

## Three Realms 741

### Chapter 741: The Deviant Pill Faction

The news that Wei Jie brought back depressed Wei Tianxiao greatly. It was as if someone had just gut-punched him.. hard. He'd always known Wei Tiantong was up to some petty tricks, but he hadn't imagined the situation to be this severe. Among the six decision-makers in the clan, four was on Wei Tiantong's side. Setting aside Wei Tiantong himself, two of the three other clan elders had always been neutral before. Prior to this, they had even showed inklings of leaning towards Wei Tianxiao. Their new leaning towards Wei Tiantong signified a problem.

"Father, there won't be problems with third great-uncle, right?" Wei Jie asked carefully.

"Your great-uncle is my very own uncle. There is no need to worry. He is absolutely reliable."

"If the six people are half-and-half, father should have the initiative again, no?" Wei Jie wondered.

"Hmm. Before now, it was always your third great-uncle and me against Wei Tiantong and his confidante. With the other two maintaining neutrality, the balance was maintained. As the house lord, I could keep things under control."

"So if we win one of the three other clan elders over, we can turn the tables on them?" Jiang Chen piped up as he listened in.

"That's right. I will personally visit Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng tonight. They've always been dependable and loyal in the past. Why are they joining up with the Majestic Clan, with whom we've never gotten along with?" Wei Tianxiao nodded, smiling.

"Why else could it be? Because of the unexpected passing of Young Lord Fan, everyone thinks the lineage of Emperor Peafowl will fall by the wayside. Considering the rapid expansion of Emperor Asura's lineage in recent years, his death has tipped the balance quite a bit into the opposite direction. People like to ride on others' coattails. This is very normal," Wei Jie snorted softly, his words disdainful.

The Majestic Clan was one of the greatest clans under Emperor Asura's banner. Amongst the twenty-eight prominent clans in the Veluriyam Capital, it was one of the top three. Its underlings included not only House Tong, but House Sikou as well, with whom House Wei had a death feud. House Wei was itself under the jurisdiction of the Coiling Dragon Clan, similarly one of the top three. In the past, it had unquestionably been the foremost clan among them all. But as the leading clan aligned with Emperor Peafowl, the Coiling Dragon Clan had walked a troubled path in recent years. Its position as the foremost clan was now quite precarious.

As challengers, the Majestic Clan and the others exerted a large amount of threat and pressure on the Coiling Dragon Clan. As one of the core factions beneath the afflicted Coiling Dragon Clan, House Wei could not help but share in its thorny situation. For House Wei, this was most unacceptable, and the reason for many members' change of heart. Though it looked peaceful on the surface, Veluriyam Capital was terrifyingly treacherous as the shadows of intrigue and conflict lengthened. Inter-faction conflict in the Capital held many dangerous shoals beneath the waves. Like sailing against the current, lack of progress meant regression. The competition was exceedingly brutal.

Jiang Chen was not in a position to comment on House Wei's problems. However, from what he could see, as the house lord, Wei Tianxiao bore a significant amount of the responsibility. The house was a Coiling Dragon core ally, but Wei Tianxiao hadn't received help and attention in his moment of need. It seemed even his relationship with the clan itself was questionable. Moreover, as the master of the house, he hadn't fully grasped all of the power in House Wei. This further heightened his problematic control. No matter what the reason was, Wei Tianxiao was undeniably culpable for the current situation.

Of course, it was ultimately an internal matter for the house—Jiang Chen had no right to point fingers. Now that the key to the problem was clear, he had to start from the two neutral elders if he wanted to change the situation. "Uncle, you said the elders haven't always sided with Wei Tiantong. There must be a reason for their sudden change. If we tackle the source of the change directly, there should be room for us to salvage the situation."

"Father, between Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng, we only need to convert one to stabilize the situation," Wei Jie urged. "They still think everything is under wraps, so there should only be a few precautions in place. There would be far more trouble if they knew we knew..."

Jiang Chen didn't say anything more. It was not right for him to interfere overmuch in House Wei's affairs. If Wei Tianxiao couldn't even take care of his household's issues, their business relationship was due for a reevaluation. Unruffled by the events besetting House Wei, Jiang Chen returned to the hideout. He had his own things to do. From researching the stores within Farmer God Market, Jiang Chen had gotten a rough understanding of the Veluriyam Capital's pill market as a whole.

Be it high-end pills or low, the pill market in Veluriyam Capital was mouthwateringly large. However, it would be insurmountably difficult for an outsider like him to carve out a slice of the pie as well. Even if he had the support of House Wei, it was difficult enough to achieve a large amount of growth in a short time, not to mention trying to become a first-rate store. No, what he needed was specialty and exclusivity. This was the strategy Jiang Chen had hatched after much consideration.

Expanding by-the-book wouldn't cut it. If he wanted to grow quickly in the market, he would have to do the unexpected and walk his own path, teeter on a knife's edge. The Longevity Pill would have been a very unique pill to sell, but its production would be a personal identifier. To refine the Longevity Pill now would be akin to turning himself in. It would be tantamount to suicide.

There were many recipes for legendary pills in Jiang Chen's memory. However, it was hard for him to find a recipe that was suitable for the Veluriyam Capital which he could also openly produce.

It was vital that his identity not be revealed via his pills. He didn't want to step on the toes of the larger factions in the city, either, at least not enough for the major pill producers to crack down on him. He just wanted to survive and flourish between in the gaps. Recalling the Mt. Rippling Mirage Pill Battles inspired him. In the pill decomposition contest that he'd taken part in, there was a pill called the Skyheart Nirvana Pill. It was a representative example of a pill from the Deviant Pill Faction. As a school, the Deviant Pill Faction stood out among others as being extraordinary.

Pill masters from the Deviant Pill Faction favored using medicine in unusual ways, and commonly had rich imaginations. Their work was often unorthodox upon first glance, but made sense after some consideration. Masters from this faction were typically romantics at heart. They pursued eclecticism, and made it a point to differentiate themselves. The Deviant Pill Faction was sometimes described as a

cultivation deviation. However, one couldn't help but accord it respect in the pill world. Though members of the school were rare, each master that rose from the school became a legend in their respective era.

The pill market at Veluriyam Capital had pills from every school but the Deviant Pill Faction. Here, the market for their uncommon pills was still untapped. Thus, they were the style of pills Jiang Chen decided to focus on.

There weren't many pills that belonged to the Deviant Pill Faction, but each pill that did was unique and irreplaceable. The Skyheart Nirvana Pill was the most widely circulated among them, but its level was still a little low. Perhaps it was appropriate in the Myriad Domain, but the Veluriyam Capital was a much bigger stage. Here, the Skyheart Nirvana Pill could only be described as a motley selection. But that was no problem. Jiang Chen picked out several other definitive pill recipes belonging to the school from his memory.

The Hexarune Black Dragon Pill for example, was useful to cultivators in ascending realms. Jiang Chen had helped Elder Yun Nie solve the issues related to its creation shortly after arriving at the Regal Pill Palace. The pill was widely applicable to sage realm cultivators looking to break through the shackles of martial dao.

There was risk in advancing one's cultivation at any level. For those not as confident in their abilities, the Hexarune Black Dragon Pill was very useful. Using the pill during a cultivation breakthrough was akin to buying insurance. It would greatly reduce the risk to the cultivator. Naturally, Jiang Chen was not satisfied with merely the Hexarune Black Dragon Pill. He wanted to increase its level, and refine the Heptarune True Dragon Pill. Though it was only the addition of one rune, a major step had to be added to the creation process. It made all the difference to the level of the pill. The improved Heptarune Pill was useful for sage realm cultivators in their breakthrough into the emperor realm. Furthermore, the teachings of the Deviant Pill Faction demanded the use of unconventional materials, resulting in cheaper costs. The school did not solely seek to be contrary. Reductions in the cost of materials was a major part of its goals. All else held equal, the pill that was cheaper to make held the advantage.

For any orthodox member of the school, cost reduction was their greatest ambition. Though some nonconformists liked to apply the label to themselves, they did not truly follow the school's teachings of pursuing innovation for the sake of innovation. In addition to the breakthrough pill, Jiang Chen also planned to make some antitoxin pills with varying levels of strength. Pills that protected against poisons were never unpopular. Since the pills of the Deviant Pill Faction had lower costs, he had a competitive advantage in their pricing, especially against pills of the same level.

Furthermore, Jiang Chen had also set his sights on berserk pills—by rousing one's potential, these pills could drastically increase combat ability for a short period of time. These pills were basically instant performance enhancements. Though their effect did not sound appealing to the mainstream, in actuality, the pills tended to be quite popular. Yet, the pills seemed to be scarce in Veluriyam Capital. There were few to no stores that offered them. This evidently presented an opportunity.

Finally, there was a fourth category of pills that was equally important and that the Capital happened to lack at the moment: cosmetic pills. Amongst the cultivators at the Capital, men outnumbered women. In fact, it could be said that the entire city was ruled by men. The modest number of female cultivators

barely controlled any power. But, this didn't mean that there was no demand for cosmetic pills. The Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill only preserved a few decades of youthfulness, and yet the crazy chain reaction it had set off at the Skylareland Kingdom was unforgettable to Jiang Chen. If he could present a similar pill that lasted for hundreds, even a thousand years, it would be sought after that much more!

#### Chapter 742: Jiang Chen Strikes

With all this decided, Jiang Chen threw himself into the anxious work of preliminary preparations.

But on this day, Wei Jie suddenly visited him and brought him an update. "I'm really sorry to bother you so urgently, Brother Jiang. My father's talked with Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng and found no problems with their loyalty to the family, but it did seem like they've received some benefits from Wei Tiantong. Also, they all seem to have something to do with that pill master."

However, Jiang Chen wasn't too surprised by the news. He'd guessed that Wei Tiantong's pill master was likely a pill king who had concealed his true strength. It would be easy for a pill king who could refine something like the Ninelaugh Golden Buddha Powder, and have Wei Tiantong cover things up for him, to toy with two house elders. He flashed a smile, "Let me guess: one of the elders' direct descendants or perhaps even the elders themselves have caught some sort of sickness or poison that this pill master can cure, right?"

Wei Jie looked startled, "How do you know?"

Jiang Chen smiled faintly, "Acts of goodwill and favor aren't really all that novel. It's obvious at first glance that that pill master isn't a good person, and I'm guessing that all of this is but a ploy by Wei Tiantong. In fact, this pill master may very well be an enemy spy himself."

Wei Jie remained silent for a long time after he heard this. The possibility sounded unbelievable at first, but it somehow seemed to have a grain of truth if he took the time to think it through. Wei Tiantong was only the second-in-command of House Wei. Under normal circumstances, he would never become the house lord of House Wei. In addition, this pill master was dead set on serving Wei Tiantong for some reason instead of Wei Tianxiao!

It was obvious to an outsider like Jiang Chen that this was an abnormal choice. Even if Wei Tiantong had the ambition or even the hope of taking the position of house lord from Wei Tianxiao, it still wasn't a reason for a pill master to serve him with such unswerving loyalty. Jiang Chen could deduce with even his toes that another force must be pulling the strings from behind the scenes. In fact, he suspected that the problems the elders were facing might very well have been orchestrated by this pill master himself.

"Young master Wei, do you know what is troubling your two family elders?" Jiang Chen needed to understand the situation before he could treat them.

Wei Jie hurriedly answered, "Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng weren't going to say anything at first, but they finally answered after my father questioned them repeatedly. Elder Zhuo has a grandson who's encountered a bottleneck at third level sage realm. His chances of breaking through to earth sage realm aren't high. It seems that the pill master can solve this problem and raise Elder Zhuo's grandson's chances by twenty to thirty percent. As for Elder Feng, it seems that one of his direct descendants has caught some kind of poison while he was training outside, and it's threatening his qi ocean..."

“It so happens that that pill master knows how to cure it too, correct?” Jiang Chen smiled faintly.  
“There’s no need to think further on it. This so-called poison must be the work of that pill master too. Ruining a patient first before saving their life... this tactic never gets old.”

Wei Jie’s eyebrows twitched, “Brother Jiang, you’re saying...”

“I’m not sure about Elder Zhuo, but I’m quite sure that Elder Feng’s descendant’s so-called poison is from this pill master, just like the Ninelaugh Golden Buddha Powder you were poisoned with.”

Wei Jie looked quite frustrated as he swore, “Where on earth did Wei Tiantong find such an evil pill master? And why use him to attack House Wei?”

“He’s most likely from a force that opposes House Wei. It seems that Wei Tiantong’s bringing his enemies into his bedroom.” Jiang Chen didn’t want to interfere with House Wei’s internal conflicts, but considering how bad the situation was already, the Wei father and son were almost certainly going to crumble under this evil plot if he didn’t act. Three of the four family elders had chosen to stand on Wei Tiantong’s side. Wei Tianxiao would be hard pressed to stand alone. After some thought, Jiang Chen said, “Let’s head to Elder Zhuo’s place first, young master Wei.”

“What about Elder Feng?” Wei Jie looked curious.

“We’ll deal with Elder Feng later. Let’s handle Elder Zhuo first. This way, we can at least help your father arrive at a three versus three situation and prevent defeat.” Jiang Chen sized up the situation for a bit and felt that his chances of winning over Elder Zhuo were greater than Elder Feng’s. Still, Wei Tianxiao should be able to snatch back the initiative as long as he lured one of the elders back to his side. If he could pull both elders back to Wei Tianxiao’s side, then everything would go swimmingly.

