

The Eternal 141

Chapter 141: The Tiger Roar that Shook The Forest

“Two Martial Lords!” Shi Ruida was shocked at first, but when he discovered their cultivation base, he put his heart back to his chest. Besides, although he was inside the array, he did not suffer any attack, nor was his power weakened at all. While fuming, he cried out, “You’re looking to die!”

His bulging robe exploded abruptly as streams of Primordial Qi shot out of him like bullets, flying away in all directions.

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

All of them fell onto the four sides of the array, blocked by waves of invisible forces, and exploded. The air rippled with each explosion like the surface of the water. Surprisingly, none of the attacks could break through the array.

Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng, who were guarding the array, were slightly taken aback by the attack, but their eyes were full of shock and great joy. In the beginning, they did not have high hopes on this simple Four Quadrants Array, and yet, it did manage to trap a Martial King! Although a significant amount of their Primordial Qi was consumed under the attack just now, if calculated at this rate, they should have no problem trapping him for the time it took for half an incense stick to burn.

“What!” Shi Ruida’s face fell. “I’m trapped by two Martial Lords in an array? This is ridiculous!” He began to attack crazily. Chen Dasheng and Luo Yunshang’s face grew paler with each attack, but the array was impregnable, no matter how fierce the attacks were.

Zhou Chuan’s face grew uglier as he watched Xiao Qingwang fly toward Pang Chengwen. He ground his teeth and said, “I understand now. Your plan was to make us abandon our chariot with an illusion, then trap Shi Ruida in an array. And when that Xiao Qingwang kills Pang Chengwen, he will come back to kill Shi Ruida. What a brilliant plan! So, what about my opponent? Although I’m just a one-star Great Martial Master, I’m sure you’ve arranged someone to deal with me.”

Yunxiao laughed. "Be patient! My strategy is to delay as much as possible until Qingwang kills one of them."

Zhou Chuan's eyes gleamed with a strong killing intent. A mystic weapon appeared in his hand, and then he rushed toward Yunxiao with it while shouting, "It seems that you are indeed the leader of these people! I'll kill you first, then save Shi Ruida, and finally kill that Xiao Qingwang!"

He knew at once where his chance lay. The odds between them were even, depending on whether Pang Chengwen was killed first or Shi Ruida was released first. If the two Martial Kings could join hands, Xiao Qingwang would definitely lose.

"Hehe! Why are you so impatient? If I am not wrong, the Cauldron of Five Elements is with you, isn't it?" Yunxiao lightly kicked the ground and drifted backward like a fallen leaf.

Zhou Chuan was horrified. He could not understand how Yunxiao guessed that. Any normal person would think that something so valuable must be with the strongest man. Unfortunately for him, Yunxiao was not a normal person.

His attack was only a decoy. He looked around warily, because he thought Yunxiao must have arranged someone else to deal with him. The reason why that person had not shown up should be because they did not have the confidence in defeating him, so they were delaying the time as much as possible.

"You don't have to look around. There is no one else." Yunxiao chuckled and said, "All the people I arranged have shown up, so I'll have to deal with you myself."

"Hmph! I don't believe you!" cried Zhou Chuan in a cold voice. Meanwhile, he swung his sword faster and harder, but he soon found out that he could not touch even the edges of Yunxiao's clothes, which terrified him.

'Does he really have no other plans?' Looking at Yunxiao's calm face, Zhou Chuan grew anxious and doubtful. "Unseal!" At the shout, his mystic weapon transformed into a spirit snake, darting back and forth rapidly within its range of attack. It moved so fast that it seemed like an offensive technique that covered a wide area. This kind of sword technique was exactly the bane of some magical movement techniques.

Slightly surprised, Yunxiao moved even faster with Nether Swap, avoiding the sword within a very narrow space. That stunned Zhou Chuan, and only then did he really believe what the other said. 'He should have no other plans due to limited manpower, and this movement technique alone is more than enough for him to delay the time.'

"Since you are so confident, let's see how you will avoid my attack next! Unseal!"

Zhou Chuan shouted again. The spirit snake sword in his hand burst into a flash of light as it suddenly expanded rapidly, growing at least seven or eight times larger in the blink of an eye into a huge python-like weapon, and then biting down toward Yunxiao.

"A second unseal?" Yunxiao was startled, and he immediately began to reassess the strength of the Zhou family. Only a mystic weapon of the fourth-tier or above could be unsealed a second time, and it could only be refined by an alchemist of the fifth-tier or above.

The fact that Zhou Chuan, who was only a steward with the cultivation base of a Great Martial Master, had such a high-level mystic weapon showed the terrible power and heritage of the Zhou family. At the same time, it also proved that this family was an existence that the current Yanwu could not afford to offend.

Looking at the approaching python-like mystic weapon, Yunxiao did not retreat or dodge, but kept performing various incantation gestures. Streams of golden gas emerged around him as it gathered and condensed in his palm into a huge golden seal, which he pushed out with all his might.

"Life passes like a dream, a mark left by goose claw in the snow. The Floating Life Seal!"

Bam!

Shafts of golden light broke out from his palm like a blooming golden lotus flower, blinding those who looked at it. The great python was instantly devoured by the light, and then it was knocked and thrown away amid wails.

'What martial technique is this? How can it be so powerful!' Zhou Chuan was stunned as his mystic weapon was knocked back. A great force rushed up the weapon and hit him, forcing him to step back repeatedly.

With a serious face, Yunxiao walked out of the golden light while his body emanated waves of Primordial Qi. "If this is all you got, everything will be over soon," he said coldly.

'His Primordial Qi waves are indeed that of a five-stars Martial Master, and yet he can knock away a full-power attack of my spirit snake sword! How did that happen!' Zhou Chuan's face was shocked and full of disbelief.

Luo Yunshang, Chen Dasheng, and Shi Ruida, who were not far away, were shocked as well by what they saw. The former two were slightly better, as they could basically accept that, but Shi Ruida could not believe it no matter what. Even then, he sensed that Pang Chengwen's aura was growing weaker. He was immediately burned with anxiety and began to crazily attack the array.

Chen Dasheng and Luo Yunshang's faces turned pale. Hurriedly, they took out a few medicinal pills each and swallowed them, then continued to support the array.

Zhou Chuan gradually accepted the fact, and his eyes burned with extreme anger. A strange force began to spread through his body while layers of blue scales emerged across his skin, and his head grew narrower and pointier like the head of a snake.

"A demon cultivation technique?" Yunxiao frowned. Although this kind of cultivation technique was very powerful, few people learned it. The Toad Fiend Technique used by Li Wenshi on Mount Phoenix was also coming from the demon race.

"Oh? You also know about demon cultivation techniques? It seems you are not just an ordinary city lord!" After the transformation, Zhou Chuan emanated a demonic aura. Together with his python-like mystic weapon, they looked like two giant snakes. It was a frightening sight to behold.

"Hmph! There are millions of human cultivation techniques, and they all are the best in the world! Only fools will cultivate these cultivation techniques used by beasts!" Yunxiao said disdainfully.

“Death is upon you, boy, so stop talking like you know everything! Now that you’ve forced me to reveal my true-form, your death is imminent!”

“Ten Thousand Snakes!” Zhou Chuan roared as he darted out, agile as a snake, swinging the sword in his hand so fast that it seemed the void was fully packed with snakes.

“You are no match for me even when you were in your human form, so why do you think you can turn the tables by transforming into a beast?”

Yunxiao slightly bent his body forward and placed his right hand behind his back. Next, a sword appeared in his grip. All of a sudden, a sheet of blood-red light emerged in the air, and then a tiger roar rang out and towered into the sky.

“The sword of Tigertooth, the Song of Blue Lotus Sword!”

A tiger roar shook the entire mountain forest!

A giant shadow of a blue snake and a blood-red tiger slammed into one another, and they both broke apart and scattered under the great impact, with the faint roars of a tiger still ringing in the air. Yunxiao and Zhou Chuan were instantly drowned by the blast waves as the powerful energy swept out in all directions.

Zhou Chuan sprayed out a mouthful of blood while a cold smile emerged on his snake head. ‘Even my demon body can’t withstand such great power, let alone a mere five-stars Martial Master! He must be dead now!’

Swoosh!

But at that moment, he heard a terrible sound and saw Yunxiao, bare-chested, run toward him with the sword lifted high. The air, which had turned super hot due to the energy blast, was cut in half as the sword moved like a bolt of lightning and slashed down at him.

He sucked in a cold breath as he looked at Yunxiao's smooth and fair skin. "How's that possible! Under such a tremendous impact, how come you don't even have a cut?"

Yunxiao would not explain to him, of course. Shocked, Zhou Chuan lifted his spirit snake sword to counter the attack. After the impact just now, the sword had turned back to the form of its first unseal, which looked like a tiny snake now.

Clang!

Two swords collided, and sparks flew.

Zhou Chuan's heart jerked. 'This is a fourth-tier sword that can be unsealed twice, and yet it is now used to cut another sword! What a waste!'

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The swords crossed three more times. Blasts of great force smashed down on him, rocking his chest and making him feel like vomiting blood. But, what pained him were the tiny chips along the edge of his sword caused by the repeated cutting. His opponent, on the other hand, did not seem to cherish his sword as much, as he lifted it once again like it were just an ordinary hacking knife.

Bam!

The hack seemed to be brought down with all the might, as it almost knocked Zhou Chuan's sword out of his grip and forced him back several steps. He was deeply terrified. 'How could this boy still have such great power!' His gaze fell on his sword, and what he saw made his heart bleed: chips as big as peas, and the last cut even left a tiny crack on the blade.

'Crazy, this is crazy!' A glimmer of madness flashed in Zhou Chuan's eyes. 'I have to do it! I have no other choice now! If I lose the Cauldron of Five Elements, I won't be able to die when I get back even if I wish I could!' There was a determined look in his eyes as he took out a pale green pill and shoved it into his mouth.

Chapter 142: Transform Into A Snake

A great power immediately spread out from inside Zhou Chuan's body, crazily pounding at his limbs and meridians. Meanwhile, his body was quickly pulled longer by the power, gradually changing shape. He was in the form of half-human and half-snake before, but he had completely transformed into a giant python now. The mystic weapon in his hand was unsealed once again, and the two of them tangled together as they fixed their eyes at Yunxiao.

That shocked all three people on the side. Not only Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng were startled, but even Shi Ruida was stunned. The visual impact was really hard to accept.

"A snake-shaped mystic weapon, a demon snake cultivation technique, and a snake demonization pill...You are really disgusting!" Yunxiao frowned as he watched the two giant pythons keep moving around each other. The sight made him even feel like throwing up.

Those words angered Zhou Chuan. His eyes turned evilly red, and with a forked tongue flickering out of his mouth, he darted toward Yunxiao. It was hard to understand how he could move so fast with such a huge body.

Clang!

Yunxiao blocked him with Tigertooth. The impact pushed him tens of meters back as his feet left two long lines on the ground. He looked up in surprise and said to himself, "Such a strong force! This is going to be troublesome."

Luo Yunshang was worried about him. The aura emanated by the python frightened even her. But, the Four Quadrants Array was approaching its end of life under Shi Ruida's constant attack, so she could not be distracted. All she could do now was trust Yunxiao, and she hurriedly focused all her attention back on the array.

Whoosh!

Zhou Chuan and his mystic weapon slithered back and forth in the air, taking turns to attack Yunxiao. Whenever they fell, it felt like a meteor was plunging from the sky. Using their huge bodies, they trapped him within a space of dozens of meters.

“Damnit! Tigertooth, the roar that shakes the forest!”

ROARRRRRR!

Yunxiao slashed out his sword. A faint tiger roar rang out, and a shadow of a blood-striped tiger condensed over the blade, which swooped down at the snake’s head.

