire.

A Bluewolf hoverchariot sped through the air. After leaving the auction hall, Zhou Chuan and the other two set off immediately for Firecrow Empire. Although they had noble status, they were nothing but servants in front of the heir of the Zhou Family, so they did not dare to delay for even a brief while.

“This is...?” Zhou Chuan was taken aback. Peering ahead in horror, he said shockingly, “Look, what’s going on here?”

That woke Pang Chengwen and Shi Ruida from their meditation. They hurried over to the front of the chariot and saw a huge mountain blocking the way. “Are you taking a wrong road, Zhou Chuan?” said Shi Ruida.

Zhou Chuan’s face was full of horror as he said firmly, “This is the correct road! We took the same road when we came, and I’m sure there was no mountain here!”

Pang Chengwen had a dubious look and a frown on his face. “You mean a mountain suddenly appeared here over the last few days?” He laughed. “Although those almighty experts could move mountains and topple seas in legends, that’s just an exaggeration. No one in the world can move a mountain.”

Shi Ruida was laughing too. “You’re just too nervous, Zhou Chuan. Quickly turn around, or you will hit the mountain soon.”

Zhou Chuan lowered his head and looked at the chariot’s recording needle in silence. ‘This is the road we took when we came here. I can’t be wrong. Besides, this mountain looks very familiar...it seems like that Wangwu Mountain beside the road.’

“Be careful, I have a bad feeling!” Zhou Chuan warned as he carefully adjusted the chariot’s course. Although he felt strange, he could not just do nothing and watch as the chariot ran into the mountain.

Pang Chengwen and Shi Ruida smiled at each other. They did not take the warning seriously, and they thought he was just overreacting. As both of them were much stronger, they were already not happy with Zhou Chuan leading the group. And now, they simply did not cover the mocking look on their faces.

All of a sudden, a dark cloud drifted over them, veiling the sky and blocking the sunlight and turning the world dark.

They looked up, and what they saw immediately scared the wits out of them. It was not a dark cloud, but a great mountain several thousand miles in circumference falling rapidly from the sky, and their chariot was right beneath it. They had nowhere to run!

“AH! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!”

Pang Chengwen screamed and leaped out of the chariot, rushing toward the distance like a bolt of lightning. The mountain was so huge that even a Martial Grandmaster or Martial Supreme would be crushed to death instantly, not to mention a mere Martial King like him!

The other two men were terrified as well. In desperation, they jumped out of the chariot and ran crazily away from it.

“The mountain is moving! Someone really can move a mountain!” Zhou Chuan was utterly shocked as he put all his strength into his legs and ran for his life.

The mountain fell rapidly. Although they had been running with all their strength, they could not avoid it, and it seemed they were about to be crushed into some meat paste. Their eyes were wide with terror; roaring, they unleashed their Primordial Qi, which formed into layers of strong shields around them. With cold sweat trickling down their foreheads, they watched as the mountain came crashing down on them.

Just when they were about to make the last struggle before death, the mountain suddenly twisted and distorted, then turned into streams of light and quickly scattered in the air, dissolving into a myriad of colorful light dots and flying into the eyes of a man standing not far ahead on the road.

The sky turned bright and clear, and the Wangwu Mountain that blocked the way was gone. It turned out that everything was just an illusion.

The young man with a pair of strange eyes looked slightly pale. It was plain that the grand scale of the illusion just now had consumed a significant amount of his spirits. Meanwhile, a hint of a smile brushed his lips, and he began to perform all kinds of incantation gestures, sending them into the chariots. In just the blink of an eye, the Bluewolf shrunk in mid-air into a mini chariot and fell into his hand.

“Who are you?! How dare you fool us!” Pang Chengwen flew into a rage.

Shi Ruida was boiling as well. His murderous aura exploded out instantly, which pushed his clothes up and made him look double in size.

The young man put away the chariot as he smiled and said, “Greetings, my friends! I’m Li Yunxiao, the City Lord of Yanwu.”

That did not quench Pang Chengwen’s flame of anger even a little bit. His eyes gleamed with killing intent as he said coldly, “The City Lord of Yanwu? How dare you fool us! You are digging your own grave!” They did not even regard the monarch of Tianshui as someone important, let alone a mere city lord.

Zhou Chuan’s face flickered, but he was much calmer than the other two men. “Greetings, my lord. May I know the reason my lord does this to us?”

Yunxiao smiled faintly and thought a little bit highly about Zhou Chuan. “Well, as I had just taken the office a few days ago, I’m a little short of money. In addition to borrowing the Bluewolf chariot from you, another reason I come to you is to borrow the Cauldron of Five Elements. When Yanwu gets richer, I’ll definitely return it to you personally.”

“Borrow the Cauldron of Five Elements?” Pang Chengwen roared with laughter, as if he had just heard the funniest joke in the world. “Haha! You are just a mere Martial Master! And, do you know who you are talking to?”