.....

“What did you say? Young master Jie is paying a visit?” Inside the House Wei elders’ residence, Elder Zhuo sounded a little surprised when he received the report from the door. As one of the four family elders of House Wei, Elder Zhuo’s status was quite high in House Wei. Even house lord Wei Tianxiao had to show him some respect. Wei Jie was Wei Tianxiao’s son, and he was a few generations below Elder Zhuo. There wasn’t any interaction between the two of them at all. So why was Wei Jie visiting at such a time?

It couldn’t be that Wei Tianxiao had sent his son to persuade him because he’d failed, could he? It wasn’t that Elder Zhuo had made up his mind to stand firmly by Wei Tiantong’s side. He just didn’t have a choice. The grandson he loved the most and thought most highly of had encountered a bit of a problem in his cultivation, and Wei Tiantong’s pill master was the only person who could solve it. Elder Zhuo might not feel any goodwill towards Wei Tiantong, but he had no choice but to ask for his help. Still, the elder had no reason to turn down Wei Jie’s visit.

“Grandnephew Wei Jie is here to visit you, Elder Zhuo,” Wei Jie respectfully gave Elder Zhuo a junior’s greeting after he entered the room.

The look in Elder Zhuo’s eyes was a bit complicated. He was also a little wary of Wei Jie and was quite worried that Wei Jie was here to cajole him. It wasn’t that the elder disliked the Wei father and son, but that he had no idea how to turn them down. Elder Zhuo was incredibly loyal to House Wei. To have him

stand by Wei Tiantong's side and curry favor with the Majestic Clan was a violation of his own principles. But he had no choice but to do so; it was the only way to ensure his grandson's future

Elder Zhuo couldn't help but feel a little guilty inside considering that the Wei father and son had come to visit him one after the other. "Jie'er, you rarely come to visit me. Have you come today under your father's orders?" Elder Zhuo's underlying meaning was very subtle. Your father has already visited me once. If you're here to say the same thing as your father did, then I'll go ahead and spare you the effort to do so.

Wei Jie smiled but shook his head, saying, "I was very concerned to hear that house brother Mo in our house has encountered a bit of problem in his cultivation. I've come to pay him a visit. I happen to have a pill master friend who's quite versed in pill dao. It took me quite a bit of effort to persuade him to diagnose house brother Mo's condition."

House brother Mo was in fact Elder Zhuo's grandson Wei Mo. He was of the same generation as Wei Jie, and since he was only two years younger, Wei Jie addressed him as clan brother Mo.

Elder Zhuo looked a little surprised when he cast a glance at Jiang Chen. He noticed that Jiang Chen wasn't very old, and that he was a friend of Wei Jie's. Frankly, he didn't think highly of Jiang Chen's abilities at all. If he was a friend of Wei Jie's, then even if he was somewhat talented in pill dao, he wouldn't have reached a level of great attainment yet. Wei Mo's problem wasn't something that could be solved by any ordinary pill master. Even the regular initial level pill king might not necessarily be able to solve this.

Wei Jie smiled upon seeing Elder Zhuo's expression, "I can understand why you're on guard, Elder Zhuo, but Wei Mo is my house brother and I'm only trying to help him. Are you thinking too much, Elder Zhuo? Even if I fail, I can't possibly kidnap you and force you to obey my wishes, can I?"

Elder Zhuo looked a little embarrassed. He understood that his reasons for standing on Wei Tiantong's side was a little selfish. In fact, it completely went against his own principles. He grew even more ashamed when he heard Wei Jie's words and answered him with a wry smile, "In that case, please wait for a moment while I summon Wei Mo."

Wei Mo came straight away after receiving the news a moment later. "Brother Jie? Have you come to see me?"

Wei Mo had had some previous interactions with Wei Jie, and while it was inevitable for the youngsters within the family to compete with each other, Wei Mo and Wei Jie shared a friendly relationship.

"Brother Mo, I heard that you've encountered a small problem in your cultivation, so I invited a pill dao genius to diagnose your illness. This Brother Zhen of mine may not be famous, but his skills and knowledge are absolutely genuine."

Wei Mo was both surprised and touched by the gesture, "I must thank you then, Brother Jie. My grandfather had been worrying himself sick for my problem, and I'm also feeling quite dejected to see him so cheerless everyday."

Wei Mo's words were innocent, but Wei Jie heard the underlying meaning behind his words. While Elder Zhuo had stood on Wei Tiantong's side, it seems that it wasn't where his heart truly was. Why else

would he be cheerless? It was obvious that he was gloomy and discomforted because he had gone against his own heart. n)-O**V**e**l**bIn

Jiang Chen had only looked at Wei Mo once since the young man had showed up. He'd kept silent and remained smiling since.

"Brother Zhen, I am Wei Mo," Wei Mo raised a cupped fist salute to Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen smiled and nodded in response, "House Wei's wealth is definitely plentiful to produce a third level sage realm cultivator at your age, Sir Mo. But am I right to say that you're at the age of marriage already, aren't you? Why have you not taken a wife? Why have you remained single?" Jiang Chen's questions had come out of nowhere. It completely confused everyone present.

Elder Zhuo was inwardly shaking his head. Who is this that Wei Jie's invited? What a strange thing to ask upon a first meeting. This makes no sense at all.

Wei Jie was also surprised by this question, but he knew that Jiang Chen wasn't someone to speak carelessly. Therefore, he immediately took over the conversation and asked curiously, "Brother Zhen, I don't remember telling you that Brother Mo hasn't married. How do you know?"

Jiang Chen kept silent, but was quietly amused. Isn't it obvious? Your brother Mo's desire as a man is written all over his body. How can he possibly be a married man? "Elder Zhuo, please forgive my candor, but why have you submitted to Wei Tiantong and aided a tyrant for such a small matter? Do you really think so little of House Wei?" He abruptly changed the subject and fired his question with piercing eyes at Elder Zhuo.

Elder Zhuo was an emperor realm cultivator, but the sharp, piercing question had come so suddenly that he was dumbstruck for a moment. It was obvious that this matter was a black mark on the elder's heart. Jiang Chen didn't wait for an answer before he responded with a smile, "If I can solve this problem for you, would you consider changing your standing, Elder Zhuo?"

Elder Zhuo was caught off guard. Then, great surprise overwhelmed his expression, "You... can you solve his illness?"

"It's not anything serious. It only looked that way because someone has intentionally blown it out of proportion with the goal of using you. It's truly just a small problem," Jiang Chen's smile was faint, but his confidence was great. No one could doubt that his confidence was genuine.

#### Chapter 743: Elder Zhuo's Great Admiration

The self-confidence on Jiang Chen's face, his easy calm and temperament—even someone as experienced as Elder Zhuo couldn't find the barest hint of a flaw. Ease and confidence weren't the only things he saw from Jiang Chen's eyes. He felt a trace of sincerity in those depths. In comparison, Elder Zhuo disliked the pill master at Wei Tiantong's side. That fellow might be a man of few words, but there was also the trace of something deceitful and sinister just simmering beneath the surface. This feeling was something very unwelcome for someone with such upstanding righteousness like Elder Zhuo. If he didn't have something to request of the pill master, he'd want nothing to do with such a person.

Wei Jie was very quick witted. Seeing Elder Zhuo waver right then, he knew this was a weak point he could take advantage of. He hastily spoke up, "Elder Zhuo, perhaps your esteemed self isn't aware of

certain things yet. Last time I left home, a traitor of the house plotted against me and poisoned me with Ninelaugh Golden Buddha Powder. No pill master I found could treat it. In the end, Brother Zhen was the one who rescued me from the very brink of death. I happen to suspect Wei Tiantong's pill master to be the one who poisoned me."

"What?!" Elder Zhao naturally didn't know such a secret. He was utterly flabbergasted when he heard, amazement etched on his face. "Jie'er, are those words true?"

Wei Jie didn't beat around the bush. "May the heavens judge me and strike me dead if there's a single false word."

How would Elder Zhuo still doubt Wei Jie after he swore on the heavens? The elder was dumbstruck for a moment. He knew Wei Tiantong had long wanted to usurp Wei Tianxiao's position, but he never would've imagined Wei Tiantong would act directly against kin! Internal competition was one thing. Everyone could compete based on their skills and abilities; there was nothing untoward about it. However, directly using poison against family was crossing the line, something Elder Zhuo couldn't accept no matter what the circumstance.

Elder Zhuo's mouth quivered with his reaction. He was clearly stupefied by the news. He couldn't help but think to himself. If Wei Tiantong was that vicious, could he really lead the house to glory if he were truly to seize power? Would there really be space left for others?

Jiang Chen suddenly spoke then, "It seems that Elder Zhuo has truly been kept in the dark. Perhaps you think you owe Wei Tiantong a favor because he can help solve a difficult issue for Sir Mo, therefore you have no choice but to stand with him? Perhaps you're not aware that this affair was Wei Tiantong's scheme from the beginning?"

Elder Zhuo was struck completely dumb when he heard this. "What do you mean by this?"

Jiang Wei smiled faintly. "Sir Mo has outstanding potential, while House Wei has solid foundations. He should have been almost certain to break through to fourth level sage realm. Why did a problem suddenly arise?"

"Why?" Elder Zhuo was dazed by Jiang Chen's tone. Wei Mo was definitely among the top three in House Wei when it came to natural talent. There was no reason for a lethal bottleneck to appear at the earth sage realm.

"It's very simple. It's because that evil pill master interfered with Sir Mo," Jiang Chen responded faintly.

Elder Zhuo shook his head vehemently. "Impossible! This old man doesn't know about Jie'er's poisoning, but our Mo'er definitely suffered no poison. I am certain of that." Elder Zhuo didn't doubt Wei Jie's matter, but he was a little doubtful about Jiang Chen's words. He felt that the other was trying to use scare tactics.

Jiang Chen smiled. "Elder Zhuo, when did I ever say Sir Mo was poisoned?"

"What then?" Elder Zhuo blinked.

"Sir Mo's cultivation technique should be one that follows the path of extreme yang. Yang energy is already predominant in his body. That person merely used some medicine to stimulate it. Something like



that is no poison, so how would it have been detected? Sir Mo already has an excess of yang, and isn't married either. If you give him some things to stimulate his yang, what do you think will happen?" He turned his attention to Wei Mo, "Sir Mo, do you perchance feel dry and hot everyday, and have trouble keeping your internal demons at bay? Perhaps you always feel hyperactive, wild thoughts galloping through your mind and have trouble focusing on anything?"

Wei Mo blushed beet red with shame, but nodded. Jiang Chen secretly snickered to himself, because Wei Mo's symptoms were simply the most common issue for a young man: unsated sexual desire. Something like this wouldn't have been much of an issue for someone else, but for one who cultivated a path of extreme yang, it was simply adding fuel to a flame. It was similar to the diagnosis Jiang Chen once gave Ye Chonglou's mount. The Five-Winged Dragon-Phoenix had been in a similar situation. The only difference was that the Dragon-Phoenix's problem was a normal physiological one, whereas Wei Mo had had his normal physiological issues magnified by someone with malicious intent.

In the world of martial dao, many cultivators had the misconception that relations between men and women would disturb their pure inner yang, that it lead to a waste of their internal energy. This saying wasn't necessarily untrue, but that the so-called pure yang was something unique to those with innate pure yang constitutions, which could only be found in one out of untold millions. Ordinary cultivators, even those cultivating a path of extreme yang, wouldn't necessarily have to avoid the matters between men and women. There was even less of a need for someone like Wei Mo.

When cultivators reached the ultimate realm, the most profound truths were the simplest ones. Let nature take its course. Someone like Wei Mo was of the proper age to begin with, and he was cultivating a technique of extreme yang on top of that. His qi and blood were more vigorous than most, hence he had equal needs to match. Add someone maliciously enlarging his need, the original glass of need had become a bucket of need. It would have been strange if an issue had not arisen. If the issues then continued to persist for some time, even his dantian and his qi ocean might collapse, to say nothing about breaking through the earth sage realm.

Elder Zhuo's expression went through all sorts of changes. He felt extremely conflicted upon seeing Jiang Chen precisely identify Wei Mo's symptoms in a few words. He was both hopeful this person might help solve Wei Mo's issue, but worried that he was merely babbling nonsense and might end up harming Wei Mo's future. If presented with a choice, Elder Zhou was definitely willing to stand on Wei Tianxiao's side. After all, Wei Tianxiao was House Wei's legitimate lord. To follow Wei Tiantong went first against his convictions; second against propriety, since Wei Tiantong wasn't legitimate; and third, according to Elder Zhuo's own observations, Wei Tiantong's designs were devious—he was absolutely not the best choice for House Wei.

"Brother Zhen, is there a way to solve Brother Mo's issue?" Wei Jie asked.

"Young master Mo's issue isn't very serious. I only fear Elder Zhuo doesn't trust my humble self and is willing to be led by the nose instead. What can I do then?" Jiang Chen smiled.

Wei Jie watched Elder Zhuo with a profound look.

Wei Mo actually responded, "Grandfather, your grandson knows that you did some things against your conscience for my sake. I trust the friend Brother Jie invited over." Facing this group of straightforward

young men, Elder Zhuo's face suddenly flushed a little red, feeling a little hot. He even had trouble directly looking into Wei Jie's eyes.