Bam!

The snake that was Zhou Chuan’s mystic weapon dived down and pounded at the tiger, blowing it apart. Amid the chaotic energy waves, another snake plunged whistling down toward Yunxiao.

“Damnit! He just won’t stop!” Suddenly, Yunxiao’s pupils turned into two blood-red crescents. A blast of spiritual energy shot out from his eyes as he cried, “Moon Eye, suppressing the soul!”

An invisible power rippled out of Yunxiao’s eyes, blasting upward like sound waves. Impacted by the spiritual energy, Zhou Chuan, whose eyes were red and aggressive, suddenly halted in mid-air while a confused look gradually emerged in his eyes, which shifted between sober and cloudy.

Yunxiao knew his divine sense was not strong enough to control his opponent, but all he wanted was a brief moment of a daze. He gave a light cry, and in an instant, his soul form in the Divine Realm Tablet turned into a stream of powerful spiritual energy and returned to his body. His blood-red crescent pupils seemed to have been supplemented with power, and a blast of stronger soul power erupted out of them.

Zhou Chuan’s forked tongue stopped sticking out, and he was frozen in mid-air together with his python-like mystic weapon, his eyes grayish and empty.

“Now!”

Yunxiao bent his knees and kicked his feet into the ground; a hole appeared in the earth as he shot upward like a cannonball. He lifted the Tigertooth over his head and thrust its pointed end at a spot on Zhou Chuan's body that was seven inches away from his head.

"The sword of Tigertooth, the Song of Blue Lotus Sword!"

Bam!

A huge blood-red lotus flower bloomed at the spot seven inches from the snake's head, and a stab of pain woke Zhou Chuan. His dulled eyes returned to normal in an instant, and then they began to fill with rage as he twisted and turned in pain, shrieking and screaming like some wild beast.

Suddenly, an object flew out of his wound, moving in an arc across the air and falling into the distance.

Yunxiao's pupils constricted as he exclaimed shockingly, "The Cauldron of Five Elements! So, you had hidden it inside your body! No wonder I couldn't seem to sense it!"

He leaped, rushing toward the cauldron as fast as a bolt of lightning. After using the eye technique and the Song of Blue Lotus Sword, his spirits and Primordial Qi were very much worn out, and he was almost at the end of his tether. But, he guessed Zhou Chuan's condition was not much better, since his vital spot was seriously wounded.

Swoosh!

Suddenly, Zhou Chuan darted out at great speed, chasing the cauldron. In the blink of an eye, he was in front of Yunxiao as he opened his mouth and swallowed the cauldron with one gulp.

"YOU!"

Astounded, Yunxiao stared at Zhou Chuan, who stood there with the forked tongue sticking in and out of his mouth after he had devoured the cauldron. 'This is going to be troublesome. I need to kill this snake before I can get the cauldron.' He peered into the distance; Xiao Qingwang's battle seemed not over yet, and he was not sure how much longer it would take.

Swoosh!

Zhou Chuan leaned back his upper body and then threw himself forward with all his strength. Startled, Yunxiao was about to dodge when the other suddenly halted in mid-air, opened his mouth, and spat out the cauldron, which shot toward Yunxiao like a meteor.

“Hehe! If you hadn’t shaken the cauldron out of my body, I would have forgotten that it is a fifth-tier mystic weapon!” A burst of triumphant laughter rang out of Zhou Chuan’s mouth. “Let’s see how you are going to block this time!”

Clang!

Hastily, Yunxiao brought the Tigertooth before him. The cauldron slammed at the blade and pushed him back while a great power of five elements rushed out of it, weighing down at him and making him feel as if his Glazed Body were about to break apart.

Puke!

Unable to hold on any longer, Yunxiao coughed out a mouthful of heart’s blood, spraying them all on the cauldron. After knocking him away, the cauldron turned into a ball of light and flew back into Zhou Chuan’s mouth.

There was a shocked look in Zhou Chuan’s eyes as he said in horror, “You are just a mere Martial Master, but why are you still alive under the suppression of the Cauldron of Five Elements! Well, I’d like to see how many times you can withstand!”

Yunxiao struggled to his feet, then lifted his right hand and loosened his grip. The Tigertooth fell to the ground with a clang, and about half a foot of its blade was thrust into the earth.

There were traces of blood at the corners of his mouth, but his upper body was still clean and smooth like jade, without any cut or wound. However, its color was fading. Under Zhou Chuan’s surprised glance, he sat down cross-legged on the ground.

“Why? Are you giving up?” Zhou Chuan stared coldly at him and said in a voice thick with hatred, “You can only compensate my loss with your life now!”

Yunxiao sat on the ground silently, with his hands flashing in incantation gestures. One seal after another flew out of his hands like butterflies, turning into tadpole-like characters in the air and then forming into a huge seal in the sky.

“What is this?” Zhou Chuan was shocked, and he had a bad feeling. “Stop struggling! Cauldron of Five Elements, kill this guy for me!”

He roared, and he was about to spit out the cauldron when his eyes suddenly showed a look of terror. He felt as if there was something stuck in his throat, making it impossible for him to make a sound.

He kept sticking out his forked tongue as if he were in great pain, and his huge body began to tumble and twitch violently in the air. Meanwhile, a strange force exuded from his body, and a huge shadow of a cauldron suddenly appeared in the sky and enveloped him. Rays of five different colors could be seen flowing around the cauldron, which made it look corporeal and about to materialize.

Enveloped in the shadow, Zhou Chuan became extremely restless and fearful. He struggled and tumbled desperately in mid-air, trying to rush out of it, but all his attempts had failed.

Puke!

Finally, the thing stuck in his throat was coughed out with a mouthful of blood. Affected by the power of the seal in the sky, the Cauldron of Five Elements expanded rapidly and merged with the shadow, completely enveloping Zhou Chuan.

Streams of purple light began to swirl around the cauldron. Yunxiao’s eyes lit up, and he hurriedly performed various incantation gestures, sending numerous seals into it. Soon, an over thousand feet tall purple cauldron hovered in the void while a great amount of natural Primordial Qi crazily poured into it, as if it were devouring all kinds of powers without an end.

Luo Yunshang and the others watched in shock as the cauldron kept shaking in the sky, as if Zhou Chuan, who was trapped inside, was struggling desperately. However, as more seals flew out of Yunxiao's hands, the shaking of the cauldron grew weaker and weaker.

Shi Ruida's heart sank. He could not understand why the Cauldron of Five Elements could be used by Yunxiao when it was still in Zhou Chuan's hands. A sense of dread filled him as he felt Zhou Chuan's aura grew weaker and weaker while Pang Chengwen's life force weakened rapidly in the distance. He roared in terror, and he finally could not stand it any longer. Like a madman, he rotated his Primordial Qi to the maximum and pushed it toward Chen Dasheng.

Bam!

Chen Dasheng felt a great force smash at him, which he could no longer withstand. He coughed out a mouthful of blood and was knocked flying away; consequently, the Four Quadrants Array was finally broken. Shi Ruida's eyes shone with killing intent, and a towering rage emanated from his body. Suddenly a huge axe appeared in the sky and hacked down toward his head.

"Hmph! You are no match for me! Get out of here!" He bellowed coldly and threw out a punch, knocking the axe away. The impact forced a jet of blood out of Luo Yunshang's mouth while pushing her tens of meters away.

"Die now, boy!" After knocking away Luo Yunshang with a punch, Shi Ruida leaped and rushed toward Yunxiao. The Primordial Qi in him puffed up, making him look like a huge fat man as he crashed down like a mountain.

The mighty aura of a Martial King filled the sky as it poured down at Yunxiao. For a moment, the color of the world around them changed!

Chapter 143: Refine the Demon Rabbit

Yunxiao's face fell, as the attack of a Martial King was definitely not something he could resist. Without hesitation, he curled his fingers into a claw. The purple cauldron shrank rapidly and flew over to hover in front of him. Then, he frantically sent dozens of incantation seals into it. In just the blink of an eye, streams of five elements aura exploded out of the cauldron, spreading out like rings of light.

Bam!

In the next instant, Shi Ruida's attack landed on the cauldron, and the treasure wailed. A shaft of green light shot out from the top of the cauldron into the sky; Zhou Chuan, in his python-form, took the opportunity and flew out of the vessel. But, he was already covered in blood, with a frightful look on his face.

Yunxiao was knocked flying back by the force coming through the cauldron. He was still standing, showing no signs of falling, but his Glazed Body had faded, and gashes began to crack open across his skin.

The Glazed Body, which was the first level of the Tyrant Body Tempering Technique, was breaking apart under the attack of a Martial King.

Shi Ruida was shocked. Although most parts of his full-power attack were dissolved by the cauldron, the remaining impact was not something a Martial Master could resist. But, he had no time to think further. Hurriedly, he reached out a hand to grab the cauldron. If they lost the treasure, they would have to face death even if they managed to escape today.

Bam!

To his surprise, as soon as his hand touched the cauldron, it was immediately repelled. Then, as if triggered by an external force, the vessel began to shake and expand rapidly.

"Trying to run away? Go back now!"

Just when Zhou Chuan thought he had escaped, he heard a cold voice. He looked up and saw Xiao Qingwang hovering in the sky over him, throwing a palm down at him. For a moment, it seemed the power of the whole sky was in the palm as it fell and grew larger in his eyes.

He turned pale as the tremendous force pushed him back down. He was falling toward the cauldron, and his eyes showed extreme fear and terror. But, there was nothing he could do other than roar and scream.

Meanwhile, the cauldron had turned extremely huge as Shi Ruida tried to take it by force, which allowed it to swallow Zhou Chuan and trap him once again.

The sight of Xiao Qingwang almost scared the wits out of Shi Ruida. Hastily, he turned and fled, abandoning Zhou Chuan.

Knowing that Zhou Chuan would not be able to come out of the cauldron for the time being, Xiao Qingwang went ahead to chase Shi Ruida. As he ran, he threw out an object, which spun toward his target with a great force like a weapon.

Bam!

The object fell on the ground in front of Shi Ruida. He gave it a quick glance and saw it was actually Pang Chengwen's head, and it exploded into a puddle of a red and white mess as soon as it landed. That frightened him and sent a chill down his back. When he looked up, he saw that Xiao Qingwang was already not far ahead of him, walking over with a cold look in the eyes.

After Zhou Chuan fell into the cauldron, Yunxiao walked over as he took several medicinal pills in a row. Then, he began to send incantation seals into the purple vessel.

The Cauldron of Five Elements was refined by him, so he had no problem in using it. Soon, it began to crazily drain the surrounding natural Primordial Qi, converting them into streams of five-element energy and sending them inside its hollow space. Zhou Chuan was struggling frantically inside, but to no avail, and his strength was growing weaker and weaker.

Meanwhile, Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng walked over to Yunxiao. They sat down behind him to guard him while regulating their breaths and stabilizing their conditions. The dust was almost settled now, so both of them had not much to worry about. They were amazed by the fact that Yunxiao was able to seize the cauldron and use it in the battle. The Cauldron of Five Elements was a fifth-tier treasure, and even they both could hardly suppress it as Martial Lords. That really puzzled them.

The battle between Xiao Qingwang and Shi Ruida had entered a very dangerous situation. Although Xiao Qingwang was one star stronger, he had just finished a tough battle. He was a little tired, and that gave his opponent some room to fight back.

Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng could only watch nervously, because they were not strong enough to intervene in this level of fighting.

“A blessing from heaven, five elements become one, refine!”

Suddenly, Yunxiao’s eyes lit up as he murmured something. A huge incantation seal materialized between his palms, and he smashed it hard onto the cauldron. Affected by the power, the vessel burst with a bright purple light and spun rapidly in the air. Clearly, he was going to kill Zhou Chuan by refining him!