“Well, I really don’t know your names, but I’m not interested either. So, save your breath. I’ll leave once I get the cauldron.”

“Boy!” Shi Ruida’s face turned dark as his aura spread rumbling out like a mighty storm. He pointed a finger at Yunxiao’s face and bellowed, “Are you a real fool or you’re just pretending to be one? Do you really know who we are? Do you know the consequence you will face after this?”

Yunxiao’s expression did not change and the smile still hung on his face. Lightly, he lifted a hand and waved it down, which broke Shi Ruida’s pressure of a seven-stars Martial King apart and sent it out in all directions behind him.

Shi Ruida’s face fell. He knew how strong his pressure was, which even a Martial Lord would find it hard to resist. ‘This boy is just a five-stars Martial Master. How did he break my pressure with a slap? And, although he seemed to have thrown out the slap casually, I could feel a very profound martial essence in it...’

Zhou Chuan was taken aback as well. In a deep voice, he said, “We are from the Zhou Family of Firecrow Empire. Do you really want to offend us?”

Yunxiao laughed. “Yes, it is the Zhou Family I am looking for, and you are the people I want to borrow from. As one of the four major aristocratic families of Firecrow, surely you are not so stingy, are you?”

The look on Zhou Chuan’s face grew uglier. “You are the one who killed the people of Cheng Family and Xingyang Family a few days ago, aren’t you?” he said coldly. “Do you really want to be enemies with two great families at the same time? Have you ever thought of the consequences? These families with thousands of years of history can easily crush you with just a finger!”

“Families with thousands of years of history?” A sneer appeared on Yunxiao’s face. “I’ve offended many existences with millions of years of history.”

‘Crazy, he’s really crazy!’ Zhou Chuan was speechless. ‘How can there be such people in the world? He’s just unreasonable!’ If it were not for the importance of the Cauldron of Five Elements and he did not want anything bad to happen to it, he would not have held back his anger and reasoned with Yunxiao.

“Stop wasting your breath with him!” Face livid with rage, Pang Chengwen looked at Zhou Chuan and growled, “Just kill him!”

Among the three, Zhou Chuan was the leader, and without his order, the other two men could not attack. Although both Pang Chengwen and Shi Ruida were unhappy with this arrangement, they could not violate the Zhou Family’s rules, or they would have to face serious punishment.

Zhou Chuan was already fuming, so he clenched his jaws and shouted, “Attack!”

No sooner had his voice faded away than Pang Chengwen rushed out. He was already trembling with rage; he wanted nothing but to break this boy’s bones and rip him into pieces. He swore to himself that once he killed this boy and escorted the cauldron back, he would return to Yanwu again and kill everyone in the City Lord Mansion!

“Take it easy, young man!”

Suddenly, a flat voice rang out, and Xiao Qingwang appeared before Yunxiao in the next instant. He clenched his left palm into a fist and gently thrust it out. With it in the center, the surrounding air spun and turned into a whirlwind, which sucked over all the natural Primordial Qi within tens of meters around and compressed them as the fist smashed toward Pang Chengwen.

“An eight-stars Martial King!” Pang Chengwen’s pupils constricted as a look of horror appeared on his face. The punch, which was more powerful than his attack, had targeted him, and its pressure was so strong that he felt hard to breathe. He screamed in fear, “An eight-stars Martial King! How’s that possible! How can there be an eight-stars Martial King in such a tiny city!”

Zhou Chuan’s face fell as he said in shock, “You...You are Xiao Qingwang! The Martial King of Tianshui! How dare you go against the Zhou Family? Are you not afraid that you will bring a calamity that will destroy Tianshui?!”

Xiao Qingwang smiled and said indifferently, “It doesn’t matter.”

“YOU!” Zhou Chuan was rendered speechless. ‘Crazy, they are all crazy! If they are not afraid of even the elimination of their own state, how can they be afraid of being killed?’

Meanwhile, Pang Chengwen rotated his Primordial Qi to the maximum and threw both his palms out, countering the punch with a look of horror on his face.

Bam!

The impact knocked Pang Chengwen flying away, which startled Zhou Chuan. He knew they were in real trouble this time, because their opponents came prepared. "Help him, Shi Ruida!"

Although his heart sank, Zhou Chuan did not panic. Their opponent was, after all, a mere city lord, and if he had the strength to defeat them, he would have attacked them directly and not fooled them with an illusion that made them abandon their chariot.

Shi Ruida was about to strike when four rays of light, each coming in a different color, suddenly shot out of the ground in four directions. Then, a huge square emerged beneath his feet and quickly turned into the form of an array. Meanwhile, two men appeared out of nowhere and separately knelt on one knee outside the array, inserting one hand into each ray of light as they began to pour their Primordial Qi into them.

As the two different powers flowed into the array, the four rays of light grew stronger and spread out from all four corners, forming into a jail of four colors.