"Grandfather, I shouldn't speak out of turn about major house matters. I know nothing about fifth uncle's character either. However, I've had some dealings with fifth uncle's son, Wei Xiu. That person is not a good soul. If you truly have to choose a side between the house lord and fifth uncle, then your grandson firmly supports the house lord," Wei Mo solemnly declared, making his stance known. n)-  
**OVeℓbIn**

Jiang Chen laughed out loud. "Very well! Sir Mo's words alone are enough to make me help him this once, no matter Elder Zhuo's decision!"

Listening to Jiang Chen, Elder Zhuo suddenly revealed a firm expression. "Jie'er, Pill Master Zhen, if Mo'er's issue can be resolved, then this old man is willing to stand behind the house lord and help set things right in House Wei, even if I have to sacrifice my life, be torn to pieces and crushed!" The old man finally made his resolve and expressed where he stood.

"Very well!" Jiang Chen clapped his hands and smiled. "In that case, trust my humble self with Sir Mo's issue. I guarantee Sir Mo will break through without a problem in one month."

"What?" Elder Zhuo and Wei Mo were both taken aback.

Even Wei Tiantong hadn't spoken so firmly. They'd only hemmed and hawed about decreasing the dangers of breaking through to earth sage realm and increasing the probability of success. But this "Pill Master Zhen" Wei Jie had invited over actually dared to offer such guarantees, and even had the guts to set a time frame? Guaranteed to break through within a month? These words sounded like empty talk no matter how one thought of them!

Jiang Chen knew that his words were more than a little shocking. He smiled faintly nevertheless, "Sir Mo should already be aware of his own potential. In truth, he has already prepared as much as he needs to. It's nothing more than some malicious individuals using him and creating some setbacks in his body that caused a trace of an internal demon to appear in his consciousness. These issues are all easy to solve. I can cure his ills merely by prescribing him a secret recipe and giving him two pills."

"Is it that simple?" Elder Zuo asked, astonished.

"It wasn't a large matter to begin with." Jiang Chen waved it off, staring at Wei Mo instead. "However, Sir Mo needs to stay far away from Wei Tiantong's people during this time, especially that sinister pill master. The excessive stimulation of yang within your body is all due to him."

"This means they single-handedly orchestrated this plan?" Wei Mo's face suddenly turned cold.

"I can't fully say that, but I'm at least ninety percent confident." Jiang Chen turned to Elder Zhuo, "Elder Zhuo, you have to carefully look after those in your residence during this time. Even if Sir Mo is fine, they can always act against someone else if they want you in their clutches."

Though Elder Zhuo was a little skeptical, he still leaned toward believing this pill master deep in his heart. Between Wei Tianxiao and Wei Tiantong, Elder Zhuo would definitely put more faith in Wei Tianxiao. Wei Tianxiao might not be very outstanding when it came to competency or charisma, but one could never accuse him of being treacherous. He would never commit such acts.

"I have to thank Pill Master Zhen in advance then. Let this old man say it again. As long as Mo'er can recover, I'll definitely stand behind the house lord without wavering!" Elder Zhuo resolutely declared his stance.

Wei Jie said with a sigh, "Brother Wei's matter is resolved, but Elder Feng is still in the dark. It's regrettable. Wei Tiantong has already betrayed him, yet he's still feeling deeply grateful, toiling away for him. He's being taken advantage of."

Elder Zhuo blinked. "Are you saying that Elder Feng..."

Wei Jie sighed, "Elder Feng's temperament is even more obstinate. I haven't paid him a visit yet. But according to Pill Master Zhen's analysis, his situation is most likely also some funny business caused by Wei Tiantong's sinister pill master. Nothing untoward has ever happened in our house for all these years, but the younger generation of the family have all met with one mishap after another in recent months. Isn't that too much of a coincidence?"

These words were like a bolt of lightning for Elder Zhuo, shifting his expression through a variety of changes. The elder fixed Jiang Chen with a deep gaze all of a sudden. "Pill Master Zhen, how certain are you of solving Mo'er's issue?"

"I am a hundred percent certain about helping Sir Mo. If an accident were to happen, Elder Zhuo may hold me accountable." Jiang Chen's eyes were sincere and resolute at the same time.

Wei Jie also chimed in, "Since Brother Zhen says he is a hundred percent certain, then if an accident is to happen, I am also willing to be punished together with him. Beaten or killed, Wei Jie will utter no complaint no matter what Elder Zhuo chooses."

Elder Zhuo could see that both of them were completely sincere. He also sighed, "Very well, very well. Wei Jie, your old man has fathered a good son. Trust the ones you call upon, and don't call upon those you doubt. This old man will accompany you in your madness. Let's go. I'll take you to Elder Feng and put in a good word for you!"

Clearly, Elder Zhuo's mood had been infected by those young men. He had been seized by the sudden urge to act with the recklessness of youth. When all was said and done, the elder wasn't willing to see House Wei in Wei Tiantong's hands, and he was even less willing to see House Wei switch their allegiance and rely on the Majestic Clan. Something like that would tarnish House Wei's good name forever. They would be seen as betraying the Coiling Dragon Clan. Even more so, they would become the object of ridicule amongst the nobility in the Capital!

Chapter 744: The Secret Recipe That Makes Wei Mo Blush

Jiang Chen and Wei Jie were delighted. They hadn't thought Elder Zhuo would be so easy to convince. They'd never even imagined that they'd not only persuade him to back the house lord, but that he'd even take the initiative to spring into action himself, bringing them to persuade Elder Feng. Wasn't that a delightful surprise? If they could take this opportunity to sort out Elder Feng as well, then Wei Tiantong's plan would end in utter failure. He would've gone for wool and come back shorn instead. n)-  
**OVelbIn**

Elder Feng had clearly not been expecting a sudden call from Elder Zhuo. It seemed that he'd even come visiting with Wei Jie in tow, the house lord's son. Elder Feng was rather baffled. Elder Zhuo and him deciding to back Wei Tiantong's side was a secret that wasn't supposed to be spoken of. But today, Elder Zhuo was here with Wei Tianxiao's son. Wasn't that just putting himself in an awkward spot? Fortunately, Elder Feng and Elder Zhuo's relationship had been good to begin with. Both of them had previously belonged to the same neutral camp. They hadn't been particularly intimate with Wei Tianxiao, while their relations with Wei Tiantong had been middling as well. "What brings you here today, elder brother Zhuo?" Elder Feng looked at Wei Jie standing beside Elder Zhuo, some doubt flashing in his eyes.

Elder Zhuo didn't offer a straight answer. "Old friend, call for your direct disciple. I have urgent business."

"Brother Zhuo, who are you talking about?"

"Whose matter have you been distressed about in these past few days?"

Elder Feng looked pensive. He wondered what tune Elder Zhuo was singing, but he'd always respected the elder very much. He instructed his servants to go and summon his disciple without further delay. Elder Feng's direct disciple, Mu Ge, came soon as soon as he heard the summons.

Mu Ge was a fair and good looking fellow, but there was a black line etched through his forehead, making the area between his eyebrow seem black. His entire person seemed to be in a rather bad condition.

"Mu Ge, come and pay your respects to Elder Zhuo," Elder Feng hurriedly said when he saw the disciple he was most proud of come their way.

Mu Ge was clearly very familiar with Elder Zhuo. He looked at Elder Zhuo, then at Wei Jie and offered a cupped fist in salute. "Mu Ge respectfully greets Elder Zhuo and young master Wei."

Wei Jie responded with a smile, "Mu Ge'er, long time no see."

Mu Ge smiled and nodded, but he didn't say anything else, docilely taking his spot behind Elder Feng. Seeing the situation turn a little awkward, Elder Feng looked at Elder Zhuo and whispered, "Brother Zhuo, what on earth's happened?"

"Old friend, there are no outsiders here, so I'll get straight to the point." Elder Zhuo fixed Elder Feng with a profound gaze, "Our previous decision was too rushed. I've turned it over and over in my head. Us two old men cannot be the sinners of our house."

Elder Feng blinked. "Old brother, aren't your words too strong?"

Elder Zhuo shook his head, "I fear that this is not me being an alarmist, but rather the result of careful consideration. Add to that some information that young master Wei provided... I've discovered that some things that we assumed have gone beyond our imagination."

"What?" Elder Feng was growing steadily more confused.

"We've been taken advantage of by Wei Tiantong..." Elder Zhuo immediately recounted the whole sequence of events in full detail. By the end of the explanation, Elder Feng's face was shrouded in frost,

his expression grave and solemn. "Brother Zhuo, when all's said and done, this is only a one-sided assertion. Are you certain?"

Elder Zhuo sighed softly, "This old man may not have definite proof, but when comparing both sides, I would rather put my trust in the house lord. Wei Tiantong's behavior is something even you're aware of. Even if this matter doesn't take his conduct into account, if we were to rent our store in the Farmer God Market to House Tong, we would be proclaiming to the entire Capital that our house has gone under the Majestic Clan's banner. What would the Coiling Dragon Clan think then? How would the entire Capital look upon us? Are we truly going to let the whole of the Capital poke fun at us behind our back?"

In truth, this was a thought Elder Zhuo had mulled over countless times himself. Only, he'd previously numbed himself with lies for the sake of his grandson's future. He'd comforted himself by saying it was merely renting a store, and not a true reflection of the whole of House Wei. However, this was just self-deception.

Eyes and ears were everywhere in the Capital. Who would've missed House Wei renting an important store to House Tong, and the clan lord of the Majestic Clan paying them a personal visit? How would Elder Feng be ignorant of these arguments? It was just that Wei Tiantong's flowery words and various incitements, plus his deep concern for his direct disciple Mu Ge, had momentarily made him soft hearted and accept Wei Tiantong's request. "Brother Zhuo, things have already come so far, do we still have any other choice? Who was it that asked you to come persuade me? The house lord?" Elder Feng glanced at Wei Jie.

Jiang Chen started chuckling before Elder Zhuo could speak. "How amusing. When faced with the principles of the house and what is right and wrong, the proper action should be in everyone's heart. Why would the house lord need to speak?"

Elder Feng's expression sank. "Who might you be?"

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "Who I am doesn't matter. Elder Feng only needs to know that I am someone who can rescue your direct disciple, and also someone who can salvage your esteemed self's reputation."

"Your tone's pretty big for an ignorant kid," Elder Feng had a fiery temperament by nature. He naturally wasn't happy with Jiang Chen's interruption or biting words.

Elder Zhuo hurried to speak, "Old friend, he is no trivial person. Perhaps you can let him have a look at Mu Ge's poison."

Elder Feng's expression was a little unsightly. "Brother Zhuo, I have many disciples, but Mu Ge is the only one with extraordinary innate talent. You know that this isn't a gamble I can afford."

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "You can't afford the gamble, so you would rather shoulder infamy and ruin House Wei's foundations?"

Elder Feng suddenly erupted in anger. "Kid, if you speak one more rude word, don't blame this old man for not showing mercy!"

Wei Jie was also silently signaling Jiang Chen with his eyes, telling him not to anger Elder Feng. Jiang Chen erupted in laughter, as though he hadn't seen him. "Elder Feng, I came to visit with good

intentions, trying to share your woes, but you can't seem to recognize a friend even in front of you. Even when some people have schemed against you, going so far as to poison your disciple and then coming to you so hypocritically claim that they can cure him, you'd still rather consider them friends. Tell me, what the hell are you on, huh?" Jiang Chen wasn't being impulsive. He could tell that this Elder Feng had a fiery disposition and a willful temperament. Convincing him would probably not be an easy task. Reason might not immediately resonate with someone like this. Instead, butting heads might end in a happy surprise.

Elder Zhuo also spoke again, "Old friend, this matter is indeed very fishy. Our house has always been peaceful, but things keep happening to the younger generation in the past few months. Don't you think it's all too strange?"

Huffing with anger, Elder Feng said, "Brother Zhuo, this matter is indeed strange, but they're directly accusing it all of being Wei Tiantong's doing. However, they have no proof either that they aren't the ones pulling the strings."

It was Wei Jie's turn to feel unhappy. He stood up abruptly, "Elder Feng, I've stayed respectful thus far because you are my senior. However, those words treat our goodwill and sincerity as nothing more than cheap deceit. If we plotted this matter, then may the heavens strike us dead!"

Wei Jie was normally a calm and even tempered man, but Elder Feng's words had clearly pricked at his self-esteem. It was true he wanted to pull Elder Feng to his side. However, Elder Feng stubbornly refused to discern friend from foe. He was even suspecting Wei Jie and father of orchestrating this matter, confusing right and wrong. This was something that Wei Jie couldn't sit by and tolerate.

Elder Feng seemed to realize that his words had crossed a line. He humphed softly, but didn't say anything else.

However, Jiang Chen actually started chuckling. "Elder Feng, you aren't afraid of believing Wei Tiantong nor afraid of shouldering the infamy of betraying House Wei, so why are you afraid of facing reality?"

"Face reality? Are you asking this old man to sit down and watch his beloved disciple die?" Elder Feng's tone was a mixture of sorrow and indignation.

"Who said your brilliant disciple has to die? Is there only a single pill master in existence? Without Wei Tiantong's pill master, is there no one else in the whole world who can cure your disciple's poison?"

"What... What do you mean?" Elder Feng was unexpectedly subdued by Jiang Chen's imposing demeanor.

"My only meaning is, what will you do if I cure your disciple?" Jiang Chen didn't beat around the bush either. He knew he'd goaded this old man about as far as he should.