There was a look of terror on Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng’s faces. They guessed it must be a great torment for the man who was being refined alive inside the cauldron.

About half an hour later, the purple cauldron finally stopped. Its purple light was gone, and it fell from the sky, bringing up a cloud of dust when it slammed onto the ground with a thud. Yunxiao got up to his feet with a trace of joy in his eyes.

“Did you succeed, Young Master Yun?” Chen Dasheng asked carefully. He felt a palpitation as he looked at the purple cauldron.

Yunxiao smiled and said, “Yes.” He looked at the cauldron with a trace of nostalgia in his eyes as he walked over and gave it a gentle slap. The vessel’s top part spun slowly, revealing its interior in front of everyone.

As soon as Luo Yunshang gave its inside a look, she said with shock, “This...Where is Zhou?” There was not a man or a snake in the cauldron, but a blue medicinal pill that rolled restlessly, looking full of spirits.

Yunxiao pointed at the pill and said with a smile, “There he is.”

Chen Dasheng sucked in a cold breath and cried out, “You...You refined a man into a medicinal pill?”

Yunxiao explained while smiling, “No, I didn’t refine a man into a medicinal pill, but a demon. After taking the demonization pill, Zhou Chuan’s body was filled with the blood essence and soul of a demon

snake, which made him no different from a demon beast. Moreover, he was cultivating a demonic cultivation technique, so he was no longer a human being in essence. Therefore, it is not something strange that he can be refined into a medicinal pill.”

Gulp!

They both swallowed at the same time. Although that sounded reasonable, they just could not accept that.

“This snake pill is a pure energy pill from which I’ve gotten rid of all the impurities. I’ll give it to Qingwang after he kills that Shi Ruida. If he’s lucky, there is a good chance that he can break through the barrier of the eight-stars level.”

Both of them turned pale on hearing that while Chen Dasheng covered his mouth with a hand as if he were about to vomit. “You...You want to give this pill to Qingwang? Aren’t you afraid he will kill you when he finds out?” he said in a trembling voice.

“Hehe!” Yunxiao’s eyes gleamed as he said, “How would he know if you two don’t tell him?”

Bam!

Just then, a loud noise was heard coming from the distance; the battle was concluded. Covered in bruises, Xiao Qingwang walked over and gave them a tired smile, “Fortunately, I didn’t disgrace my task!”

Yunxiao said, “Thank you, Qingwang! I have a pill here that can restore your strength and help you break through the barrier of the eight-stars level.”

“What!”

Xiao Qingwang was startled. He had been stuck at the peak of the eight-stars for over five years, and after he was seriously wounded, he had thought it was as far as he could go in this life. “Can the pill really do that?” he asked emotionally.

Yunxiao handed him the blue pill and said, "Just give it a try!"

He took the pill and gave it a quick glance before shoving it into his mouth and swallowing it. Suddenly, he saw the blank expression on Chen Dasheng and Luo Yunshang's faces, so he asked while frowning, "Why are you looking at me like that? You want the pill as well? You can ask Young Master Yun to refine one for each of you when we get back."

"Ah? No, no, no, no!" Chen Dasheng hurriedly shook his head and waved his hand. "No, I don't want it!"

Luo Yunshang, on the other hand, turned pale and felt like throwing up, so she hastily turned around.

"What's wrong with them?" Xiao Qingwang asked curiously.

"Nothing," Yunxiao chuckled. "They're just wounded and don't feel well. Regulate your breaths, Qingwang, the medicinal strength will soon be released."

Xiao Qingwang nodded, and he immediately felt a power spreading out in him. Without hesitation, he sat cross-legged down and began to control the power.

Glancing at the mess around them, Yunxiao said, "Let's clean up this place. Otherwise, the Zhou family will soon find out that we did this."

There was a deep look of worry in Chen Dasheng's eyes as he said, "You are really daring! I can't believe we've killed three people from the Zhou family now! This has brought us another sworn enemy, in addition to the Cheng family. I think we are the only ones who have offended two major aristocratic families in the whole Firecrow Empire at the same time!"

"Haha!" Yunxiao laughed, not looking worried at all. "Uncle Chen, you're wrong. We didn't offend them. They are the ones who offended us!"

“This...What’s the difference?” Chen Dasheng shook his head with a wry smile. He knew he could not judge Yunxiao with normal standards, so he just bowed his head and went ahead to clean up the battlefield.

Yunxiao chuckled and said in a low voice, “There’s a difference, of course! If we offend others, they can still live. But, when others offend us, they will die!”

Only Luo Yunshang, who was beside him, heard that. She paused for a moment, and then a worried look crept up her face as well. She sighed and began to clean up the battlefield. Since she had already boarded the ship, she could only sail through the journey with them. Besides, as long as that man was with them, she would not frown even if they were going to a mountain of blades or a sea of fire.

“Haha!” Just when the three of them had finished cleaning up the battlefield and removing all traces of fighting, Xiao Qingwang suddenly laughed as he jumped to his feet, then threw his head back and roared.

Luo Yunshang was startled at first, but when she heard the roar, she cried out happily, “Qingwang has broken through finally!”

After roaring for a while, Xiao Qingwang came in front of Yunxiao and the others. His face was red with excitement. “Not only have I broken through and become a nine-stars Martial King, but I’m completely healed as well!”

Both Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng had an envious look on their faces, especially Chen Dasheng, who was also suffering from the cold poison. “Congratulations, Qingwang!” he said in a voice thick with jealousy.

Xiao Qingwang laughed. “You don’t have to envy me. As long as you stay with Young Master Yun, you will be showered with benefits.” Suddenly, he arched an eyebrow and asked, “Right, where is that Zhou Chuan? He should be dead after falling into the cauldron, right?”

Chapter 144: Recruit Talents

Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng’s faces turned pale again as they stared at Xiao Qingwang’s stomach. They looked as if they were about to vomit.

“What’s wrong with you two? I feel something is not right here!” Xiao Qingwang narrowed his eyes and said, “Yunshang, tell me, why do you keep staring at me like that?”

Luo Yunshang’s lips parted slightly, and she stammered, “Thi-this... I... I...” She quickly turned to Yunxiao and asked for help with her eyes.

Yunxiao’s forehead was covered with tiny beads of cold sweat. He made himself laugh and then said, “It’s nothing! Why do you have to look like that? To us who pursue martial arts, all things in the world can be made into spirit medicines. Zhou Chuan is dead. I’ve refined him into a pill with the cauldron.”

“Oh, so he’s dead! Good!” Xiao Qingwang said lightly. But all of a sudden, his pupils constricted and his face turned extremely pale. Staring at Yunxiao, he said in a trembling voice, “Wh-wha-what did you say? You refined Zhou Chuan into a pill? Whe-where is the pil...pill...Where is that pill now?”

He turned slightly and saw Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng stare at his stomach with a strange look on their faces. That immediately sent a chill down his back. His stomach began to tumble, and his face turned livid. “Young Master Yun, the pill...the pill you gave me just now...”

Yunxiao broke out in a cold sweat when he sensed the killing intent pour out of the man, and he could not help but slowly step backward. With an embarrassed smile, he said, “Well...ugh...As I said, all things in the world can be made into spirit medicines...”

“WHAT! How could you give me something so disgusting to eat?”

Xiao Qingwang exploded, and Yunxiao’s miserable screams could be heard very soon, accompanied by the sound of someone throwing up.

...

When they returned to Yanwu, Meng Wu and her brother hurried out to greet them. Luo Yunshang and Chen Dasheng looked normal, Xiao Qingwang’s face was extremely pale, and Yunxiao’s face was all black and blue, with bruises around his eyes.

“What happened to you, Young Master Yun? Are you alright? Who beat you this bad?” Meng Wu felt her heart ache, and she quickly took out some medicines to nurse his bruises.

Xiao Qingwang’s face grew dark as he snorted.

“I’m fine. I just tripped and fell,” said Yunxiao hurriedly.

Suddenly, Li Changfeng rushed through the door and came in front of Yunxiao. “Are you alright, son? I heard that you went to kill two Martial Kings! It scared the daylights out of me!”

“You are too bold, boy! You should have waited for us!” Li Chunyang walked over as well, his face angry. When they came back from the capital, they were told by Meng Wu that Yunxiao had gone to kill two Martial Kings. That frightened them instantly, and they rushed out of the city at once to look for him, but to no avail. They had just come back from the search.

Darkthunder ran beside Yunxiao and rubbed its head against his shoulder.

Li Chunyang frowned as soon as he saw Yunxiao’s look. “Your face...”

“It’s nothing, I tripped and fell!” Yunxiao hurriedly explained. As if he did not want them to keep asking about that, he said, “Grandpa, Dad, how was the mission?”

Li Changfeng beamed at the question as he laughed and said, “Haha! It was done flawlessly! All ten former city lords and over six hundred officials in the court spat out everything they had taken. In the beginning, a dozen or so families tried to fight back, but after I searched and confiscated their properties with force, the rest tucked their tails between their legs when I visited them.” He took out a storage bag and placed it on the table. “Hehe! I’ve listened to you and mainly asked for Primordial Stones. Here are two hundred million gold coins and six million medial-grade Primordial Stones.”

Everyone was startled. That was equivalent to sixty thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones!

A cold sweat broke out of Yunxiao's forehead. "Dad, did you just rob Tianshui's treasury? Didn't Qin Yue order you to be hacked to death?"

"Hehe! What nonsense are you talking about? His Majesty is a reasonable man. He even helped me collect debts from some guys," Li Changfeng said triumphantly.

Only then did Yunxiao smile. "With this wealth, things will be much easier. What about you, Grandpa?"

Li Chunyang laughed. "I rushed back first. Master Zhang Qingfan and Master Xu Han will be here tomorrow."

"Great!"

Exulted, Yunxiao slapped a hand on the table and said, "Everything worked as I'd expected. We are too weak, and we have made too many enemies in a short period. If we can't grow stronger as fast as possible, Yanwu will soon be wiped out."

His words rendered everyone speechless. 'We've made too many enemies because you kept offending others, and those you've offended are all existences we can't afford to offend!'

Li Chunyang could not help but feel strange as he looked at Yunxiao's bruised face. He walked to the side and gave Xiao Qingwang a light push as he asked, "What happened to my grandson's face, Qingwang?"

There was a flicker of anger in Xiao Qingwang's eyes as he said, "Hmph! You've got yourself a good grandson!"

The snub confused Li Chunyang, then he saw Chen Dasheng chuckling at the side. He walked over hurriedly and grabbed his arm as he asked the same question.

Looking at the anger in Xiao Qingwang's eyes, Chen Dasheng held back his laughter and gave Li Chunyang a brief account of what happened.

“Ah!” Li Chunyang felt his stomach tumble when he heard that. Trying his best to not laugh, he said, “So, Qingwang has broken through and become a nine-stars Martial King? Congratulations!”

“Hmph!” Xiao Qingwang gave a fierce snort as he turned and walked away sulkily.

After seeing Xiao Qingwang off with his eyes, Li Chunyang choked back his urge to vomit and said aloud, “You’re so cruel, boy! How could you refine a man into a pill and make him eat it? If I were Qingwang, I would definitely flay you bit by bit!”

Yunxiao laughed. “I’m tired, and I need to meditate in seclusion for a while. Meng Wu, bring these Primordial Stones to Jia Rong at once. Ask him what difficulties he still has, and tell him that I need him to finish the construction of the three arrays as fast as possible.”

When he had finished, he went back to his room.

After the battle, he was exhausted, and his sword Tigertooth was also seriously damaged, even though it was only the first time he had used it to fight someone. It was all because he used it as a hacking knife. But, it did not matter, as he himself was an alchemist, and he could repair it at any time.