"Can you cure it?" Elder Feng snickered. He had no faith in Jiang Chen, since in his eyes, Jiang Chen was far too wet behind the ears. "If you can cure him, then whatever you say goes. If I object to anything you say, then I'm a son of a bitch."

Jiang Chen roared with laughter and stood up. "Elder Zhuo, did you hear that? Then let us consider this as a bet between Elder Feng and me. If I can cure Mu Ge..."

Elder Feng wheezed with anger, “Kid, stop talking in circles! I know you came here on behalf of the house lord. I’ll have you know that I have no opinion about the house lord. If you can truly cure Mu Ge, I will assist the house lord with unwavering will and nary a stray thought for the rest of my life.”

“What if Wei Tiantong comes up with some other shenanigans in the future? I rather fear a certain someone will be swayed again,” Jiang Chen said with a faint smile, continuing to prod.

Elder Feng’s hair was nearly on end with fury. “Do you think I’m the kind of bastard who’d go back on their words?”

Elder Zhuo was also frowning. “Pill Master Zhen, I can vouch for my old friend Feng’s character. As long as you can solve these problems, then us two old sacks of bones will single-mindedly support the house lord for the rest of our lives, never having another thought.”

Wei Jie was delighted at these words. He’d been completely won over by Jiang Cheng’s pill-making. Though he hadn’t seen it many times, every time had been an earthshaking experience. Since Jiang Chen was so utterly confident, Wei Jie naturally knew that Jiang Chen was completely assured of success.

Elder Feng suddenly spoke coldly, “You talk a big talk, but I have to remind you that Wei Tiantong will put forth a proposal for a house meeting the day after tomorrow. We’ll be discussing the matter of the store in Farmer God Market then. You only have two days.”

Jiang Cheng’s smile was faint. “No need for two days. I’ll return a lively disciple to you tonight.”

“Those are your own words. And what if you can’t?”

“If I can’t cure him, then by all means, please do not hesitate and stand with Wei Tiantong when the time comes. We won’t have anything to say.” Jiang Chen practically brimmed with confidence.

Elder Feng glanced at Elder Zhuo, then looked at Wei Jie. “Gentlemen, those were his own words. For Mu Ge’s sake, I’ll have no choice but to stand with Wei Tiantong when the time comes, even if I have to go against my convictions.”

Jiang Chen laughed in response, “Don’t worry, you won’t have a chance to stand with him.” It wasn’t empty talk. Wei Tiantong’s pill master was definitely a pill king, but he was still far from the apex when it came to using poison. Whether the Ninelaugh Golden Buddha Powder or Mu Ge’s poison, neither were difficult issues for Jiang Chen.

.....

In Elder Feng’s private library, Wei Jie drank tea with Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng. From time to time, his eyes fell on a private chamber. Inside, Jiang Chen was creating an antidote for, and treating Elder’s Feng beloved disciple, Mu Ge. Wei Mo stood at Elder Zhuo’s side. Jiang Chen had already given him two pills, as well as a secret prescription, telling him to go back and follow what was written.

“Mo’er, what secret prescription did that pill master Zhen give you?” Elder Zhuo suddenly asked, feeling curious.

Wei Mo’s face nearly combusted with heat as he spontaneously turned red. He hemmed and hawed and mumbled and stammered, uncertain how he should answer. He could only hand the prescription to Elder Zhuo in the end. Elder Zhuo’s old face instantly froze as soon as he read it, awkwardness written all

over his face. Wei Jie and Elder Feng exchanged a glance at the sight of this scene. It's just a secret prescription, do you two have to go this far?

#### Chapter 745: Great Success

"What's the matter, Brother Zhuo?" Elder Feng couldn't help but ask when he noticed Elder Zhuo's strange expression. Concern causes confusion. He was curious about Mo Ye's secret prescription, and also worried about the possibility that this Pill Master Zhen might not be reliable and harm his disciple in an attempt to cure him.

Elder Zhuo squeezed out a wry smile and handed the prescription to Elder Feng. The latter's expression also became amazingly complicated with a single glance. He slammed a hand down on the table. "Utter drive!" Elder Feng's character was of the stubborn and old-fashioned sort. He naturally erupted in anger upon seeing this ludicrous prescription and was on the verge of charging into the private chamber and hauling Mu Ge out, interrupting the detoxifying session right then and there.

Wei Jie didn't know what this secret prescription was either. He took it and glanced over it, with his expression also turning incomparably strange, a similarly wry smile frozen on his face.

There were only a few words written on it. *Nine women at night, repeat for three days. Then, take my pills and you will recover.*

"Old friend, what are you doing?" Elder Zhuo saw Elder Feng storming off to the private chamber and hurriedly pulled him to a stop.

"Brother Zhuo, if this kid is messing around to this degree, is his cure going to work? I'm not so sure that all of you haven't been made fun of by a charlatan!" Elder Fang was shaking in his anger. With his old-fashioned character, nothing would make him believe that that preposterous prescription was normal.

However, contrary to expectations, Elder Zhuo was rather pensive. He remembered that Pill Master Zhen had said Wei Mo's symptoms were in fact just a small problem. His diagnosis had been that it was merely an excess of yang energy combined with someone using medicine to overstimulate it, leading to a surplus of qi and blood, which made Wei Mo hyperactive and lustful. Would orthodox pill kings even direct their thoughts in that direction when faced with such symptoms?

Elder Zhuo had also invited some pill kings to diagnose Wei Mo. All of them had expended their efforts at finding poison, and none of them had come to any reliable conclusion. This secret prescription gave Elder Zhuo a new explanation. Perhaps, it was truly an excess of yang?

Even still, this prescription was indeed a little preposterous. It almost looked like a child's prank. But when the elder thought back to the confidence in the pill master's eyes, his calm when he offered his guarantees, as well as Wei Jie's decisive demeanor in offering to shoulder the responsibilities together, he couldn't quite disbelieve them. None of that had looked fake. Elder Zhuo's mood had also been infected by these two young men. It was why he'd brought them with him to visit Elder Feng and gone so far as to put in a good word for them. Therefore, he was naturally willing to put his faith in that young man in this moment.



“Old Feng, the treatment is in session and isn’t something you can disturb. If you go in rashly like this and if by any chance they are at a crucial juncture, your actions might lead things far more astray. It may even end in immediate death. How can you be so rash?”

Elder Feng breathed hard in anger. His wrath obviously still hadn’t vanished.

The door to the secret chamber opened slowly just as the two of them stood at an impasse. Jiang Chen walked out, his face as tranquil as the drifting clouds. Seeing the two elders standing right in front of the door, he smiled, “There isn’t any need for you two elders to be so courteous, is there? Going as far as standing at the door and welcoming me in person? How did you know I was done?”

Even Wei Jie and Wei Mo felt the urge to laugh. The two old men were struck dumb, momentarily lost for words. Elder Feng was worried about his beloved disciple, so he was still the first to break the silence in the end, “Where’s Mu Ge?”

“He’s fine. Actually, he’s meditating inside. If Elder Feng doesn’t wish to disturb his beloved disciple’s meditation, then please hold your peace and wait patiently for a few hours.” Jiang Chen stretched and saw Wei Mo still standing there. He spoke with an exaggerated tone, “Young master Mo, why are you still dilly-dallying here? The sooner you follow the prescription I gave you, the better. Your yang energy doesn’t look seem like it’s erupting out of control, but it’s already disturbing your consciousness. If you still don’t channel it away, then the internal demons will completely settle in, and you’ll be in big trouble.”

“Ah?” Wei Mo was still a virgin. He was thrown into complete chaos when he heard Jiang Chen’s words.

“Truly, don’t end up harming yourself no matter what. Remember, when it comes to the number, you can always go higher, but never lower. As to the quality, you’ll have to take care of that yourself. Remember, avoid women cultivating evil arts at any cost, otherwise they’ll absorb your yang energy and turn you into their cultivation furnace. It really wouldn’t be worth it if your yang energy is taken to bolster a woman’s yin energy.” Jiang Chen patted Wei Mo’s shoulder. He guessed Wei Mo was one of those martial fanatics who were so devoted to cultivation that they were clueless when it came to women.

Wei Mo blushed bright red. Wei Jie laughed, “Brother Mo, do you want this old brother to help you?”

Elder Zhuo rushed to speak before Wei Mo could decline, “Jie’er, you really have to help him in this matter. You young people can share your experience in that area.” The old man quickly felt ashamed at his own words. *What the bloody hell was that?*

The group continued to chat and laugh. As for Jiang Chen, he sat unperturbed, drinking his tea and tasting a few pastries, looking very much the image of an honored visiting guest. He didn’t pay any mind to the probing looks Elder Feng shot in his direction every now and then.

A few hours later, Mu Ge walked out of the chamber. Elder Feng froze as soon as he saw Mu Ge, as though he were struck by a bolt of lightning. The present Mu Ge was refreshed and relaxed. His face brimmed with vigor, and his entire being seemed full of life, radiating a formidable aura of vitality. How was this the look of someone who’d been poisoned?

“Ge’er, are... are you cured?” Excitement and strong disbelief chased each other around in Elder Feng’s voice.

“Honored master, your disciple’s poison has been entirely removed. And thanks to Pill Master Zhen’s guidance, I seemed to have comprehended some new insights. I seem to be showing signs of breaking through.”

“What?” Elder Feng’s expressions became quite rich and varied all of a sudden.

Mu Ge smiled faintly. He went to Jiang Chen and saluted him deferentially. “Many thanks for saving my life, Pill Master Zhen, and many thanks for your guidance. I will forever remember these two favors.”

Jiang Chen smiled, “Mu Ge’er, there’s actually no need to be so polite. You also know that I did it for the sake of my bet with your teacher.”

Mu Ge was still as serious and earnest as ever. “It might have been a bet, but I was still the beneficiary of these favors. A drop of water shall be repaid with a welling spring, and a favor needs to be paid back in full. If one day you ever have a need of me, I will answer the call even if I have to go through fire and water.” Mu Ge was clearly an honest man who knew to repay his debts.

Jiang Chen casually waved it off. He didn’t give any thought to having his favor repaid. Instead, he leveled a calm gaze at Elder Feng. What he cared about was Elder Feng’s attitude.

An endless stream of expressions flicked across Elder Feng’s face. In the end, he gave a long sigh. “Well oh well. It seems I’ve grown old and confused, I’d forgotten that the next wave always overtakes the old. Let us just say that you’ve taught this old man a lesson today.” Elder Feng looked at Wei Jie and added, “Young master Jie, go back and tell your esteemed father that I will stand firmly at his side as long as I live, so that we can set House Wei aright once more!”

Wei Jie was delighted. He knew that any one of the four great elders were great heavyweights and men of their word. They would never break their promises. “Many thanks, Elder Feng!”

Elder Feng shook his head with a wry smile. “Why are you thanking me for? I should be the one thanking you. Of course, it’s mostly due to your friend. I take his hat off to him.”

There were good things about stubborn people as well. If they were on the right path, you were assured of their reliability. Jiang Chen’s tone turned modest. “Elder Feng, I was merely playing some petty tricks previously to goad you, rather than intending to disrespect you.”

Elder Feng sighed. “This old man isn’t completely blind yet. How would I fail to notice the obvious tricks of youth? To tell the truth, the old man was also steering along with the current and taking advantage of the situation. I wanted to see what you were really made of. Now, it seems I’ve made an error in judgment. It seems House Leader Tianxiao has a son with a good eye.”

Elder Zhuo shared the same thoughts. He and Elder Feng both hadn’t been persuaded by Wei Tianxiao, but his son accomplished what his father could not. When it came down to it, the potential Wei Jie’d just displayed was far above what Wei Tianxiao had shown back in his youth. Elder Zhuo suddenly noticed Wei Mo still standing dazedly off to one side. The elder smacked him upside the head as he berated, “Why are you still standing dumbly here for? Go back and follow Pill Master Zhen’s instructions.”

“Ah!?” Wei Mo shouted in surprise, his face turning red again.

Wei Jie slung his arm around Wei Mo’s shoulder. “Let’s go, brother. I’ll help you with the search. Our house has many maids, but we still have to be rather picky in our selection. We can’t let these evil female cultivators get one over us!”

Everyone laughed heartily. Wei Jie suddenly thought of something just as he was about to leave and turned to Elder Feng and Elder Zhuo, “Elders, this junior has another request. I hope the matters today can stay behind these doors. We’ll only have our opportunity to strike back at Wei Tiantong at the house meeting in two days. There, we’ll make him expose himself. Only then will we gain evidence of him betraying the house.”

Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng looked at each other, both of them nodding. “That is sensible, let it be so.” Since they had now chosen to stand with Wei Tianxiao, they had to protect their side’s interests.

Jiang Chen didn’t forget to remind them, “Gentlemen, let me tack on a few more words. Wei Tiantong’s evil pill master still has many tricks up his sleeves. If you gentlemen don’t want anything else to happen, you will need to stay on high alert. If we let this fellow succeed with some other shenanigans, the situation might well change yet again.”

Elder Zhuo nodded. Elder Feng also looked pensive.

.....

Jiang Chen released a silent sigh when he returned to his temporary lodgings. House Wei’s situation had been imperceptibly turned around. His next task was to finish his preparations for the pill store.

He’d found the time to train and organize the Regal Pill Palace members during these past few days. He’d decided to organize them in three levels.

Shen Trifire and Rong Zifeng made up the first level. The two of them were going to be the main pill masters in the pill store, especially Shen Trifire with his innate fire constitution. Although he wasn’t as outstanding as Mu Gaoqi, possessing three sources of fire definitely made him a good candidate for pill refining.

Jiang Chen decided to focus on mentoring Shen Trifire. He would be in charge of refining some of the important pills. Shen Trifire wasn’t a fool either. He could tell Jiang Chen intended to train him, so why would he refuse? He’d already been won over by Jiang Chen back in the Regal Pill Palace after their pill contest. Now that he’d experienced Jiang Chen’s pill dao abilities for himself, he was even more willing to bow down to Jiang Chen. He was dead-set on following his senior brother, going as far as suggesting that he take Jiang Chen as his master. However, they both came from the same sect after all. For the sake of the Regal Pill Palace, Jiang Chen couldn’t take him as a disciple. It was more suitable for them to be fellow disciples.

It was fortunate that everyone was a disciple of the Regal Pill Palace. The sect had originally been a sect that had focused on pill dao, so every disciple had a solid foundation to build from. As a result, they all made great strides forward under Jiang Chen’s tutelage. As for the ten saint realm slaves, Jiang Chen wasn’t planning on training them into pill masters. They were outsiders after all. He planned to have them to run daily operations in the pill store and work in the front.

## Chapter 746: Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill

Everything was going all according to Jiang Chen's plan. Two days later, Wei Jie came calling to invite Jiang Chen once more. "Brother Jiang, as expected, Wei Tiantong has sent out a request to hold a family meeting. It will be held this evening. My father has requested your presence at the meeting to ensure that everything goes smoothly, as well as participate in the discussion about the shop."

Jiang Chen knew that this was likely the last time Wei Tianxiao and Wei Tiantong were going to clash against each other. He himself didn't want to skip this meeting. Although Wei Tianxiao's victory was firmly in hand, Jiang Chen wouldn't feel at ease unless he saw this matter through to the end with his own eyes. Wei Tiantong himself might not be able to cause any sort of trouble, but he had that pill master right by his side. That was why Jiang Chen had to be on guard.

Judging from Wei Tiantong's stance, although Jiang Chen still had no idea who the Majestic Clan was, he guessed that Wei Tiantong had sworn loyalty to the Majestic Clan in secret a long time ago. Jiang Chen had seen numerous high level conflicts in his capacity as the son of the celestial emperor in his past life. Even if House Wei was a ninth ranked aristocratic house, even if they were a reputable force in Veluriyam Capital, the act of switching patrons carelessly was absolutely inadvisable. If Jiang Chen wasn't involved in this conflict, he wouldn't have cared either way. However, he was now in the same boat as House Wei, he couldn't possibly just sit by and watch the disaster unfold. Moreover, his cooperation with House Wei would be null and void if Wei Tiantong really did take over House Wei.

Brother Jiang, have you figured what you want to name your pill shop?"

"Taiyuan Tower," Jiang Chen smiled faintly. Taiyuan had been his father's title in his past life and the name had blossomed in his mind at first light. Although he wasn't sure if the Taiyuan worlds and planes in his past life had anything to do with the Divine Abyss Continent, there was no harm in naming a pill shop Taiyuan Tower.

Wei Jie mulled over the name for a moment before praising, "What a good name!"

Jiang Chen smiled. He suddenly recalled something and asked, "Brother Wei, just call me Brother Zhen in the future. We should keep our stories straight. From here on forth in Veluriyam Capital, my name will be Zhen Shi."

Wei Jie was surprised for a second, but quickly felt that it was a sound idea. It was better to use a single appellation. After all, what if he accidentally slipped up one day and used the wrong name?

Jiang Chen hadn't told Huang'er to join him even though he was heading out with Wei Jie. He wasn't willing to involve Huang'er in House Wei's affairs.

"Be careful, Sir Jiang," Huang'er reminded Jiang Chen before he went out. Their thoughts met as they looked and smiled at each other.

.....

Inside the manor, Wei Jie had gone to meet Wei Tianxiao first with Jiang Chen in tow. He also greeted Wei Tianxiao's uncle, Wei Zhi. Wei Zhi was one of the four House Wei elders and Wei Tianxiao's confidante. He was the only one out of the four elders who'd remained absolutely loyal to Wei Tianxiao.

Thanks to Wei Jie's introductions, Jiang Chen also came to know this elder whose eyes were filled with unspoken wisdom.

"Father, great uncle, it would seem that Wei Tiantong is ready to bare his fangs at this family meeting, no?" Wei Jie started the conversation.

Wei Tianxiao nodded slightly and gave Wei Jie and Jiang Chen an appreciative glance, "Jie'er, thank goodness that you and Pill Master Zhen are present, else they might have actually taken me by surprise. With Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng on our side, victory is all but certain."

"House lord, are you sure that Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng will support us?" Wei Zhi still looked a little worried.

Wei Tianxiao cast a glance at Wei Jie and smiled, "Both Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng are not people who make promises easily. If they've given their word, they will definitely not go back on it." He looked at Jiang Chen as he spoke again, "You're not an outsider anymore, Pill Master Zhen. What do you think of Elder Zhen and Elder Feng?"

"I doubt that the two elders will turn against us. In fact, I don't think Wei Tiantong will be much of a threat at all. However, I am worried that the pill master next to Wei Tiantong would cause trouble. He may be able to change the situation if he were to act, so you must be on guard against him, house lord."

Wei Tianxiao's expression froze. In reality, his biggest worry was the same as Jiang Chen's. He was afraid that that evil pill master would be up to no good. House Wei was currently lacking a pill king. They really had no countermeasure for him, making their moves far more difficult and inconvenient. However, Wei Tianxiao's eyes immediately fell on Jiang Chen's face with a hint of expectation, "You must have readied a plan, Pill Master Zhen?"

Jiang Chen smiled and took out a pill bottle, "Young master Jie mentioned that we would be discussing our partnership today, so I've brought some pills with me. These are some pills I've refined called the Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill. It's the gold standard of pills that can prevent its user from being poisoned." n(OvE1B1n

"Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill?" Wei Zhi raised his eyebrows, "I've only heard of the Immortal Elixir Pill, but I've heard tales that all pills of its nature are held up to the Immortal Elixir Pill as a point of comparison. But what is this Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill?"

Wei Tianxiao was also looking curiously at Jiang Chen. It was obvious that he was very interested in this topic.

Jiang Chen smiled confidently at them and looked them in the eye, "Naturally, this Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill is better than the traditional Immortal Elixir Pill. The average Immortal Elixir Pill will only take effect one hour after it has been consumed. However, my Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill will take effect instantly even if it were consumed half a step before the user is poisoned. That is why it is called the Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill."

"You mean it will take effect instantly?" The look in Wei Zhi's eyes sharpened.

"You could say that," Jiang Chen sounded very confident.

“So what are the effects, and how long will it remain effective...” Wei Zhi asked further.

“It has a greater coverage of poisons than the traditional Immortal Elixir Pill, and lasts longer too. The traditional Immortal Elixir Pill lasts for only twelve to fourteen hours, but this Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill lasts for an entire day!”

Even Wei Tianxiao’s expressions changed slightly as Jiang Chen explained its characteristics. A hint of joy appeared in his eyes. He could sniff the scent of a business opportunity from Jiang Chen’s words. If this pill really was as effective as Jiang Chen described, then it was a pill that would utterly annihilate the traditional Immortal Elixir Pill! Although poison prevention pills weren’t the most mainstream pills on sale, they were still very popular. Moreover, while there were plenty of poison prevention pills in Veluriyam Capital’s market, their effects were all mediocre and unimpressive. Poison prevention pills had always been a great problem in the world of pill making, and an especially convincing poison prevention pill had always been difficult to find. The Immortal Elixir Pill was one of the top contenders amongst the lower ranking pills. If this pill really was better than the Immortal Elixir Pill, then the resulting profits would be shocking once it was released into the market!

This business opportunity... once the effects rippled through the market, House Wei would immediately advance in the pill industry from a third-rate faction to a second-rate faction. They might even be able to make a dash to capture a spot as a first-rate faction. When his thoughts travelled to this point, Wei Tianxiao asked in a deep tone, “Pill Master Zhen, if I could inquire about the Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill’s refinement cost, difficulty and refinement period...”

These were all important elements of a pill. Even if the Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill was better than the traditional Immortal Elixir Pill, they wouldn’t be able to earn anything if the cost of production was overly high. If the cost wasn’t high, but the refinement process was either too difficult or too long, the pill’s inability to be mass produced would also mean that it had no market value. A pill had to possess all of the marketable characteristics before a power could use it to dominate the market.

Since they were working with each other, there was no need for Jiang Chen to keep this part of the process vague. He answered smilingly, “The cost would be twenty to thirty percent lower compared to the traditional Immortal Elixir Pill, but it’ll be slightly harder to refine. However, I can help solve that problem.”

Joy appeared in both Wei Tianxiao and Wei Zhi’s eyes when they heard this. They were both worldly people, and both could now smell the business opportunity in this pill.

Wei Jie smiled, “Father, great uncle, Pill Master Zhen has come up with the name for his shop already. It will be called ‘Taiyuan Tower’. All that’s left is to open it.”

“Taiyuan Tower? That’s a good name, a very good name!” Wei Tianxiao applauded with a smile.

Jiang Chen chuckled and poured out a few pills from the bottle, “Everyone, please keep a Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill with you in case the evil pill master tries to do anything during the family meeting.”

Wei Tianxiao and Wei Zhi didn’t turn down his offer. They were also worried about the same thing. When the Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill entered their palm, they noticed that it brimmed with a wondrous aura even though it looked rather small. It definitely looked like it was of a higher quality than

the traditional Immortal Elixir Pill too. Wei Tianxiao and Wei Zhi exchanged glances with each other. They were obviously quite satisfied with the appearance of this pill.

“Young master Jie, give the others to Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng when you welcome them later,” Jiang Chen poured out the rest of the pills and gave it to Wei Jie.

Wei Jie sighed, “We’re using up quite a bit of money with this.”

The traditional Immortal Elixir Pill cost about fifty thousand saint spirit stones or five hundred thousand origin spirit stones. It wasn’t really too expensive. But if this Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill really was better than the traditional Immortal Elixir Pill, then it could easily be sold for sixty to seventy thousand saint spirit stones.

“Alright, it’s almost time. Jie’er, come join your father in welcoming our guests. Third uncle, please accompany Pill Master Zhen.” It was obvious that Wei Tianxiao hadn’t informed Wei Zhi of Jiang Chen’s true identity due to his worry that the latter would let his imagination run wild. The duo began to exchange some small talk.

Fifteen minutes later, the leaders of House Wei entered the room in succession. Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng arrived together into the meeting, but they were not accompanied by anyone else. Wei Tiantong came together with his trusted elders. There were two people who were always standing by Wei Tiantong’s side, the sinister looking pill master and his son Wei Xiu.

Wei Tiantong swept a glance across the room as they entered the hall, stopping his gaze on Jiang Chen. He laughed loudly, “I see that there’s an uninvited guest in this room?” His tone was both arrogant and a little overbearing.

Wei Zhi responded coldly, “It doesn’t look like that person next to you is someone you can bring to a family meeting either, does it?” It was obvious that Wei Zhi was talking about the pill master next to Wei Tiantong.

However, Wei Tiantong laughed leisurely, “Haha, today is a good day to introduce Pill Master Yu to everyone, so I’ve brought him along with me. From today onwards, Pill Master Yu will become House Wei’s guest pill king. With him in residence, he will surely be able to fully display his abilities and bring House Wei to new heights like never before!”

Wei Tiantong was in high spirits as his confident tone rang through the room. He cast a glance at House Lord Wei Tianxiao once before smiling somewhat subtly at both Elder Feng and Elder Zhuo, “You’re early, Elder Zhuo, Elder Feng.”

They both smiled faintly in return. It was obvious that Wei Tiantong thought that the two elders were fully under his thumb, so he didn’t bother chatting further. Instead, he locked his gaze onto Jiang Chen, “House lord, a family meeting is a secret matter. Shouldn’t we send all unrelated personnel away first? House Wei’s doors aren’t opened to just any random strays, you know.”

Any random strays? Wei Jie’s face immediately changed at the comment. Jiang Chen was his savior and the helper he’d personally invited. How dare Wei Tiantong call Jiang Chen a random stray?!

Chapter 747: A Battle Between Pill Kings

"Fifth Uncle, since we're talking about unrelated persons, shouldn't you take a look around yourself first? I don't recall those random strays by your side being allowed to attend a house meeting." Wei Jie's countenance was displeased, and his frosty words pointed directly at Wei Tiantong.

According to the house meeting rules, as the son of the current house lord, Wei Jie was the heir and thus had the right to attend meetings. On the other hand, while Wei Tiantong was second-in-command, he was not technically a candidate for house lord. In the unforeseen event of the house lord's incapacitation, the second-in-command could only take over temporarily before the successor was decided. As such, the second-in-command had no actual claims to the position. Thus, though Wei Tiantong had the right to attend the house meeting as well, one couldn't say the same for his son Wei Xiu.

Despite this, it was customary for Wei Tiantong to flaunt his importance, and he brought his son to every meeting. Because of Wei Tianxiao's lack of opposition, no one else was in a position to criticize him. Under more serious scrutiny and taking into account the current situation, Wei Xiu's presence became a blemish.