It was the reason why all warriors cherished their mystic weapons so much, because once their weapons were damaged, they would have to provide a large number of materials and beg some alchemists to repair for them.

Yunxiao took out the Cauldron of Five Elements from his ring and transformed it into the form that was half a meter tall as he placed it in front of him. With a look of nostalgia in his eyes, he gently caressed it with a hand and said, “In my previous life, I didn’t regard you as something important, and had given you to someone as soon as I had refined you. I didn’t expect you to be the first one to return to me in this life. If I had known this, I would have carved a few more powerful arrays in you. What a pity!”

He sighed, then sent several incantation seals into the cauldron. Streams of five-elements power immediately emanated from the vessel and enveloped him. In the blink of an eye, he was brought inside the cauldron and began to slowly recuperate.

The Cauldron of Five Elements was a more versatile mystic treasure he had refined, with its full power comparable to the fighting strength of a peak Martial King. Although Yunxiao could use it with ease, he was still limited by his cultivation base and could not exert all its power.

Wrapped in the light of five elements, his body began to slowly recover.

The next day, he appeared in front of everyone with great spirits.

There was already a sea of people outside the City Lord Mansion, all warriors who came to join Yunxiao. There were also many onlookers, who wished to see what exactly was the City Lord of Yanwu up to.

“Why are you all making so much noise? Shut your mouths now!”

A furious shout rang out of the mansion. A few moments later, Li Changfeng walked out of the front door, dragging the reluctant Darkthunder with him. He swept the crowd with his divine sense, spreading his aura of a Martial Lord out in all directions and drowning all voices.

“We were told to come today to sign up, but we’ve not seen even a soul, and there is no preparation outside the City Lord Mansion at all! Are you cheating us?” A Great Martial Master shouted. With so many people here, he was not afraid to stick his neck out.

Li Changfeng glared at him and bellowed, “What did you say? When did the city of Yanwu cheat anyone? When we said today, it will be today. It’s just that it’s still early and my son, the City Lord, is still sleeping. When he wakes up, he will naturally come to greet you all!”

“Oh, the City Lord is this man’s son. Wait, the sun is already up now, and he’s still sleeping?”

“Did the City Lord ever pay any attention to us? I thought he wanted to recruit talents, and yet he’s still sleeping now? Don’t you think this is too disappointing?” shouted another man.

Li Changfeng shot the man a glance and growled, “What disappointing? Everyone has his own schedule. My son is born to get up late, what’s your problem with that? It is the strength we want in our talents. If

you want to join Yanwu, you will need to obey Yanwu's rules, and you must obey orders, not act according to your own way."

He was a general in the army, so he naturally had the air of a general when he talked. When that was combined with his strength of a Martial Lord, he could easily make many people shut their mouths.

'He's right! I'm here for the recruitment, and of course I need to conform to the rules. And since they are willing to pay me so well, naturally they want me to obey and act according to them.'

With that in mind, the crowd calmed down.

Yunxiao was amused when he heard that. He finally walked out of the mansion, but he was immediately shocked by the sea of people. The whole mansion was surrounded by layers of men that he could not count, and even the few nearby streets were packed with people lining up.

Wu Zishi was stunned by the sight as well. He had no idea from where all these people came from. He had spent his whole life in Yanwu, and yet he had never seen so many people in the city before. And when he sensed the aggressive aura emanating from them, he was so scared that he hid behind the door and did not dare to go out.

Yunxiao immediately ordered someone to bring a few tables out and draw a restricted zone in front of the door, then put Meng Wu and her brother in charge of the registration and reception.

Then, he put a wooden armchair at the front door and sat leaning on it as he said coldly, "Line up if you wish to sign up. Those who cut the queue or violate the rules will be disqualified immediately!"

Chapter 145: Slip Away

Yunxiao's voice was not loud, but it was clearly heard by everyone. That put a shocked look on every face. Many could not believe that such a young man actually had the cultivation base of a five-stars Martial Master, and were awed by the mysteriousness that shrouded him.

"Who is this lad? Could he be the City Lord?"

“He can’t be the City Lord, can he? He looks so young!”

“I think it’s quite possible. Didn’t you hear that Martial Lord said his son is the City Lord? This lad is young enough to be his son.”

“This...He’s such a young boy! What nonsense is this!”

“Why bother with the City Lord’s age? If he is willing to pay us, just take it!”

He was right, so the crowd fell silent after a moment of noisy chatter. After all, they were all here for the lucrative remuneration. A Great Martial Master was eager to try, and he walked up and said, “I want to join you!”

Yunxiao glanced at him, then smiled and said, “A peak three-stars Great Martial Master...Not bad! Go there and register yourself.”

The man was startled. He could not understand how Yunxiao found out his cultivation base. Puzzled, he walked to Meng Wu and wrote down his name ‘Liu Ke’ on a paper, following which, he was given a storage bag.

In front of the crowd, he opened the bag and gave the contents a look. His eyes lit up in an instant, and he hurriedly put the bag into his ring. His face was excited.

Meng Wu waved a hand, signaling the man to move away, and shouted in a clear voice, “Next!”

Liu Ke froze a moment, then he asked, “What am I supposed to do now?”

Meng Wu chuckled. “You can do whatever you like after you’ve signed up, but you must not leave Yanwu for a month without Young Master Yun’s orders, or you will be killed! For the time being, find yourself a place to stay in the city. When the time comes, Young Master Yun will construct a training field for you all to cultivate in.”

A look of surprise flashed across Liu Ke's face, and he murmured under his breath, "Is he not worried that I'll run away after taking the things?"

The people behind him were talking as well.

"So, this is how they recruit talents? Are they fools or what? With so many people joining them, how would they know if someone took the things and ran away?"

Yunxiao heard all the chatter, but he just smiled faintly and paid them no mind. After asking Li Changfeng to maintain the order, he went back to his room to continue his meditation.

He never worried about those who would try to cheat. Yanwu was large, but it was completely under his divine sense. If someone took the things and slipped away, he would not mind making an example for the others.

At the end of the first day, over three hundred people signed up, and among them were two Martial Lords. That night, Meng Wu told him that all the medicinal pills and mystic weapons were depleted, and they had nothing to give to those who would sign up the next day.

Yunxiao thought for a moment, then wrote two letters and asked Meng Wu and Meng Bai to send them to Myriad Treasures Store and Tianyuan Trading Company immediately. He planned to buy a large batch of first and second-tier mystic weapons and medicinal pills urgently at a high price.

When Ding Ling'er read the letter, she smiled and asked Yu Rong to deliver what Yunxiao needed from their inventory to Yanwu as quickly as possible.

Yu Rong was a little worried. "My lady, I'm really afraid that these investments will yield us nothing."

Ding Ling'er chuckled. A cool air came over her face as she said, "What are these when we've already agreed to give him one hundred fourth-tier items? Besides, he is buying them at a high price, so we suffer no losses at all. If we don't help him now, all our investments will be gone when he is wiped out by others. I have great hopes for him now."

Yu Rong glanced around warily while frowning and said in a low voice, "Are you referring to the Zhou family, my lady?"

A strange look flashed in Ding Ling'er's eyes as she nodded lightly and said, "Although what happened to the men of Zhou family has yet to be sent back to Firecrow Empire, those who are still in Yanwu have received the news. It's just that no one knows who did it. I don't know either, but my intuition tells me that it is related to Li Yunxiao!"

Yu Rong was taken aback, and then he said in disbelief, "Hmph! We all know how much strength that lad has. Don't you think you are flattering him, my lady?"

Ding Ling'er just smiled and made no further comment about that. "Ask our men to send all the goods we brought here for the trade fair to the City Lord Mansion, and deliver our inventory of the first and second-tier mystic weapons and medicinal pills from Firecrow Empire here!"

Although the trade fair was over, the people of Myriad Treasures Store had not all left. As Xu Zizhuo had left Yanwu after getting the recipe of Shaoyang pill, it was Yin Zhaoyang and Gan Deming in charge now. When Yin Zhaoyang received the letter, he immediately ordered all the first and second-tier goods Myriad Treasures Store had in Yanwu to be gathered. After putting them all in his ring, he rushed to the City Lord Mansion at once.

"Since you are already here, Elder Yin, why don't you just come in?" Yunxiao's voice rang out of his room. Yin Zhaoyang, who was hesitating to knock on the door, was startled. With a wry smile, he shook his head and pushed open the door before stepping inside.

"You are always full of surprises, Young Master Yun. I think even Xiao Qingwang has not discovered my arrival."

As soon as he stepped into the room and looked up, his pupils constricted and he cried out in horror, "The Cauldron of Five Elements! You...Young Master Yun, you...I knew it..."

He was so shocked that he could hardly speak. When he heard about what happened to the people of the Zhou family, he immediately thought of Yunxiao, who said he wanted to borrow the cauldron from them. But then he quickly gave up the thought. After all, the Zhou family was an existence no ordinary

people could afford to offend, and he did not think Yanwu had the strength to defeat two Martial Kings. But now...

Yunxiao did nothing to hide that, and he was cultivating while being surrounded by the power of five elements. He smiled and said, "What made you look so surprised, Elder Yin?"

Yin Zhaoyang could only smile wryly as he said, "You're dragging me into this, Young Master Yun!"

By purposely showing him the Cauldron of Five Elements, Yunxiao was telling him that he had robbed and killed the people of the Zhou family. Now, if he provided a large number of resources to Yanwu, he would virtually take Yunxiao's side and completely offend the Zhou family.

A faint smile brushed Yunxiao's lips. "Myriad Treasures Store is the leader of the Commerce Alliance, one of the superpowers on Heavenly Martial Continent. How can you be afraid of a mere Zhou family of Firecrow Empire?"

Full of bitterness and unable to vent, Yin Zhaoyang could only say sulkily, "Myriad Treasures Store is not afraid of the Zhou family, but I'm only in charge of the Firecrow branch, which is not strong enough to stand up against them. How would I explain to my superior if the branch is wiped out by the Zhou family?"

Yunxiao laughed. "You can go to Yuwen Bo. Just tell him that the branch was wiped out because of me. He will not blame you, and perhaps he might even promote you."

At the mention of Yuwen Bo, Yin Zhaoyang seemed to brighten up. He took out a storage bag and handed it to Yunxiao. "I've brought you virtually all of Myriad Treasures Store's resources in Yanwu. Inside the bag are over seven hundred first and second-tier medicinal pills and about one hundred mystic weapons. Young Master Yun, if you continue to recruit like this, without including the high-end fighting strength, just the low-end ones will be enough to put you as one of the top few strongest powers in Firecrow Empire."

Yunxiao put away the bag and said, "Thanks for the help, Elder Yin. I'll remember the favor you've done me. In the future, if someone bullies me in Firecrow Empire, please do help me as well."

“Even with all the old bones in me, I don’t have much influence in Firecrow,” said Yin Zhaoyang with a wry smile. “Just don’t bully others, Young Master Yun! By the way, aren’t you afraid some people will take the things you gave them and slip away?”

Yunxiao turned his eyes and said, “Of course, I’m afraid! Elder Yin, are you interested in going out with me now?”

Yin Zhaoyang frowned, but before he could answer, he was dragged out of the mansion by Yunxiao.

Outside the city, under the shade of the night, dozens of figures were looking around carefully. Clearly, they were going to slip away by night, and they were all warriors who had signed up during the day.

The city gates were guarded by ordinary soldiers who could not discover them. After climbing over the wall, everyone showed a happy look.

One of them could not help but whisper, “This is an easy escape and easy money!”

“You bet! I’ve got a second-tier mystic weapon, ten third-tier medicinal pills, and one hundred superior-grade Primordial Stones! Heaven! This is just unbelievable!”

“Could the City Lord of Yanwu be an idiot?”

“I don’t know if he is an idiot or not, but I’m sure he is an upstart! I’ll disguise a little bit and come back tomorrow to get more things.”

“Great idea! We will be rich this time!”

Suddenly, a cold voice rang out, “What’s the point of getting rich when you have no life to spend the money?”

Shocked, everyone hurriedly turned and looked ahead. Not far away, Yunxiao was standing under the moonlight with a cool and murderous look on his face.

“Hmph! You are just alone. Are you trying to stop all forty of us? Get out of the way now if you don’t want to get hurt!” said one of the men. Among them was a Martial Lord, so if Yunxiao did not pursue them with all his forces, no one could stop them from running away.

“Get out of the way?” Yunxiao sneered. “You’ve taken so many benefits from me, and now you are leaving without telling me? What’s the difference between you and robbers?”

“I took your things because you are an idiot! You are just a mere Martial Master, so stop dreaming that I will work for you because you are rich. If you don’t get out of the way, don’t blame us for being cruel to you!”

Several men had decided to kill him, and they rushed forward together in the blink of an eye, thrusting their weapons at him.

Suddenly, Yunxiao’s face was full of horror as he screamed, “Help me, Elder Yin!”

Yin Zhaoyang, who was hiding in the dark, was taken aback, and then his face grew dark. He immediately understood the reason Yunxiao brought him here. It turned out that the lad was using him as a hatchet man! Although unhappy, he could not let them kill Yunxiao, so he forced himself to walk over and lightly threw out a few slaps, which instantly killed the few warriors.

“He’s not alone! Who goes there?”

Everyone’s face turned extremely unsightly as they saw Yin Zhaoyang, who slowly walked out of the darkness. They could not sense any aura from this man at all. Although he was standing there in front of them, it was as if he did not exist at all.

Each man sucked in a cold breath. What did that mean? It meant the man was far stronger than all of them!

Chapter 146: The Arrival of Alchemists

Suddenly, someone in the crowd cried out in horror, "Elder Yin! You are the Martial Grandmaster of Myriad Treasures Store, Elder Yin Zhaoyang!"

"What? He is Yin Zhaoyang?"

"Damnit! A Martial Grandmaster? Really?"

"Why is Myriad Treasures Store involved in this?"

"No wonder the City Lord was given special treatment during the auction!"

Yin Zhaoyang's face flickered. He did not expect to be recognized by someone. And worst of all, they all seemed to think he was with Yanwu. His face grew dark; if this misunderstanding were to spread, the Cheng and Zhou families would not let him go.

"Hmph! You pieces of trash are simply a disgrace to warriors!"

He was left with no other choice. A Primordial Qi blade appeared in his hand, and he threw it out, which immediately broke into thousands of rays and flew into the crowd. 'After killing all these men, I will keep a safe distance from this Li Yunxiao and never fall into his trap again. I will be fine.'

"AHHH!"

Miserable shrieks and screams filled the air. The men tried to resist, but they were no match for a Martial Grandmaster. In the blink of an eye, every man was killed, including the Martial Lord. Many of them did not even have time to react before they were killed. The ground was scattered with broken limbs and bodies.

"You are truly amazing, Elder Yin! I'd be dead tonight without your help," said Yunxiao with a smile. Meanwhile, he reached out a hand and performed a grabbing gesture, pulling dozens of storage rings into his palm.

Yin Zhaoyang had a sulky look, but he did not dare to vent his anger. He cupped his fist and said, "You're just being humble, Young Master Yun! How would this motley crowd be your match when you have the ability to easily kill two Martial Kings of the Zhou family? By the way, Manager Xu is away recently for some personal business, so there are still many affairs that need my attention. I'll have to take my leave now."

Without waiting for Yunxiao's reply, he turned and left in a hurry. He was scared that if he stayed too long, he would become the other's hatchet man completely, which would make the Zhou and Cheng families misunderstand him. He was a Martial Grandmaster, but in the face of those aristocratic families with thousands of years of history, he still needed to tread carefully.

"Mind your step, and thank you for the help, Elder Yin! I'll come to you again when Yanwu is in trouble!" Yunxiao took a deep breath and shouted at the top of his lungs. His voice was so loud that it almost echoed throughout the whole city, waking many from their sleep.

Yin Zhaoyang was already a thousand meters away when he heard that, and he tripped himself and almost fell to the ground. He felt like he was going crazy. 'This Li Yunxiao just wouldn't let me go! With what he has shouted just now, and if he just purposely spread the news tomorrow, I'll have no ways to remove the stigma off my name!'

Soon, the City Guards hurried over to the scene. They were all stunned when they saw the bodies and broken limbs on the ground. Yunxiao smiled and told them what to do, and then he went back to his mansion.

Early morning the next day, while people were guessing what happened last night, dozens of tall bamboo poles were erected at the city gate. Bodies were hung atop them, swaying and spinning with every gust of wind. Apart from City Guards, no one dared to stay near the city gate.

Children were locked in houses by adults, and few adults could be seen on the streets. Businesses were closed as if their owners saw that as an ill omen. The whole city was enveloped in a terrifying atmosphere.

Warriors in the city all broke out in a cold sweat when they saw the bodies, and their faces turned pale after hearing the rumors spread by the City Guards, and linking that to the shout they heard last night. Those who planned to take the things and slip away had an unsightly look on their faces while others who thought to observe for a few more days before making any decision felt lucky.

“I never expected Myriad Treasures Store to be the backer behind Yanwu! No wonder the City Lord is so rich!”

“Me too! I was puzzled why there was suddenly a new City Lord. It turns out he is just a puppet of Myriad Treasures Store.”

“What exactly is Myriad Treasures Store up to? Does it also want to support a secular power? But why did it choose Yanwu?”

“Well, this is not what you and I would ever know. We better think about what we should do now.”

“Haha! Luckily there were too many people yesterday, and I haven’t signed up. But, you’ve registered, right? Oh no, if you try to slip away now, I’ll see your body hanging on a bamboo pole tomorrow! Haha!”

Voices rang out among all warriors, some sounding happy and some fearful. Those who had planned to stay were excited when they learned their backer was actually a mighty one, while those who thought of cheating looked worried and were considering whether they should truly join the city or not.

The warriors who came to register outside the City Lord Mansion were no longer as many as the first day. The place was still packed with people, but most of them were here to watch. Yunxiao gave Meng Wu all the things brought to him by Yin Zhaoyang and those he had reclaimed from the dozens of men he killed, which were enough to recruit a few hundred more men.

As people were signing up intermittently, a group of about thirty men suddenly arrived outside the City Lord Mansion, each clad in a long robe. They went straight into the mansion. At the sight of the group, Li Changfeng beamed and hurried over. “You’re here, Master Zhang, Master Xu!”

The men were Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han, who had traveled through the night after receiving Yunxiao’s letter, along with many alchemists and apprentice alchemists from the association.

Zhang Qingfan glanced at the warriors around them. He silently nodded and followed Li Changfeng into the mansion, leaving the warriors outside to look at each other incredulously.

“Hey, did I see that right? They seemed to be wearing the alchemist robes?”

“I thought I was wrong as well. Those at the back are wearing advanced apprentice alchemists robes, but a dozen men at the front are all alchemists! I am certain!”

“Gulp!” A warrior swallowed and said, “I saw the badges on the shoulders of the leading two men...Heaven, they are both fourth-tier alchemists!”

“Fourth-tier? Pocked Face, are you sure you are not blind? Do you know what fourth-tier alchemists are? How would they come to a place like this?”

“Blind my ass! Don’t you know that the second brother-in-law of my cousin’s third aunt’s neighbor is an alchemist? I know all the badges from first to sixth-tier!”

“This is insane! Could they be fake? This is unbelievable!”

“Fake? Who on this continent dares to fake the alchemist badge? Even a Martial Supreme will be killed if he did that!”

“Crazy...Myriad Treasures Store is really crazy! This is such a huge investment! Even alchemists are joining them in groups! I want to sign up now!”

“Yes! With so many alchemists here, it means we will have a limitless future if we join them! I want to sign up as well!”

The arrival of Zhang Qingfan and others brought an unexpected result. Warriors who were hesitating poured over to sign up, and soon more people were joining than the first day.

“Master Qingfan, Master Xu Han, and the rest of the Masters, welcome! I thank you for lending us a helping hand when Yanwu is in dire need.”

Yunxiao sensed their arrival from his room, and their numbers were more than he had expected. Exulted, he hurried out to greet them.

Zhang Qingfan quickly returned the greeting and said, "Your words are too kind, Master Yunxiao! Yanwu is one of Tianshui's cities, and as the alchemists of Tianshui, we have the obligation to help. So, when I received your letter, I immediately gathered some men and traveled overnight here."

Xu Han said, "May I know how many and what kinds of medicinal pills does Master Yunxiao want? Why do you need as many alchemists as possible?"

When he saw all the alchemists beaming with energy and not looking tired, Yunxiao laughed. "Since you all are so eager to know that, please follow me." While leading the group further into the mansion, he explained, "Apart from medicinal pills, I need all kinds of mystic weapons as well. For the purpose of refining them, I've copied the design of the alchemist association and constructed a pill pagoda for you."

Liang Wenyu, a second-tier alchemist, shook his head and said, "There are arrays left behind by all the former Masters over the years in the alchemist association, as well as alchemy rooms and equipment suitable for us to use. The pill pagoda constructed by Young Master Yun should be rather simple. Why don't you tell us your requirements? We can ask someone to construct one in the capital and then send it over here."

The rest of the men nodded in agreement. With all the arrays and instruments in the alchemist association, the success rate of their refinement would be greater, which would also benefit their cultivation of the alchemy. That was the reason why a great number of alchemists spent most of their time in the association.

Xu Han frowned slightly and said, "Master Yunxiao must have his reason why he needs us here. What matters in alchemy is our own strength, and foreign objects are just supplements. If you can be guided by Master Yunxiao here even just a little bit, it will be better than spending your whole life in the association."

He had great reverence for Yunxiao, so he naturally could not allow others to talk bad about him. After he had spoken, the rest of the alchemists shut their mouths and did not dare to speak another word, even if they had their own thoughts.

Yunxiao chuckled. "Rest assured, my friends! Although it only took three days to build, I can guarantee that the effects of my pill pagoda will not be worse than that of the alchemist association. I just fear that once you are here, you will not want to go back anymore."

Everyone froze for a moment, and then each showed a look of disbelief. Even Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han, who had the full confidence in Yunxiao, looked dubious.

It was already considered a miracle when it took only three days to construct a pill pagoda. How could it be stronger than the alchemist association's? Just as everyone was filled with suspicion, a simple-looking short pagoda appeared in their eyes.

Chapter 147: Pill Pagoda

Everyone's face grew dark at the sight of it. 'Damn it! Is this what you call a better pill pagoda than the alchemist association's? You should at least make it look better to make us feel better!'

Yunxiao smiled as he looked at the alchemists' unsightly faces and gestured, "Please follow me, Masters!"

'Follow my ass!' The alchemists were full of resentment. 'We've traveled so far here, and yet this is the place you will make us refine pills for you? Do you still have a heart?'

Apart from Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han, all faces were as dark as coal. But, they followed him into the pagoda all the same. But, as soon as they stepped into it, everyone's heart skipped a beat as they looked around in horror. They saw a vast land with bright sunlight shining down from a cloudless sky, and the air was rich with Primordial Qi. It was a world of its own, a space separated from the outside world!

"What is this, Young Master Yun? An independent space!" Zhang Qingfan's eyes grew wide with shock. He had seen independent space before, but none of them were as wide and full of spirits as this one. What he saw now was something that only the legendary cave abodes constructed by those ancient almighty experts could have!

The other alchemists were stunned as well. The gloomy look on their faces was gone in an instant, and their jaws were dropped, all frozen to the spot.