"What do you mean by that, Wei Jie? I deserve some credit for inviting Pill Master Yu here. Don't I qualify to be here?" Wei Xiu threw a dirty look at his cousin.

"Inviting Pill Master Yu? Who sent the invitation? I don't remember an invitation from the lord of the house to any such person," Wei Jie smiled faintly.

When it came to bickering, Wei Xiu was no match for Wei Jie. Wei Tiantong's face darkened, and he looked straight at Wei Tianxiao. "House lord, I only invited Pill Master Yu out of the desire to contribute to the house. Surely he shouldn't feel unwelcome and unwanted? In recent years, our lackluster performance in the arena of pills has wholly failed to live up to our title as a ninth-ranked aristocratic house. I almost become mad with worry whenever I dare think about it. My acts are for the good of us all, should I be shamed because of it?" *no vE/lb-In*

The speech both appealed to the listeners and attacked Wei Tianxiao's lack of ability. It implied that he was to blame for the poor performance of House Wei's pill business and bringing shame to its good name.

"Ole Fifth, why not take a seat first? You've always liked to raise a clamor. Acting so high and mighty already, who knows how overbearing you'll become when things are settled?" Wei Tianxiao's voice was disinterested, taking the insult in stride.

"House lord, I'm not being high and mighty. How can I help it if House Wei's pill business is doing poorly? Rather, I think I am doing a big favor for the house." Wei Tiantong chuckled, squarely sitting down on his seat with a flourish. Wei Xiu laughed mockingly before finding a place to sit down behind Wei Tiantong, well aware of his place. He looked towards Jiang Chen immediately after he sat down, clearing wanting to stir up more trouble.

Wei Zhi saw through the young man's intent at once, and coldly intervened. "Cut the chatter. Pill Master Zhen here is a pill king that both the house lord and young master Jie have invited. We were just about to discuss pill-related affairs with him. It is your own fault that you arrived late. The plans that Pill



Master Zhen drafted just now were quite enticing, and I have full confidence in his ability to bring House Wei's pill business back into the spotlight of Farmer God Market."

A pill master? Wei Tiantong was stunned. The presence of this new pill master was an unexpected twist to his plans. But when he recalled Pill Master Yu's abilities, he settled back into his chair with a sneer. "Pill Master Zhen? Where is he from? He looks quite unfamiliar. Is there someone like this in Veluriyam Capital?" Wei Tiantong deliberately spoke with exaggerated surprise.

"I haven't heard of him either, surely he can't be a common mountebank?" Wei Xiu's head shaking performance surpassed his father's in hyperbole.

Wei Tiantong's elder confidante piped up as well. "Elder Zhi, at your age, you shouldn't be tricked by a charlatan. If pill kings were really this easy to find, House Wei wouldn't have spent so many years ..."

"If you're not old enough to go senile, how could I old enough to be tricked? So you're allowed to invite a so-called pill master, but we're not permitted to petition a bonafide pill king?" Wei Zhi interrupted coldly.

"Really, a real pill king? We should all take a close look. Pill Master Yu, they think that we're the counterfeits, and that he's the real thing," Wei Tiantong roared with laughter.

"Everyone knows how to brag," Pill Master Yu was expressionless as he responded distantly.

Not wanting to waste time on argument or spare Pill Master Yu even one look, Jiang Chen smiled to Wei Tianxiao. "Sir house lord, let's get to the main topic."

"Yes, we shall proceed without further ado. Everyone, please take a seat," Wei Tianxiao nodded, his smile broadening.

Wei Tiantong was upset at being ignored, but he knew that he could overlook the slight. The first thing he did after taking his seat was glance seemingly carelessly in Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng's direction. The two elders in question kept their heads down. There was hardly any response to his gaze. What, are these two old coots playing at being honorable? When the moment comes, they'll still have to side with me. Hiding a sneer, Wei Tiantong cursed silently to himself.

In truth, Wei Tiantong found both Elder Zhuo and Feng quite grating. He retained some courtesy with them only because they were still useful. When he fully grasped the reins of power in the house, he would discard them at the first opportunity. What was the point of keeping them around if they weren't fully obedient?

With everyone seated, Wei Tianxiao knocked lightly on the long meeting table. "As Elder Zhi has mentioned already, we invited Pill Master Zhen today because he desires to collaborate with us. Pill Master Zhen is a second rank pill king with a lot of potential. It is excellent news for our House Wei."

"Second rank pill king? Forgive my bluntness house lord, but is a second rank pill king really suitable for House Wei?" Wei Tiantong's expression grew solemn.

In the Upper Eight Regions, a second rank pill king was only fit to work for a third- or fourth-rate sect. As a ninth-ranked house, House Wei surpassed the typical third-rate sect in many aspects, and matched

select second-rate sects in some. In terms of requirements, House Wei demanded at least a mid-tier pill king. Fourth rank was the lowest they would go.

"Ole Fifth, your words are quite big. House Wei hasn't had even a single pill king in many years. Now that we have the opportunity with Pill King Zhen, you want to act contrary?" Wei Zhi was displeased.

"Being contrary? Hardly. Pill Master Yu behind me is a fourth rank pill king. You want to hire a second rank while a fourth rank is available ... do you want people to make fun of us?" Wei Tiantong laughed.

A fourth rank pill king? All present were shocked, their eyes widening with amazement. No one had expected Wei Tiantong to enlist such capable help, Wei Tianxiao included. A fourth rank pill king ...!

Even Wei Jie was a little startled, concentration plain on his face. He couldn't help but glance at Jiang Chen, but the latter's expression was still as cool as ever. There was no hint of surprise on his face. Wei Jie's worries instantly disappeared. So what if he was a fourth rank pill king? Hadn't Jiang Chen already countered Pill Master Yu's techniques one by one? A contest between pill kings didn't merely comprise of a comparison of rank. Jiang Chen's skills were miraculous enough to go toe to toe with sixth rank pill kings, much less a fourth rank one.

"There's no need to elaborate on the difference between a fourth rank and second rank pill king, I think? It's pure irresponsibility for everyone to choose a second rank pill king and neglect a fourth rank! Elder Zhuo, Elder Feng, what do you say?" Wei Tiantong's confidante grinned. Obviously, the gesture was to force Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng to voice their opinion. Wei Tiantong smiled slightly at Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng as well.

"In theory, a fourth rank pill king does surpass a second rank in level. However, a contest must be held to determine relative strength when it comes to pill dao." Elder Zhuo was expressionless.

Wei Tiantong wasn't particularly satisfied with the reply. He had hoped for a clearer show of support from both elders. He also knew however, that the old man enjoyed maintaining a good reputation, and was thus unsurprised. The only thing I really need their support for is the matter of the Farmer God Market store. Them not taking Wei Tianxiao's side is enough when it comes to these smaller matters. Wei Tiantong sneered silently to himself.

"Pill King Yu, it seems that not everyone here believes in your abilities. May I suggest that you make a show of them?" Wei Xiu suddenly interrupted behind Wei Tiantong.

Pill Master Yu smiled coolly, directing a frigid stare at Jiang Chen. "Would you be up to play a round?" Disdain oozed from both his eyes and voice, mixed with a few degrees of provocation as well.

"Playing around with you is a little unbecoming of me, but since everyone is so interested in the result, I guess it's not a problem stooping to your level for once," Jiang Chen returned a casual smile.

Stooping to your level? The people on Wei Tiantong's side were exasperated to the point of spitting out blood. How could a second rank pill king with unverified authenticity be so audacious? So pretentious in front of a fourth rank pill king?!

Pill Master Yu's eyes narrowed briefly, like a venomous snake. He sneered, "A trick like that is child's play. Are you trying to anger me? How naive."

"Anger you?" Jiang Chen burst into laughter. "Aren't you thinking too highly yourself? Are the likes of you worthy enough for me to actively try to anger?"

Pill Master Yu was truly aggravated now. His face darkened in displeasure. Wei Xiu interjected heatedly. "Kid, disregarding whether you're actually a pill king, do you not understand the rules? A second rank pill king is a junior before a fourth rank. How can you talk like that to your senior?!"

Jiang Chen laughed in spite of himself, but didn't spare Wei Xiu a glance. "A fellow who doesn't even have the right to attend a house meeting is speaking so shamelessly... what a curious affair."

Wei Xiu's face froze, and he almost toppled from his seat. Wei Tiantong harrumphed, "Kid, your eloquence doesn't matter here. To stand with House Wei, you need to have some genuine skill. If you don't, I'd advise you to leave as early as possible."

Pushing against the foot of a table with his own, Jiang Chen slid his chair backwards. Arms crossed, he looked leisurely at Pill Master Yu, "Why don't you come up with how we're going to play?"

His extreme arrogance was enough to provoke even the shrewdest of persons, Pill Master Yu among them. If not for Wei Tiantong's message to stay calm, he almost wanted to explode right then and there. His gaze affixed to Jiang Chen, Pill Master Yu cackled, "Kid, I'm not going to make this complicated. Let us set up a trap for each other, and see which of us can last past fifteen minutes in the other's. How about it?"

Hearing that, Jiang Chen immediately understood that his counterpart wanted to compete with poison. Poison? Jiang Chen almost laughed out loud. He would've been unsure of how much real knowledge his opponent had in anything else, but he was utterly confident when it came to poison. Jiang Chen was immune to all toxins after incorporating the golden cicada bloodline into his blood. What could he possibly be afraid of?

Chapter 748: A Game of Life and Death

"House lord, does Pill Master Zhen dare to play this game? You invited him, after all. The stakes are life and death. I hope they're not too high, hmm?" Wei Tiantong smiled, his tone layered with a false kindness.

Wei Tianxiao snuck a glance at Jiang Chen, who nodded imperceptibly. Emboldened by the gesture, he laughed. "Ole Fifth, it is I who should say that to you."

"There are never any stakes too high for me." Wei Tiantong chuckled. "Pill King Yu, my reputation hangs on your shoulders today."

Smiling faintly, Pill Master Yu flicked a glance at Jiang Chen with some vehemence. "Kid, this place is too cramped. There's no room for us to show off our abilities without hurting the others here. How about we find an open space?" Pill Master Yu jerked his head towards Jiang Chen in challenge.

Standing up slowly, Jiang Chen headed outside.

"Come on everyone, let's go watch." Wei Tianxiao took the lead, ambling after him with an easy smile.

Wei Tiantong was amused at his brother's feigned calm, and looked at him scornfully. Wei Tianxiao, you really don't come around until you hit a dead end. You may be pleased now, but you'll soon be

miserable! Thinking that he had definitely gotten the best of Wei Tianxiao, Wei Tiantong didn't wish to lose in posturing and clapped. "Let us spectate the proceedings. It would be a shame not to."

The House Wei courtyard was quite spacious. Pill Master Yu and Jiang Chen separated and occupied the east and west sides respectively.

"Kid, can you finish your arrangements in ten breaths? If you can't, you better say so now so I can let you off easy." The pill master raised his gaunt eyebrows, his tone growing sinister.

Jiang Chen scoffed. "Ten breaths? Do you work at a snail's pace? If you can't get it done in three breaths, you should boot yourself out of here. Needing ten breaths and claiming to be a pill king... I am quite suspicious of your actual qualifications."

The people on Wei Tianxiao's side laughed uproariously at those words. Pill Master Yu had been handedly repelled, but his anger masked his very real caution. Three breaths? Was this kid all brag and bluster, or did he have real knowledge and skill? He hesitated a little, despite the heat of the moment.

On the other hand, Jiang Chen was impassive about the entire affair. "Excuse me, can one of you declare the start of the competition? Who's going to keep time?"

Elder Feng suddenly intoned. "I shall."

Being a neutral elder in name, Elder Feng's oversight of the situation was agreeable to both parties. "Are you prepared? Then, begin!" The elder's words were certainly clear-cut.

Though a breath of time in the world of martial dao differed from the time of the breath of an ordinary person, three breaths was still a remarkably short time. Foreseeing that there would be a fierce battle today, Jiang Chen had made a few preparations before setting out. At Elder Feng's signal, Jiang Chen swiftly and expertly deployed a small formation into the surroundings. His quick movements showed off the significant extent of his improvement in the art of formations, and he set at least four poisons into the formation.

One was the Divine Tree of Dreams, pacifying and sedating all those exposed to it. Next was Spirit Restraint Powder, which he had snatched from the hands of Wei Qing of the Walkabout Sect within the Myriad Domain. It had played a significant role in dealing with Gong Wuji and his company. Yet another was a type of poison that Jiang Chen had mixed himself. Though it was not particularly strong, it was the most evident. Jiang Chen planned for it to be the one that deceived his opponent. The last and deadliest was a toxin Jiang Chen had derived from the Divine Befuddlement Miasma. It was hidden within the formation as the finishing blow. All but the most masterful pill kings would easily miss it.

Incorporating both clear and hidden elements, the fourfold poison formation was four separate layers of insurance. It was quite clever. And yet, Jiang Chen had accomplished it easily within three breaths.

Comparatively, Pill Master Yu was in somewhat of a rush. He had proposed ten breaths because he felt that he was already quite fast, and wanted to use the time frame to try and trip up Jiang Chen by rushing him. Unexpectedly however, it'd turned out to be a snare for himself instead. His setup could be considered only satisfactory after three breaths of time.