Looking at the expression on their faces, Yunxiao chuckled and said, "Yes. This is the inner space of one of my treasures. The Primordial Qi here is richer than outside, and it is filled with a mysterious power that is beneficial to the cultivation of one's soul power."

"No wonder! I can already feel a power restoring my soul power! This is so amazing!" Shocked, Xu Han said, "Even my weariness is gone, and my spirits are full! This..."

His voice woke the others. They tried to feel it, and sure enough, their soul power and spirits were growing rapidly, which gave them a very comfortable sensation and swept away all their resentment.

"Please follow me!"

Yunxiao performed an incantation gesture with one hand. He did not move, but the surroundings suddenly distorted and transformed, turning into a land with beautiful mountains, clear waters, and luxuriant foliage, which looked very much like a fairyland.

It was actually the Divine Realm Tablet inside the pill pagoda, which was mentally connected with him now. Inside the tablet, his will was the law of the world. In other words, everything in the tablet was under his control and would change according to his will.

"This is the refining place I've prepared for you!" Yunxiao pointed out a finger. In front of them were many platforms of varying sizes, each carved with a different alchemy array. Judging from the energy fluctuation constantly spreading out of them, they were not weaker than that of the alchemist association. Moreover, many arrays were unseen to them, and they had only read about them in some records.

"Is that an Origin Sun Array?" Zhang Qingfan's pupils constricted as he stared at a small array that was rotating slowly. "Legend has it that tens of thousands of supreme-grade Primordial Stones must be used to construct it!" he said in shock.

Yunxiao was surprised, and he explained with a smile, "You truly have a pair of keen eyes, Master Qingfan! It is only a simplified version of the Origin Sun Array. All the arrays you see here do not require Primordial Stones. They directly absorb the power of the mountain, which is also the power of my treasure, and it is more than enough to support them. I named the mountain 'Mount Inch'!"

Mount Inch!

Zhang Qingfan was stunned. 'What kind of treasure can have an internal space while providing endless power for alchemy refinement?' It was beyond his understanding of mystic weapons.

Yunxiao knew his head was filled with questions. Instead of explaining, he sent an incantation seal into the mountain. In the blink of an eye, the whole mountain began to turn transparent, allowing everyone to see hundreds of meters beneath it.

There was a scarlet array under the mountain, rotating slowly. Around it, dragon-shaped symbols composed of tadpole-like characters stretched out into the distance.

"This is an ancient array artifact I purchased during the auction, which has a very strong enhancement effect on alchemists' soul power. Outside the artifact is an energy-absorbing array constructed by me. It will constantly absorb the Primordial Qi in this space to fuel the array, and channel the extra to the mountain, enhancing the effect of your alchemy refinement."

When he had finished, Yunxiao made the mountain appear again with a flick of a finger. Only then did the alchemists feel they were stepping on a solid ground and put their hearts back into their chests.

But, they could not calm their minds. From what they saw, this was no ordinary refining place, but a treasured mountain. Moreover, what Yunxiao had done had completely overturned their knowledge and common sense.

"I want to increase the strength of the people of Yanwu as quickly as possible, so all the resources will be given to you first. These are the recipes and all the materials for the medicinal pills I need the most at present." Yunxiao took out a storage bag and handed it to Zhang Qingfan. "I'll put both of you in charge of this place, Master Qingfan and Master Xu Han."

Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han answered together, "We will do our best!"

Yunxiao nodded slightly. All of a sudden, his face flickered, and his eyes flashed with a surprised look. "It is done!"

Beaming with joy, he said, “Master Qingfan, Master Xu Han, please come with me!”

He leaped into the air and drifted toward the mountain as if he were flying. Startled, Zhang Qingfan handed the materials to Liang Wenyu and said, “You will be in charge while we are away. Settle them down and begin refining at once!” After that, he and Xu Han went after Yunxiao.

Following Yunxiao, they flew through the mountain for some time and went into a huge cavern before continuing tens of meters deeper. The cavern was dozens of meters tall, spacious, and well-lit. Although there was no sunlight, it was as bright as day.

In fact, Yunxiao did not need to move by himself inside the Divine Realm Tablet. He could go anywhere with just a thought. But, that would look too strange to the others.

At present, he had only mentally connected with the tablet. He could sense even the tiniest change here, but he could not control the tablet’s power. After the battle at Mount Phoenix, he had begun to penetrate his willpower into the world inside the tablet, and he was trying to slowly refine it from the inside.

In the center of the cavern was a large complex array, on which lay a man with little vitality. He was Ji Meng, who had been in a coma.

Zhang Qingfan was shocked. “Commander Ji is still in a coma?”

Yunxiao nodded. “A Golden Sixsun pill can wake him, but his cultivation base will drop. So, I’ve been waiting for this moment. The energy-absorbing array I asked Jia Rong to construct has begun to function; the Primordial Qi within a thousand miles around the city will be constantly channeled into this internal space, and beneath this mountain is the center of the energy-absorbing array, which can also gather the Primordial Qi in this space here. I’ve constructed a Thousandwood Rejuvenation array here. With such a tremendous amount of Primordial Qi and the Golden Sixsun pill, I can guarantee his cultivation base will not drop.”

Xu Han glanced around, and he immediately sensed streams of powerful Primordial Qi begin to pour over from all directions into this cavern. “Do you mean this mountain is the center of all the Primordial Qi within a thousand miles around the city of Yanwu?”

“Exactly!” Yunxiao said with a serious expression, “Please guard for me, Masters. I’m going to pump the Primordial Qi directly into Ji Meng’s body. And if I run out of my energy, please lend me a hand.”

Zhang Qingfan said, “Rest assured, Master Yunxiao, we will definitely help when the time comes.”

The cavern fell silent. Sensing the Primordial Qi gathering from all directions, Yunxiao suddenly stepped onto the array and began to spin.

His steps were strange, and with every step he took there was a stream of pale green smoke gushing out of the array. It seemed to be the procedure before the array was activated. Both Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han watched with wide and unblinking eyes, fearing that they might have missed some details.

Streams of green smoke rose and turned into beautiful tendrils that danced around Ji Meng, full of life force and energy. As Yunxiao moved faster and faster, the twitching of the tendrils became more frequent and complicated. The whole cavern seemed to turn into an immortal realm of life. Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han each took a few deep breaths, and they immediately felt as if they were beaming with energy and had grown a few years younger.

Soon, those intricate green tendrils formed extremely weird symbols around Ji Meng, which linked together to form a pattern exactly like the array on the ground. Extremely strong ripples of life force spread out of it and crazily rushed into Ji Meng’s body.

Meanwhile, Yunxiao took out the Golden Sixsun pill from his ring and shoved it into Ji Meng’s mouth, then slapped him on the chest to help him dissolve the medicinal pill.

After that, he performed a few incantation gestures along with a faint cry. Guided by them, the life force in the cavern began to crazily pour into Ji Meng’s body. At this moment, Ji Meng’s body, with its vitality dwindling, suddenly expanded, as if it were about to be blown apart from the inside.

Suddenly Ji Meng sat up with his eyes flicked open. When he saw that he was surrounded by green smoke, he looked shocked and confused.

Yunxiao’s face was slightly pale as he cried out, “Guard your dantian, fuse both Qi into one, and digest the life force!”

Ji Meng was taken aback, then his eyes flickered and he instantly understood what was happening. He hastily sat cross-legged down, locked both hands into an incantation gesture, and began to focus his mind on digesting the life force, doing nothing to stop the life force from rushing into him. After a few breaths, his body stopped expanding, maintaining a bulged state.

Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han watched nervously. They knew that Ji Meng's digestion speed and the speed the life force was pouring into him had reached a balance now. At least his body would not be blown apart. But, they wondered how he was going to digest such tremendous power!

Chapter 148: Qian Duoduo

Yunxiao stood silently to the side with a hand locked in an incantation gesture. Time went by little by little; finally, Ji Meng was completely recovered with the help of the Golden Sixsun pill and the enormous life force. His cultivation base did not drop, and instead was stronger than before.

He was slowly opening his eyes and about to call a stop when Yunxiao suddenly cried out, "This life force is the vitality of all things. Since the Peach Blossom Sword Intent and the Song of Blue Lotus Sword cultivated by you are both sword intents of life, take this opportunity to comprehend this feeling!"

Upon hearing that, Ji Meng's pupils constricted, and he quickly focused his mind as he began to comprehend. He had found the aura very comfortable and friendly, but he did not expect that it was related to the martial essence cultivated by him. At Yunxiao's reminder, he immediately had a feeling of enlightenment, and he soon fell into a wonderful state.

Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han seemed to catch something as well. They exchanged a look, then sat cross-legged down together and began to meditate. Although they were fourth-tier alchemists, they were also Martial Masters. As they comprehended the life force, their cultivation base of martial arts, which had been stuck for years, began to show signs of loosening up.

Bam!

A brief moment later, a faint rumbling sound exploded out of Ji Meng's body. His enormous form began to shrink rapidly as if it were leaking air, and it only stopped when it was back to its normal size. But, the life force in the surroundings rushed even faster into him from all directions, and did not stop until it reached a maximum level within him.

As if influenced by Ji Meng's breakthrough, Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han moved their eyebrows and opened their eyes, which had an incredulous look in them. Streams of life force poured into them frantically as both of them broke through at the same time.

Martial arts had a very strong enhancement effect on a warrior's lifespan. For example, a Martial Sovereign could live for two to three hundred years. Alchemy had a similar effect, but not as significant. Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han had already reached the old age of mortals, and their cultivation in alchemy and martial arts had reached the bottlenecks, which could hardly be broken through with their remaining years. But unexpectedly, not only did they break through into the fourth-tier of alchemy, but even their stagnant cultivation base of martial arts had begun to regain their vitality.

"Tsk, tsk, your cultivation base...A four-stars Martial Master and a seven-stars Martial Master...You are stronger than me. Why don't you join my Greed Team?" Yunxiao teased with a smile.

Both men looked shocked and grateful, but they burst into laughter upon hearing that. It would be quite fun and exciting if they were fighting and killing with a group of young people. Zhang Qingfan glanced at Ji Meng and said enviously, "Congratulations on another breakthrough, Commander Ji! It has only been a while, but Commander Ji has jumped from a seven-stars Martial Master to a five-stars Martial Lord. Such a speed can no longer be described as terrifying."

Ji Meng laughed. "Are you not the same?"

All three of them were filled with mixed emotions as they looked at Yunxiao gratefully, who only chuckled. But, he suddenly frowned, and his face grew serious.

That gave the three men a pause. "What happened, Young Master Yun?" asked Ji Meng.

Yunxiao narrowed his eyes and sneered, "Here comes a tricky one. Master Zhang, Master Xu, I'll leave this to you. Ji Meng, come with me."

Not waiting for Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han to answer, he performed an incantation gesture with his right hand, and then both their bodies began to turn illusive in the cavern.

The Divine Realm Tablet was his mystic artifact, so he could come and go with just a thought. In the blink of an eye, both of them appeared in the City Lord Mansion, and they immediately felt a great pressure from outside. Meanwhile, several figures shot into the sky, bolting out of the mansion.

One of the figures was Xiao Qingwang. After he went outside, the pressure immediately weakened. Li Chunyang, Luo Yunshang, and the others also went out, and only then did all the people in the mansion breathe a sigh of relief, as if a huge stone was removed from their chests.

Yunxiao strode out with a serious face. The visitor was very strong; if he were here to make trouble, it would be very difficult to handle.

There was a large empty space in front of the door where the registration was done. Many warriors were watching from far away with fear in their eyes. In the middle of the open space stood an untidy man. He stretched himself lazily and yawned as if he had just woken up, and then said, "What are you afraid of? I'm just here to sign up. Are you not going to let me sign up?"

Xiao Qingwang's face was grave. The man's aura was not weaker than his, and if they were to fight, he had a feeling that he might be no match for him. 'How would an expert like this want to join Yanwu? He is most probably sent by some powers to make trouble here.'

Li Chunyang, Luo Yunshang, and the others stood behind Xiao Qingwang with solemn faces. The man also put a great pressure on them, and cold sweats were already seeping out of their palms.

"Of course, you can sign up!" Yunxiao narrowed his eyes slightly as he walked up with a faint smile and said, "Yanwu does need a nine-stars Martial King like you."

The warriors behind the man all sucked in a cold breath in horror and moved back a few more steps as they began to talk to one another in low voices.

"A nine-stars Martial King? No wonder his aura is so strong! I feel suffocated just by getting closer to him!"

"Is he a fake one? How would a nine-stars Martial King come to a small city like this?"

“Have you forgotten that behind Yanwu is the Myriad Treasures Store? So, it is normal for a nine-stars Martial King to come here. Even Myriad Treasures Store itself already has two Martial Grandmasters!”

“Haha! It seems that we did not come to the wrong place. Even a nine-stars Martial King is here. It looks like Yanwu is worthy for our service!”

Just as the crowd was chatting noisily, the middle-aged man was slightly taken aback by the fact that Yunxiao could tell his cultivation base at a glance. But then he laughed and thought it must be the nine-stars Martial King in front of him who told the lad with a voice transmission. “Good! I’m Qian Duoduo, a nine-stars Martial King, and I’m here to sign up. What are you going to pay me? Get your City Lord out here to talk to me.”

Yunxiao smiled and said, “I am the City Lord. What do you want me to pay you? I will satisfy you.”

Qian Duoduo froze and said incredulously, “You are the City Lord? A fifteen years old boy?”

When he saw the people around them did not speak a word, he knew it was not a lie. He thought for a moment, then suddenly laughed and said, “When a Martial Lord joins you, he will receive a third-tier mystic weapon, ten fourth-tier medicinal pills of any kinds, and ten thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones. I want a fourth-tier mystic weapon, ten fifth-tier medicinal pills of any kinds, and one hundred thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones.”

The crowd sucked in a cold breath. Each of the three things he asked was extremely expensive. But then it was reasonable, because he was a Martial King.

Yunxiao frowned as he nodded slightly and said, “What you ask for is reasonable, but we will have a little problem with the fifth-tier medicinal pills. What kind of medicinal pills do you want?”

“The Pure Sky pill!” Qian Duoduo said. “I want ten Pure Sky pills!”

Pure Sky pills? Everyone paused, then frowned and shook their heads. Clearly, they had not heard of this medicinal pill before. But, since it was a fifth-tier medicinal pill, it was normal that they had not heard of it before.

Qian Duoduo chuckled. "It is alright that you haven't heard of this medicinal pill. Just tell the power behind you that I will join Yanwu immediately if they can give me ten Pure Sky pills. They don't even need to give me a mystic weapon and Primordial Stones."

Pure Sky pill was a kind of extremely rare specially-made medicinal pill. Its effect was simple, and few alchemists knew how to refine it. But, since the Myriad Treasures Store was behind Yanwu, then they could definitely find it for him. In fact, Myriad Treasures Store's strength was the most important reason that made him come here to sign up.

Yunxiao's pupils constricted, and he had a surprised look on his face. Suddenly, he sent his divine sense toward Qian Duoduo.

There was a strange mocking smile on Qian Duoduo's face. 'He's just a mere Martial Master, and yet he's trying to study me with his divine sense. Hah!' he laughed in his heart. But, the smile on his face froze suddenly, then turned into a shocked look, and finally, he was completely dumbstruck.

His divine sense defense was directly broken by Yunxiao. A mighty divine sense crazily rushed into his body and examined him from top to bottom, and there was no way he could resist it.

That terrified him. Hastily, he released his Primordial Qi and formed a powerful shield with it, which completely cut off Yunxiao's divine sense and expelled it from his body.

The shock on his face was plain to see. "Alchemist! You are a fourth-tier alchemist!" Only the divine sense of a fourth-tier alchemist was strong enough to examine him like that.

"How is this possible! You are so young!" Qian Duoduo was completely awestruck. He was sure that the lad in front of him was only fifteen years old, but he also knew that only a fourth-tier alchemist could have a divine sense that was so strong that even he, a nine-stars Martial King, could not resist.

Yunxiao chuckled, as if he had confirmed the thought in his mind. With a faint smile, he said, "We don't have Pure Sky pills, but we can give you something else."

Qian Duoduo's face flickered, and there was a trace of anger in his eyes. He snorted coldly and said, "I only want Pure Sky pills. Don't waste my time if you can't give them to me!" He turned and was about to leave.

"Some time ago, I had read a strange cultivation technique called the Broken Moon Scroll in a certain place."

Qian Duoduo halted instantly and could no longer take another step, as if his feet were filled with lead. He turned around with a shocked face and asked in disbelief, "Who...Who exactly are you? How do you know about the Broken Moon Scroll? And you have even read it?"

"Hehe! You don't need to know that. So, is the Broken Moon Scroll enough to pay for your services?" Yunxiao smiled. The calm and confident look on his face said that he had the man in his grip now.

"Enough! More than enough!" Qian Duoduo was very excited. His body shivered and his eyes lit up as he said loudly, "But, how do I know you're not lying to me?"

Chapter 149: Inner Members

Yunxiao smiled, and his lips moved slightly as he sent his voice directly into Qian Duoduo's ear. After hearing what he said, the nine-stars Martial King's serious expression turned into ecstasy instantly. He rushed over like a madman and grabbed Yunxiao's shoulders while screaming excitedly, "Give me! Give me the complete Broken Moon Scroll!"

Yunxiao lightly wrenched free of his hands, then pointed a finger at Meng Wu and said, "Go there and fill out a registration form. I'll send someone to get you when I've gone through it." After saying that, he turned and walked back into the mansion, leaving Qian Duoduo behind, who froze on the spot with a blank face.

"Register, I want to register!" Qian Duoduo roared and bolted over to Meng Wu. "Give me a registration form!"

That gave Meng Wu a fright. She wiped the cold sweat off her forehead and quickly handed the man a form.

The warriors in the distance looked at each other, bewildered. But, someone sprung into action very soon, rushing up while shouting, "What are you waiting for? Let's register now! Even a nine-stars Martial King has registered!"

Suddenly, there was another frenzy of registration, and every person came with a good attitude; no one was arrogant or unbridled. Who dared to be arrogant or unbridled when even a nine-stars Martial King had to fill out a registration form and wait for approval?

Inside the City Lord Mansion, everyone looked at Yunxiao and Ji Meng in amazement.

With just a few words, Yunxiao had subdued a nine-stars Martial King. They were all very curious about that Broken Moon Scroll. And they were surprised to see Ji Meng, who was lying flat like a corpse a few days ago, but now had fully recovered and even broken through to the next level.

"There's something wrong with that Qian Duoduo's body. The Pure Sky pill is what can relieve his condition, and the Broken Moon Scroll can get rid of it completely," said Yunxiao smilingly.

"No wonder!" That answered some of the doubts, but they still looked at Yunxiao like he was a monster. His ability to find out the secret of a nine-stars Martial King with a glance shocked them.

Listening to the noise outside, Li Chunyang frowned and said, "We have too many people signing up. Yanwu is a merchant city, so how do you plan to accommodate these people, Yunxiao? Expand the city?"

"We have to expand the city for sure, but not now. I have a place to accommodate them for the time being. Yes, they are many, but some are good and some are bad. They need to be trained before we can use them."

Everyone was slightly surprised, wondering how he would accommodate so many people. But, they did not bother themselves to ask, for it was normal for Yunxiao's words and deeds to go beyond their comprehension.

Ji Meng thought of the space inside the Divine Realm Tablet. Although he had only briefly glanced at it, he had guessed it was a separated space that was large enough to accommodate ten or even a hundred

times more people. The only thing that they needed to worry about was the cultivation resources for these people.

He did not know about the energy-absorbing array though, and the fact that the Primordial Qi within several thousand miles around Yanwu was being constantly channeled into the pagoda even now, the simple building that was just a camouflage for the Divine Realm Tablet.

“Uncle Chen, please call my dad, Hong Bing, and Commander Hong here.” Chen Dasheng went off briskly at Yunxiao’s order. Although he was the youngest here, everyone had taken him as the leader.

“At present, Yanwu lacks high-end combat forces. For Martial Kings, we only have Xiao Qingwang and my grandfather, and this witless beast. I will mainly focus on improving your strength next. That Qian Duoduo is also a nine-stars Martial King. If he is reliable and trustworthy, I plan to help Qingwang and him advance into the realm of Martial Grandmasters in the shortest possible time.”

“Martial Grandmasters!” Xiao Qingwang’s eyes lit up, but then they dimmed down just as quickly. “I’ve just made a breakthrough, and I was stabilizing my cultivation base in the past few days,” he said with a wry smile. “It takes at least half to one year to advance to the next level within the Martial King realm, and longer still to the next major realm. It will take me at least another five to ten years of accumulation, and a stroke of luck to make that breakthrough.”

Darkthunder snorted, as if it knew Yunxiao had just called it a witless beast.

“Five to ten years?” Yunxiao glared at him. “I say five to ten days. You don’t have to worry about this part. I’ve planned out everything.”

Soon, Li Changfeng, Hong Bing, and Yian arrived. Apart from Yian, who was a nine-stars Great Martial Master, the rest of the people present were all Martial Lords or above.

Yunxiao said, “All of you here are the strongest combat forces and inner members of Yanwu. I have no doubt about your loyalty. Although we have recruited two Martial Lords this time, they are excluded from the inner circle for the time being because I haven’t found out more about their background. Now, I want you to relax and not resist my divine sense.”

As he said that, he performed an incantation gesture with one hand. A divine sense blanketed the crowd, and in the blink of an eye, they were all transferred into the Divine Realm Tablet.

His divine sense could communicate with the tablet and allow him to enter it anytime, as long as they were within a few hundred meters from each other.

Everyone was stunned when they opened their eyes and saw a bright clear sky and sensed the rich Primordial Qi in the air.

“A spiritual independent space?” Luo Yunshang said with shock. As someone who came from Shexiao Temple, she was more knowledgeable than others, so she immediately understood what this place was. And, she was more shocked than anyone else, because she knew every spiritual independent space was a heaven-defying existence which could not be controlled by an ordinary warrior.

‘It must be! That man must be supporting him in the dark!’ At the thought of that, Luo Yunshang clenched her fists and her body shivered in excitement.

“Yes, this is a spiritual independent space. But Teacher Yunshang, do you have to be so excited until your cheeks are all red?” said Yunshang in surprise.

“Shut your mouth, Li Yunxiao!”

That frightened Yunxiao and made him swallow the words he was about to say. He was a little confused by her reaction. In his previous life, he was not a man without women, but he could never understand them.

“How many more good things do you have, boy?” said Li Chunyang in amazement. “But...why do I find this place familiar?”

‘Of course, you will find this place familiar, because it was the Li family’s treasury.’ He did not tell his grandfather the truth though, but just smiled and said, “We are inside a mystic artifact I haven’t fully refined. I’ve constructed an energy-absorbing array under Yanwu, and it will constantly draw the Primordial Qi within a thousand miles around the city here. Sooner or later, the whole area except this place will be depleted of Primordial Qi. But, this is only temporary.”

“An energy-absorbing array!” The crowd was taken aback. Although they had never heard of it before, they could imagine how heaven-defying it was from the fact that it could absorb the Primordial Qi within a thousand miles around.