Jiang Chen was in no hurry and smiled merrily. "Pill Master Yu, it seems that you have not yet mastered your skills. Three breaths may be too hard for you. Shall I give you a handicap of seven more? That way, you can have some more time to prepare so that you are not sore when you lose."

Though Pill Master Yu wanted to take him up on the proposition, he was unwilling to lose face in front of so many people, and harrumphed. "Kid, the only thing you have to your credit is your glib tongue. I hope you're still able to laugh in a bit."

As he said this, he left his own arrangements and began to walk towards Jiang Chen's formation. Not missing a step, Jiang Chen did the same.

"Good, now, please enter your opponent's trap. The countdown ... begins!" Elder Feng bellowed.

Sneering, Pill Master Yu strode confidently into Jiang Chen's predetermined area. However, his gaze was not on Jiang Chen's trap, but on his own. He was quite confident in his own arrangements. Upon entry, not even a sixth rank pill king would last a quarter hour, much less a second rank one. Seeing Jiang Chen step so casually into his trap, Pill Master Yu let the hint of a malicious smile peek out. Kid, you ignored the easy way out. You just had to bring yourself to ruin. Let's see how stubborn you are in a bit! I won't remove the poison even if you beg on your knees, heh heh... I'll see you ravaged by the poison until you die a slow and agonizing demise. It will truly be a marvelous scene... Pill Master Yu's heart was filled with an indescribable happiness as he fantasized about that cruel outcome.

For a master of poisons, to have an enemy wail beneath one's feet in their death throes was simultaneously the highest reward and the greatest fulfillment. He spent some time leering in his daydreams before remembering he was also present in his opponent's trap, and spared it a casual look. A young second rank pill king, possibly not even a real one... what kind of wondrous trap could his opponent set? He didn't believe it at all. It's still a thousand years too early for you to trick me!

As a master of poisons, Pill Master Yu was consequently also an expert of antidotes. He held no regard for ordinary poison setups, and had even experienced some extraordinary ones in his time, so he did not lack appropriate stratagems. He was unafraid of spending even several hours in something like this, much less fifteen minutes.

"Hmm? This looks like a formation." Pill Master Yu scrutinized it carefully, his heart reeling a little. "It seems that kid has a few tricks up his sleeve. Hmph, is he shaming himself by bringing out such an obvious poison formation? And another, Spirit Restraint Powder?... Haha, it may be rare, but such a poison cannot stop me!" He'd already discovered two poison setups. "Someone who can set up something like this in only three breaths isn't just for show. I shouldn't be too complacent, perhaps he has hidden other poisons within this."

Experiencing Jiang Chen's abilities firsthand, Pill Master Yu no longer underestimated the young man. He began to closely inspect his surroundings. Though he was confident, he did not feel the need to be blind with arrogance. It was his life's creed. He could boast a perceptive certainty, but without unseeing hubris.

Suddenly, sighs of marvel came from the crowd. Startled, Pill Master Yu looked across the courtyard. He sneered faintly when a familiar sight greeted his eyes. His opponent had already sat down cross-legged within his trap. I thought the kid was actually skilled, but I guess that wasn't true after all. Is he already

failing to hold on? Fifteen minutes... he'll be lucky if he can last half that time! Sitting like that to seal off his qi ocean and consciousness to avoid the poison... something like that is too late already! If not for care of his own situation, Pill Master Yu was almost ready to thoroughly admire his opponent's pathetic state within his poison trap. It would be excellent entertainment.

On the outside, both Wei Tianxiao's and Wei Zhi's expressions froze. From what they could see of the situation, the person in their corner seemed to be at a disadvantage. Jiang Chen was already sitting down cross-legged, and looked like he was in full defense. However, the opposing Pill Master Yu was free to peruse the condition of his opponent. The comparison of skills seemed obvious.

Wei Tiantong was pleased by the turn of events, especially with the gradual replacement of Wei Tianxiao and Wei Zhi's confident smiles with expressions of shock. He had the impulse to throw his head back and laugh. "House lord, the second rank pill king you invited looks to be a sham, huh? Is he giving up this quickly? That's just embarrassing." Picking at the opportunity, Wei Tiantong smiled with contempt and ridicule.

"Just like I said, he's just a common mountebank. And you didn't believe me! How right I was." Wei Xiu laughed with a similar pleasure and then turned to Wei Jie with a lecturing tone. "Younger brother Jie, look at you, fraternizing with these knaves all the time. I don't mean to be patronizing, but I am truly worried about this less-than-upstanding behaviour of yours!"

Wei Jie was about to throw up. "House brother Xiu, have you already single-handedly declared victory? The fifteen minutes are not up yet, but you're in such a hurry. Those who aren't in the know would think you're just a scion from a minor house, inexperienced in the matters of the world!"

Wei Xiu's face colored. "Why don't you keep trying to beat your head against the wall; you'll get a reality check soon enough!"

Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng glanced at each other. Given the circumstances, even they thought that the contest was already over. Pill King Zhen was quite skilled, but perhaps the pill king Wei Tiantong had hired was still one step ahead.

Pill Master Yu's expression suddenly changed. He stared into the middle of the formation, his eyebrows slightly upturned, like he'd discovered something new. In fact, he had just found the third poison setup. The tasteless, scentless Divine Tree of Dreams. Though he didn't know precisely what poison it was, he immediately felt the soporific effect it had. His eyelids fluttered together, and his mind was assaulted by a wave of fatigue.

Pill Master Yu took out several pills of refreshment and swallowed them rapidly before he managed to suppress the hypnotic effect of the poison. His forehead beaded with cold sweat. "What a horrifying poison! This kid has more than a few devious tricks up his sleeve! Good thing I didn't miss it!" Mentally rejoicing, he looked across the courtyard again. A silent Jiang Chen was seated there, statuesque and unmoving. It looked like the youth had lost all vital signs!

Chapter 749: Sudden Turnabout

Pill Master Yu was secretly full of glee when he noticed the state his opponent was in. He'd deployed several layers of poisons there. He hadn't been completely thorough because he'd been short on time, but the blend of all the various poisons would have an even stronger and more immediate

consciousness-sealing effect. It would destroy a man's consciousness as soon as it penetrated inside, making him living dead!

Judging from the situation over there, could his opponent have failed to spot even a consciousness-assaulting poison like this? Pill Master Yu couldn't stop himself from silently shouting in glee. Poisons striking at the consciousness were usually easy to spot, because pill masters usually had a very keen consciousness. However, by the looks of it, his opponent had clearly failed to notice it. His consciousness seemed to have been sealed already! Hence, Pill Master Yu was simply overflowing with pride. The allotted time of fifteen minutes was also about to end!

Just when Pill Master Yu was strutting with assurance, a warning sign suddenly came from consciousness. What's going on? Pill Master Yu's heart quailed. Why had his consciousness suddenly produced a warning for no rhyme or reason? He hurried to check, then almost leapt upwards.

Ominous clouds had unexpectedly appeared some time around his consciousness, like thick, black clouds darkening the sky before a rainy day. Pill Master Yu was almost frightened out of his wits. He'd still been proud and complacent just moments ago. He'd thought his opponent so weak to fail to even notice the consciousness-assaulting poison. He'd then discovered the following instant that his own mind had been imperceptibly surrounded by dark clouds! On top of that, the power of this encirclement was surprisingly dreadful. It even seemed it could devour and annihilate his consciousness at any time!

No! Pill Master Yu finally felt a glimmer of fear.

Just then, Elder Feng proclaimed the end of the allotted quarter of an hour. As though a great weight had been lifted off his shoulders, Pill Master Yu leapt outside the formation.

Wei Jie laughed heartily. "Pill Master Yu, does that mean you're conceding defeat?"

Pill Master Yu snapped, "Concede defeat? Let's first see if he's still alive!"

Everyone froze. What did that mean? Did Pill Master Yu mean that his opponent was already dead? He sat down cross-legged without expounding and tried a variety of methods to blockade his consciousness and defend himself against the invasion of these dark clouds. Only, no matter what he did, the invasion of the dark clouds still pushed inexorably on forward after a slight delay. Pill Master Yu sprang violently to his feet and went inside the formation he'd arranged.

Wei Jie yelled, "Pill Master Yu, you're breaking the rules!"

Pill Master Yu didn't have time to spare in wasting words. He walked towards Jiang Cheng. He wanted to locate the antidote on Jiang Chen. His opponent had already become the living dead, so wasn't he allowed to do as he pleased?

Just as Pill Master Yu drew near, Jiang Chen suddenly opened his eyes and stretched lazily, standing up slowly with an exaggerated yawn. He had an apologetic expression on his face, "My bad, how long has it been? I accidentally fell asleep. It was actually a pleasant nap." He nodded at Pill Master Yu with a faint smile. "Pill Master Yu, did you even set up anything? Why didn't I feel any danger? It made me nap instead."

Everyone almost fell to the floor with shock. No one was a fool. Everyone could see Jiang Chen was only dissembling. He was simply purposefully smacking Pill Master Yu on the face! Weren't you well

prepared? Weren't you going to send your opponent to the afterlife? And now look, your opponent's perfectly fine and dandy, he didn't even lose half a hair, and he also had a good nap!

Pill Master Yu swayed on his feet and almost fainted from anger. Wei Tiantong and his son were even more dumbstruck. Proud and complacent as they had previously been, they hadn't even had time to retract their smiles before countless slaps rained down on their faces in this extreme turnaround. The duo had been sprouting "counterfeit" and "swindler" just moments ago. In the end, Pill Master Yu was the one who looked more like a counterfeit, more like a swindler!

Wei Tiantong was utterly astonished. He saw Pill Master Yu pounce on Jiang Chen and was secretly taken aback, you wouldn't be losing your cool so easily, would you? You can't fly into such a rage even if you lost the contest! "Pill Master Yu, please stop now!" Wei Tiantong yelled in hurry. One had to look at the bigger picture. Wei Tiantong very much wanted to choke the sudden appearance of this so-called Pill Master Zhen to death. But reason told him that were he to fall out with Wei Tianxiao now, the things he'd schemed might all become as fleeting as clouds if by any chance Wei Tianxiao were to kill Pill Master Yu out of anger.

"Pill Master Yu, keep the bigger picture in mind!" That clan elder who was Wei Tiantong's confidant also shouted, "Even if we lose this round, we merely need to bet another few rounds. How could a fourth rank pill king lose to a second rank pill king?"

Pill Master Yu would never lose reason so badly in ordinary times, but it was currently a matter of life and death for him! If he couldn't get his hands on the antidote, then he would be met with an untimely death the moment the dark clouds penetrated his consciousness. How could he still keep his composure when he thought of that? What would he still care about the bigger picture? No bigger picture was worth his own life!

Jiang Chen didn't show any fear when he saw Pill Master Yu pounce on him. Pill Master Yu's martial cultivation was merely at the earth sage realm. Although he hadn't broken through the earth sage realm yet, with the number of sky sages he'd already contended against, what did he have to fear from a mere earth sage?

Besides, Jiang Chen could tell that Pill Master Yu's talent in martial cultivation was far below his talent with poisons. Without the assistance of his poisons, there was no need to fear him at all. Jiang Chen had at least seven or eight methods available if he wanted to kill Pill Master Yu right now. Only, the time for his opponent to die was already drawing near. What did he need to take action himself for?

The more he used his internal energy like this, the faster the toxicity of the Divine Befuddlement Miasma would flare, and the quicker he would die. Back then in Infant Shriek, even a powerhouse at the fourth level emperor realm like Gong Wuji couldn't bear the Miasma's toxicity, to say nothing of a trivial Pill Master Yu. Jiang Chen had gathered a great amount of poison from the Miasma in Infant Shriek. The toxicity might not have been as overwhelming nor as thick and omnipresent, but it was more than enough to deal with one pill master inside the formation.

Wei Tiantong also vaguely felt that something was out of place when he saw Pill Master Yu rampage like an enraged tiger. He hastily stepped up and clamped onto Pill Master Yu's wrist. "Pill Master Yu, please calm down." Wei Tiantong's plans still required Pill Master Yu's assistance. How could he let the pill master continue to run wild?



Pill Master Yu was belching fire from his eyes. "Calm your f\*cking ass! Wei Tiantong, if it weren't for all your f\*cking complicated chickenshits, I'd have poisoned everyone in your house already. Why would we be here today?" He swore like a sailor, looking like he'd gone insane.

Wei Tiantong was struck dumb. He'd never have imagined how someone usually rather calm would act so crazed all of a sudden. Had the fellow been hit by some poison that'd made him lose his mind? Wei Tiantong berated him with a frown, "Pill Master Yu, what insane nonsense are you sprouting? Shut the hell up!"

Pill Master Yu swore even more viciously: "Wei Tiantong, you coward! I'd have stuck to my own plans if I'd known beforehand. It's my rotten luck to partner with useless trash like you!" He then fixed Jiang Chen with a ferocious stare, "You, Zhen, I don't care where a pill king like you comes from, just know your place and hand over the antidote! There won't be a slightest foothold left for you inside Veluryiam Capital otherwise!"

What? Antidote? The crowd finally faintly understood another implication from these words. Could Pill Master Yu have already fallen victim to Pill King Zhen's poison? Had he unwittingly fallen into a trap? What on earth was going on? Even Wei Tianxiao felt incredulous. This turnaround had come too fast. It was simply a great, wild and unrestrained ride up and down.

Pill Master Yu had previously been free and easy, as though he could wield the butcher's knife even blindfolded, while Pill King Zhen had been sitting cross-legged and not making a sound, leading everyone to believe he'd already succumbed to the poison and died. But in the end, Pill Master Yu was the one poisoned and was now raving like a madman, while the previously quiet Pill King Zhen hadn't lost a single hair and had even enjoyed a very pleasant nap instead!

Now that things came to such a head, even the most dim-witted person could tell that Pill Master Yu's skills were far worse compared to Pill King Zhen. What fourth rank pill king? He was simply a charlatan with a false reputation! How could a fourth rank pill king be so weak? But how would they know that this Pill Master Yu was no charlatan at all. Rather, he'd met too fearsome an opponent, an existence far above a second rank pill king. Even a high-level pill king might not be a match for this "Pill King Zhen" when it came to pills!

Wei Jie was suddenly delighted. He shared a look with his father Wei Tianxiao. Both of them could see the gratification in each other's eyes. They'd wagered on the right person in gambling on Jiang Chen!

Wei Tiantong stared at Jiang Chen with a frown, "Pill King Zhen, this is a mere learning exchange. You won due to a fluke, and you better hand over the antidote now."

"Indeed, how about a couple more rounds if you're so sure of your skill?" Wei Xiu also chimed in.

Jiang Chen smiled in contempt. This father and son duo was really quite naive. Hand over the antidote? Why would he ever? "Both of you are laymen, so don't speak in your ignorance. Contests between poison masters are all struggles of life and death. If this pill master you invited had defeated my humble self, I would never have begged for pity." Jiang Chen's smile was faint, but his expression was unyielding. You want the antidote? Dream on!

Pill Master Yu shrugged off Wei Tiantong's arm when he heard this, "Wei Tiantong, why are you still foolishly standing there? Hurry up and grab this kid! Force him to cough up the antidote! You know the consequences if I die!"

Wei Tiantong humphed coldly at this naked threat right to his face, yet he was caught between a rock and a hard place. This Pill Master Yu was indeed a mole sent by the Majestic Clan. It would be hard for Wei Tiantong to gain control of the house without powerful backing. So he'd wanted to borrow this opportunity and switch his allegiance. He believed that the Coiling Dragon Clan, the great clan that House Wei relied on, had already lost its glories of yesteryear. The Majestic Clan would supplant it sooner or later as the premier great clan. If he could obtain the position of house lord and switch to the Majestic Clan's banner in one go, that would be killing two birds with one stone.

That was the only reason why he'd hit it off from the beginning with Pill Master Yu and made so many plans. He'd never imagined that Pill Master Yu's life would hang by a thread because of a trivial contest. This threw all his plans out the window without a doubt.

One had to remember, he was grasping Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng by the throat, and only Pill Master Yu could solve their problems. It was a given that these two elders would fall out with him as soon as Pill Master Yu died. Why would they still stand by his side then? An ominous expression dawned glinted on Wei Tiantong's face as he pounced on Jiang Chen.

#### Chapter 750: The Coming of The End

Wei Tianxiao had been prepared since the beginning, so he immediately waved a hand and forced Wei Tiantong out of the way almost the instant Wei Tiantong began to move. Wei Tiantong might be strong, but he was still a ways away from House Lord Wei Tianxiao. Wei Tianxiao wasn't particularly good at managing the house, but he had been able to become House Wei's lord because of his strong achievements in martial dao and potential. He was currently eighth level emperor realm and the undisputable strongest cultivator in the entirety of House Wei. In fact, he was amongst the top three strongest cultivators out of all the ninth ranked aristocratic houses in Veluriyam Capital! Wei Tiantong attacked several times, but Wei Tianxiao easily blocked all of his attempts.

"What do you mean by this, house lord?" Wei Tiantong frowned.

Wei Tianxiao replied coldly, "I'm the one who should be asking you this question. Why are you getting involved in the battle between two pill masters?" He was a house lord after all, and not lacking in authority as a house lord when he grew angry.

Wei Tiantong responded furiously, "He has already won the battle, so he should end things on a gracious note. But why isn't he giving his opponent the antidote? Is he going to take his opponent's life just because he won?"

"Don't gamble if you can't afford the consequences. It's not like Pill King Zhen was the one who started things. If memory serves, it was your Pill Master Yu who started things, no?" Wei Tianxiao's tone was indifferent. He wasn't normally forceful, but they were practically an inch away from shedding all pretense of cordiality at the moment. Not only had that Pill Master Yu turned hostile against Yu Tiantong just now, he'd even sworn to poison every House Wei member. How could they possibly conclude matters amiably?

Wei Tiantong gnashed his teeth and looked at Elder Zhuo and Feng, "Elders, Wei Tianxiao is abusing his status as house lord and ruling by hegemony here! As elders of the house, you should speak for justice!" Wei Tiantong had to mobilize all his forces to attack Wei Tianxiao at this point, or the situation would become very disadvantageous to him.

Elder Zhuo smiled indifferently, "I don't think there's anything wrong with this gamble, so what justice exactly are you expecting us to speak of? That being said, I do have a few words to offer on behalf of justice."

"What?" Wei Tiantong looked startled.

"If you don't do stupid things, they won't come back to bite you in the ass," Elder Zhuo's tone was indifferent.

Elder Feng also nodded, "That's right. If your Pill Master Yu hadn't called for this gamble himself, there wouldn't have been this bet and none of this would have happened in the first place. He's the one who insisted on doing stupid things, Tiantong!"

The two elders' attitude was such that Wei Tiantong almost thought that something was wrong with his ears. Wei Xiu couldn't help but remind them, "Elders, are you... mistaken about something? Pill Master Yu is the cure to your... troubles."

Pill Master Yu was also staring coldly at Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng while smiling malevolently, "Are you going back on your promises, you old bastards? I guess you don't want to save your juniors anymore."

Wei Tiantong's trusted elder also persuaded, "Elder Zhuo, Elder Feng, you need to clearly state your positions at this time. Don't make a mistake by taking a stand on the wrong side."

"Hmph! Wei Tiantong, I thought what we agreed on earlier was about the Farmer God Street's shop, wasn't it? Are we talking about the Farmer God Street now?" Elder Zhuo sneered and retorted.

Wei Tiantong nearly broke out into a swearing rant, but he forcefully restrained his anger, "If Pill Master Yu dies from poison, then all the promises are for naught. He is the cure to your juniors' ailments. If you don't save him now, are you going to wait until he's dead and bury your juniors with him as well?"

Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng wouldn't have been that furious if he hadn't brought up the matter, but he had. It was Elder Feng who immediately broke out into a swearing rant, "Wei Tiantong, you're the one who invited enemies into our family! How dare you say that he's some 'cure to our troubles? Why didn't you bring up the fact that he's the source of our ailments too?"

The moment he said this, Wei Tiantong and that Pill Master Yu's expression changed slightly. Wei Tiantong denied the accusation, "I have no idea what you're talking about. What source?"

Elder Feng hectored angrily, "Cut the act already. This Yu bastard is the cause of everything. Elder Zhuo's grandson and my disciple were both poisoned by him! How dare the two of you then pretend to be the good guy! How dare you put on this front to recruit us two old men! Wei Tiantong, you're a good traitor alright! Look at this scheme of yours! We were completely led about by the nose!"

Wei Tiantong was completely dumbfounded by this turn of events. How had the two old bastards managed to figure out such a well hidden secret? No wonder they ignored all of his gestures even though he'd been constantly sending them signals earlier!

Pill Master Yu understood that the truth had been exposed, so he decided that he might as well drop all pretenses and screamed at Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng, "What are you old bastards waiting for then? Your juniors will be dead for sure without my unique skills to save them! If you're smart, then take down this pretender now and loot his antidote. If you present the antidote to me obediently, then maybe I can consider forgiving you two..."

Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng exchanged a glance with each other. They both thought that this fellow had gone crazy. Wei Jie even sneered, "Stop dreaming, Yu. Pill Master Zhen already took care of your little tricks a few days ago."

"What?" Pill Master Yu and Wei Tiantong turned pale at the same time. The duo exchanged a glance and saw countless complicated feelings in each other's eyes. Wei Tiantong particularly, felt that the world was spinning beneath him. Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng's betrayal meant that his schemes had completely fallen through today! His ambitions to seize the seat of house lord from Wei Tianxiao was completely and utterly trashed!

Wei Tianxiao didn't miss the opportunity to hector, "Wei Tiantong, you and your son have colluded with the Majestic Clan and attempted to break the house apart! Your sins are unforgivable!"

The moment he said this, both father and son, as well as Wei Tiantong's trusted elder all looked panic-stricken. The other three great elders, Wei Zhi, Wei Zhuo and Wei Feng, all immediately encircled the scene. Wei Tianxiao waved his hand and summoned his personal bodyguards from all directions. They immediately sealed off all of the exits. Wei Jie and Jiang Chen themselves had retreated to the back leisurely. At this point, juniors like them no longer needed to interfere with the matter.

Wei Tiantong's face became distorted in face of the downward spiralling situation. The violent look of a trapped beast sprung to his face, and he stared coldly at Elder Zhuo and Elder Feng, "How dare you two old bastards play me like a fool! Don't blame me for being merciless then!" He threw a glance at Pill Master Yu after this. The latter laughed malevolently and exclaimed in a soft tone, "Should've done this from the start!"

He made a hand gesture as he said this and instantly caused the greenery around the backyard to explode. A formation immediately enveloped the entire area. The moment the formation came alive, all sorts of poison formations activated as well and suffused the air in white smoke.

"Wei Tianxiao, you're the one who forced me to this!" Wei Tiantong roared madly with eyes filled with malevolence. His tone indicated his madness. "You are the house lord, but not only have you failed to lead the house forwards, you've cause it to grow weaker day by day! As the house lord, you don't know how to be flexible. There's no way we'll have a bright future following a dying power like the Coiling Dragon Clan! The Majestic Clan will become the true premier clan in Veluriyam Capital in the future! Wei Tianxiao, your blind loyalty is outdated! Tell me, in what other aspects are you better than me? You're only slightly better than me in martial dao, so why should you be the house lord and I just the next-in-line?"

Wei Tiantong was almost shouting when he said these words. It was as if he was trying vent all of the frustrations he had pent up for hundreds of years. In the end, he even sounded like he was forcing out his words through gritted teeth. "From today onwards, I, Wei Tiantong will be the lord of House Wei. I won't kill you, Wei Tianxiao. I will disable you, imprison you and make you watch me, Wei Tiantong, lead House Wei into a brighter future than today! That's because I will always be better than you!"

Smoke was everywhere inside the poison formation. Wei Tianxiao and his men kept trying to break out of the encirclement and avoid the seeping poison attacks. Wei Tiantong immediately broke into a string of crazed laughter when he saw this, "Don't waste your time, Wei Tianxiao. This poison formation contains the essence of Pill Master Yu's knowledge that he spent his entire life accumulating. Its poison isn't something that the lot of you can endure unless you've taken the antidote like I did beforehand. Hahahaha..."

Pill Master Yu was also laughing eerily, "Zhen, this is the time to turn in the antidote obediently if you're smart. We may even consider making a trade."

Jiang Chen observed his surroundings inside the poison formation for a moment, and he had to admit that the arrangement of this formation was both ingenious and well hidden. Even he hadn't noticed it until the moment it was activated. That being said, although the poison formation was set up ingeniously and the poison was quite strong, he had prepared the Half-step Immortal Elixir Pill beforehand. Even if this poison formation could bring the others some harm, it was definitely not strong enough to be a critical threat.

As expected, when Jiang Chen looked towards Wei Tianxiao and the others, the group quickly realized that the poison formation hadn't inflicted any mortal danger despite their initial panic. Wei Tianxiao, Elder Zhuo and the others quickly calmed down after that.

"Wei Tiantong, is this your final struggle?" Jiang Chen's sneer rang from inside the smoke-filled formation.

Wei Tiantong turned furious, "How much longer can you keep up that tough act, brat?! Even if you're good enough to avoid these poisons, do you really think you can escape my grasp without Wei Tiaoxiao's protection?"

Pill Master Yu said coldly, "If I were you, I would surrender now, brat!"

"You have no idea who's at the end of their ropes, do you?" Jiang Chen smiled disdainfully from inside the formation before casting a glance at Wei Tianxiao and Elder Zhuo. Wei Tianxiao nodded slightly and acted in unison with Elder Zhuo and Feng. They immediately pounced in Wei Tiantong's direction through the smoke.

"Mm? You all..." Wei Tiantong was caught off guard to see the four great experts charging towards him at the same time. They looked quite vigorous and brimming with vitality, no sign of being poisoned at all. For an instant, Wei Tiantong was completely confused. How could this be? They had tested out Pill Master Yu's poison formation many times. There were absolutely no problems with it.

Even Pill Master Yu himself was stunned silly. Disbelief covered his face as his pupils shrank rapidly. For a time, he actually forgot that he was facing a life or death situation. The domain of an eighth level

emperor realm came to life, and Wei Tiantong's men were instantly suppressed by it. Pill Master Yu failed to act before he was slapped right out of the formation by Wei Tianxiao.

"Jie'er, this bastard poisoned you before. I'll leave him to you to exact your vengeance!" Wei Tianxiao was obviously furious.

The sudden turn of events caused Wei Tiantong to lose control completely. He yelled madly, "Impossible! How can I possibly lose to you, Wei Tianxiao!?"

Wei Tianxiao said coldly, "Are you still unrepentant in the face of death?"