“When the time comes, I’ll let the warriors who join us cultivate here. The Primordial Qi in this place will grow stronger and stronger as the array keeps running. Together with the various medicinal pills and mystic weapons I have asked Master Zhang Qingfan and others to prepare, I’m confident that I can double everyone’s strength in a very short period. As for you all, come with me!”

With a single-handed incantation gesture, the scene around them transformed again. This time, they went directly into the cavern where Ji Meng was healed. Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han had left from that place earlier.

Looking at all the shocked faces, Yunxiao did not explain in detail but just said lightly, “This is the heart of the energy-absorbing array, which is also the place with the richest Primordial Qi. You will cultivate here.”

Apart from Ji Meng, everyone was too shocked to speak as they sensed the abundant Primordial Qi in the cavern. Meanwhile Darkthunder, who seemed to be very sensitive to the changes in Primordial Qi, jumped around happily and looked extremely excited.

There was a surprised look on Yian’s face as he said, “I’ve recently felt my bottleneck. If I can cultivate here, I’m sure I will make a breakthrough soon!”

Yunxiao smiled and said, “Primordial Qi has just begun to gather and accumulate here, and it will only grow stronger and stronger. Be prepared.”

Hong Bing was the commander of Yanwu’s City Guards. He was not familiar with Yunxiao, so he was surprised and curious to see so many experts following his new superior. And now, the City Lord even allowed him into such a magical place and announced that he was one of Yanwu’s inner members. That filled his heart with excitement.

After settling them, Yunxiao came to Mount Inch with a blink. When he saw the alchemists refining excitedly, he chuckled and said to himself, “It’s time to refine Nine Orifices pills.”

With a thought in his mind, he sent out his divine will. Both Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han immediately stopped their work and came to him.

“Nine Orifices pills!”

Xu Han seemed to have thought of something, and he said shockingly, “Is it the legendary fourth-tier medicinal pill that can make a warrior below the realm of Martial Kings forcibly break through his current realm?”

“Yes, you are right. But, this pill has a serious side effect. As its name implies, one has to break through nine orifices before one can forcibly break through. There is a high risk involved, and it takes at least the cultivation base of a Martial Lord to resist the backlash.”

“If that is the case, why are you...”

“Haha! My physical strength has already reached the level of a Martial Lord. I can take one to two pills without any problem.”

“One to two pills...”

Yunxiao smiled. “I know the pill’s character very well, so don’t worry. I was not confident in refining it, but I have your help now. And as we are inside the pill pagoda and with the Cauldron of Five Elements I’ve recently obtained, I’m almost one hundred percent sure I can refine it.”

Zhang Qingfan said in surprise, “The Nine Orifices pill is considered the strongest fourth-tier medicinal pill. If Master Yunxiao let us refine it together with you, I’m sure it will provide great help to our understanding of the fourth-tier of alchemy.”

“Please come with me.” Yunxiao glanced about and chose a large array in the mountain before flying toward it.

Chapter 150: Joint Refining

There were countless arrays on Mount Inch, lower-level and simplified version of advanced-level arrays Yunxiao had carved with his divine sense. In the Divine Realm Tablet, he was almost omnipotent.

A purple cauldron flew out of his hand and spun across the air before floating over the formation, where it began to gradually grow larger. Under his control, it soon fell into the formation.

Bam!

As soon as it landed, the Cauldron of Five Elements glowed with a purple light, giving people a calm, guileless, vast, and ethereal feeling.

“A fifth-tier purple cauldron!” Xu Han exclaimed as he felt the energy waves ripple out of the vessel. Both he and Zhang Qingfan looked incredulous.

They could not understand how Yunxiao managed to refine a fifth-tier purple cauldron, since he was just a third-tier alchemist. A cauldron was unlike an ordinary mystic weapon; it was already rare for someone to refine a mystic weapon higher tier than his level, and to refine a higher-tier cauldron was almost impossible, let alone refining a purple cauldron that was the best among all cauldrons of the same tier. But, they were getting used to Yunxiao’s stunts, so they calmed down after a moment of shock.

“I’ll now teach you the joint refining method for the Nine Orifices pill, so please listen carefully, Masters. Joint refining is very different from refining alone. If we work well together, its power will be far greater than our combined strength. However, a tiny mistake during the process will yield us a result worse than refining alone.”

After that, Yunxiao began to explain the refining method in detail while both alchemists listened attentively. When he finished, he let them ask him questions, and answered them with patience. Several hours later, both men finally figured out all the steps and techniques, and they looked eager to try. It would bring them great benefits if they could refine the strongest fourth-tier medicinal pill after all.

“Not bad! Although you have learned it slower than I expected, at least you have understood everything. Let’s delay no further and start now.” He gave the purple cauldron a slap, causing the top of the vessel to spin and reveal its internal structure.

Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han smiled wryly in their hearts. They were a little complacent, because they thought they had learned it so quickly and they were more gifted than they had expected, but Yunxiao still dealt them a blow in the end. Nevertheless, they put on a serious look and watched nervously as he controlled the cauldron.

An incantation seal was sent into the cauldron, and a low rumbling noise gradually rang out of it. As a fifth-tier artifact, the Cauldron of Five Elements had begun to take on a certain spirituality. When Yunxiao was robbing it outside the city, it was by spraying a mouthful of blood on it and then using a unique refining method that he was able to subdue the vessel. But, part of the reason was also because of his soul power, which the cauldron felt very familiar with.

Suddenly, the cauldron burst into a blinding purple light, which spread out and blanketed the whole mountain and turned all the clouds in the sky purple, then began to spin rapidly over the array with a rumbling noise constantly ringing out of it.

At that moment, the alchemists and apprentices refining various mystic weapons and medicinal pills on Mount Inch stopped their work and looked up at the sky in shock, staring at the three figures in the distance.

It had been a long time since Yunxiao had refined something so formally, and it was very laborious for him to control a fifth-tier purple cauldron with his current strength. But luckily, he had the experience of refining Zhou Chuan into a pill not too long ago, so he was able to cope with it. "Help me control the cauldron, Masters! I will add the materials now!"

Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han quickly sent out a few incantation seals, taking over the task of controlling the cauldron from Yunxiao.

With both hands freed, Yunxiao took out over a hundred materials and sprinkled them across the air, then began to extract them with his soul power. Meanwhile, as Zhang Qingfan changed his incantation gestures, five different colored light beams shot out of the cauldron and enveloped all the herbs.

The people down below were dumbfounded, as they had never seen such a way to extract medicinal materials. It had completely overturned their common sense.

It was with the help of Zhang and Xu that Yunxiao dared to perform a series of difficult and complex moves. If he were to do it alone, he would be extremely lucky to have just refined a pill. He moved faster and faster, dazzling the eyes of those who watched from the distance, and it soon looked as if countless figures were wheeling around the purple cauldron restlessly.

Yunxiao had invented this refining method in his previous life, which he named 'Illusive Waves Technique'. He could hardly use it with his third-tier soul power, but he was helped by his Glazed Body; hence, many difficult movements were actually forcibly completed with physical force. The Cauldron of Five Elements was also refined by him with this technique in his previous life.

As he used the technique, an indescribable feeling surged in his heart. He felt as if he had returned to his previous life, when he was a ninth-tier Alchemy Sovereign and demonstrating this technique in front of all the alchemists who came to the Sea of Soul Formation. A sensational feeling overwhelmed him; he moved even faster and more easily, and a long-lost feeling was returning to his body bit by bit.

"I'm going to activate the array, Masters! Remember to change the incantation gestures accordingly!" Yunxiao cried out suddenly, waking both Zhang and Xu, who were stunned by what they saw. They broke out in cold sweats in an instant. 'How can I lose focus during such an important refining process! This is very dangerous! But his movements just now...'

'How I wish I could watch them again!'

Both men had the same thought. They were deeply struck by the smooth movements that fit the laws of the heaven and earth. It was as if they had just witnessed the ultimate technique of alchemy.

"Pay close attention!"

Yunxiao cried out again as he sent various strange incantation seals into the array. Suddenly, a gust of astral wind rose from the array, accompanied by faint crackles of thunder while streams of hot air rushed up and engulfed the purple cauldron.

Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han quickly changed their incantation gestures, sending different seals into the cauldron to control it over the astral wind. Waves of unbearable hot air kept spewing out of the array, twisting and distorting their figures and the whole mountain.

Silence fell over Mount Inch. This kind of refining method was not only unseen, but also unheard of by everyone. Liang Wenyu felt that something very important was looming in his mind, but he could not grasp it. He was so anxious and agitated that he kept scratching the back of his head.

Many alchemists had the same feeling; the thing that they had been searching hard for through meditation seemed to be ahead of them, but they just could not grasp it.

Now, Yunxiao, Zhang Qingfan, and Xu Han were in three different spots, sitting cross-legged while constantly controlling the purple cauldron. They had sent over a thousand seals into it. At this point, even the two masters, who were both fourth-tier alchemists, started to feel tired. 'Are we really refining a fourth-tier medicinal pill? Why do I feel it is even more difficult than a fifth-tier pill?'

Fortunately, the ancient array beneath the mountain was constantly replenishing their soul power. As time went by, Zhang and Xu grew more and more surprised, because under such a strong replenishment, they could last at least three to four times longer than normal.

In the distance, Liang Wenyu's eyes were clouded by a puzzled look. All of a sudden, his mind was clear, and the sky seemed to have turned bright at this moment. The confused look in his eyes was gone in an instant as he sat down cross-legged to comprehend in silence.

"Master Liang broke through!" An alchemist beside him shouted in horror. Beams of light broke out of Liang Wenyu's body, and the waves of soul power that rippled out of him were that of a third-tier alchemist. Meanwhile, the concept and enlightenment of breaking through spread out of him like some kind of power, causing the surrounding alchemists to break through as well.

As time went by, the alchemists began to break through in batches while many advanced apprentices became first-tier alchemists. Those who did not break through also comprehended something and had their cultivation base improved significantly.

At the moment, the three men who had worked for several hours on the mountaintop were already soaked through with sweat, and their soul powers had bottomed out; they were almost at the end of their tethers. It had taken all the strength of two fourth-tier alchemists and Yunxiao, whose soul power was not weaker than theirs, as well as a heaven-defying ancient array, to refine this medicinal pill. Was it really just a fourth-tier medicinal pill? Both Zhang and Xu were full of doubts, but they could only smile wryly. Even pill refinement had become so abnormal when Yunxiao was involved.

“Back off now, Masters! I’m going to condense the pills with a divine flame! Its power is too strong, and I’m afraid it might burn you. There may even be a thunder tribulation later!” Yunxiao shouted with a pale face as his eyes flickered brightly. Startled, Zhang and Xu quickly moved back from the cauldron. They trusted him from the bottom of their hearts. Since he asked them to back off, the flame must be too powerful for them to resist.

As they stopped performing incantation gestures, a rumbling noise began to echo out of the cauldron, and the vessel rocked violently, as if something was about to explode out of it. Yunxiao’s eyes flashed coldly. Meanwhile, a tiny flaming cloud appeared between his eyebrows.

Bam!

Suddenly, a shadow of the Phoenix Divine Flame emerged over the cauldron, which instantly pressed down the violent aura. Then, a five-colored light of five elements bloomed from the cauldron, towering into the sky and blanketing the whole Mount Inch.

The alchemists in the distance looked at the strange sight in shock.

Yunxiao looked up nervously at the sky while frowning. He was at the last step of pill refinement, but the sky was still clear, with no signs of a thunder tribulation.

Supposedly, a fourth-tier medicinal pill would not attract a thunder tribulation, but because he had used the phoenix flame, he had attracted two thunder tribulations in his last two pill refinements. Was it because they were inside the Divine Realm Tablet, so there was no thunder tribulation?

He frowned in puzzlement.